

Since God Ordained Civil Government Why Aren't Christians Involved?

BY PAMELA CHRISTIAN



I LOVE A QUOTE DR. ADRIAN Rogers, Pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Tennessee, made where he asked, "Would God ordain civil government for His people and then tell His people not to get involved?" Any minimally studied Jew or Christian knows that it was God who ordained civil government. As documented in the first five books of the Bible, God established the religious, moral and civil laws for social order and society's benefit.

In His sovereignty, God oversees all matters of law, but He has allowed

mankind some participation in the process. Initially, priests and judges were ordained among men, by God to govern people. Moral laws were adjudicated by both priests and judges, while civil matters were the strict responsibility of the judges, (Lev. 19:15; Deut. 16:18-19). Religious ceremonial matters were the duty of the priests. The natural and spiritual laws remain in God's direct control.

God desired His people to remain under His care in a theocratic style of government, but His people weren't satisfied. They demanded a king from among their own,

thus, worldly governments were birthed. According to the Bible, mankind is governed by men and appointed by God (Rom. 13:1 & 6, Titus 3:1).

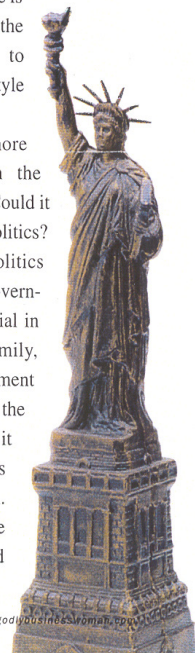
Some governments recognize God as sovereign, most do not. America, gratefully, is one government that not only recognized God, but also the Bible as the guiding standard for the original formulation of its laws and policies.

The founding fathers of this nation all held to a biblical worldview whether or not they personally professed Jesus Christ as savior. The evidence for this statement is found in the Declaration of Independence. It was their personal conviction or respect for the biblical worldview that directly influenced the formulation of America's government.

"The American community presumed a common set of values which were principally biblical." The Bible is irrefutably the standard the founding fathers used to establish the American style of government.

So why aren't more Christians involved in the governmental process? Could it possibly be because of politics?

Think about it: politics aren't limited to civil government. Politics are essential in any government, family, office, even the government of the gospel. Consider the definition of politics as it applies to the Christian's duty to share the gospel. A Christian is to be shrewd in managing and



dealing with the facts, while tactfully promoting and convincing others about the Truth. Politics are essential and necessary in any effort where issues of promoting policy, ideologies, philosophies, preferences or matters of faith are exchanged. Politics are essential in the art of persuasion and the science of logic and reason.

Likewise, government is essential for every society. Government can control, direct or strongly influence the actions and conduct of others or it can exert a determining or guiding influence in or over others. It can also hold in check, or restrain human conduct and serve as a precedent or deciding principle. Laws and politics are essential, politicians are not.

Today, it seems as though many "politicians" are primarily interested in political office from a selfish or other narrow, usually short-run interest. Those that conduct the business of government in this manner are violating the original intent for our American representative political process.

We need more statesmen and fewer politicians, and the only way we're going to achieve this is by voting for those who

are able to serve as a genuine public servant—which is in the best interest of the people, not themselves. The power in this government is still held by the vote of the people. It is not in the hands of those who have been elected, but in the hands of those who do the electing.

Christians are to make disciples of all nations.² To accomplish this requires that we get involved in every arena of influence. Our mission fields are not limited to

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foreign countries, but include our neighborhoods, communities, our county, state and nation, our businesses, schools and government. Government in America was established to be "for and by the people." The idea is that the people direct the elected officials in how

to represent them—to represent their ideals, philosophies and preferences. Unfortunately the "Separation of Church and State" (which is not part of the Constitution) has come to create the "The Separation of Christians and Government."

For many self-serving reasons, including the philosophy of secular humanism, there is a growing number of people who want the disengagement of the Christian influ-

ence in our nation in order to further their own agendas. They claim they want religious diversity while working to extinguish the Christian influence. Today, from this perspective, the Constitution is being fractured and redefined by the judges of the land. This is a perversion of power.

Obedient to Christ, Christians should automatically be involved in all arenas of life, including civil government. In fact, an argument can be made that the darker a place, the more it needs the light. Christians are to influence in the world to uphold the God-given morals, values and ethics of the Judeo-Christian faith.

Irish philosopher and Statesman Sr. Edmund Burke is ascribed to have said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."³ There has never been a time in American history where the need for the Judeo-Christian influence in government has been greater than today. What is the correct response for the Christian? Considering the basis upon which our government was established, perhaps Christians have the greatest burden to be involved:

- Register to vote.
- Exercise your right to vote.
- Stay informed through responsible media.
- Encourage others.
- Support Christian media/organizations that proclaim the Truth and fight against lawlessness.
- Communicate your position to your elected officials, your local newspapers, etc.
- Get re-educated and trained about the process. It's yours and your children's futures at stake.
- Actively support honorable Statesmen and Stateswomen. Prayerfully consider running for office yourself.
- Pray for those in authority. Pray that our precious rights and freedoms be protected.

Political Definitions

The English word POLITIC comes from the Latin word "politicus" and the Greek word "politikos." The definition reads 1: Political; 2: characterized by shrewdness in managing, contriving or dealing; 3: sagacious in promoting policy; 4: shrewdly tactful. Syn. See EXPEDIENT, SUAVE.	The word POLITICIAN means 1: a person experienced in the art or science of government esp: one actively engaged in conducting the business of government; 2b: a person primarily interested in political offices from selfish or other narrow, usually short-run interests.	The word SHREWD is defined as 5 a: marked by clever discerning awareness and hard-headed acumen b: given to wily and artful ways or dealing. Syn. SAGACIOUS, PERSPICACIOUS, ASTUTE shared meaning element: acute in perception and sound in judgment.	The word STATESMAN is defined as 1: one versed in the principles or art of government; esp: one actively engaged in conducting the business of a government or in shaping its policies; 2: one who exercises political leadership wisely and without narrow partisanship.
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[Webster's A New Collegiate Dictionary copyright 1979 by G. & G. Merriam Company.]

END NOTES

1. "America's Unchristian Beginnings?" by Greg Koukl, Stand To Reason www.str.org/free/commentaries/social_issues/america.htm
2. The Holy Bible, Matthew 28:18-20
3. The Columbia World of Quotations. 1996, Number 9118