

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Christian and Politics

The Gospel of Mark - Week 57

ICEBREAKER: Why are you thankful for the United States of America?

OVERVIEW: As we draw near to the upcoming presidential election, everyone is thinking and talking about politics. But are we thinking about it from a Biblical perspective? Just as God has provided instructions for the institutions of marriage and church, He has also provided instructions for the institution of civil government. In this discussion we will go deeper with God's will for the Christian and politics.

1. **Read Mark 12:13-17.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Political conversations tend to be highly emotional. Why is that? What can we do in our Home Group to promote political discussion, but at the same time prevent political discussion from causing division?
3. Read Romans 13:1-7.
 - a. What does this passage teach about government?
 - b. What does this passage teach about our obligations as citizens?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:13-14.
 - a. What does this passage teach about government?
 - b. What does this passage teach about our obligations as citizens?

5. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2.
 - a. What does this passage teach about government?
 - b. What does this passage teach about our obligations as citizens?
 - c. How should we pray for our country?
6. None of the above passages say anything about voting? So why should Christians vote?
7. The Progressive view of politics is that the government should solve every problem and meet every need. How does this view conflict with Biblical principles?
8. Read the following passage taken from the Declaration of Independence. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."* Does this passage contain any evidence that the Founders were influenced by the Bible? Explain. Is there any part of this passage that contradicts Biblical principles? Explain.

The Last Word: The government does not exist to solve all our problems or meet all our needs, because it could only do so through the destruction of liberty and the elimination of private property.