

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD VOTE

ICEBREAKER: What's your favorite item to cook? Why?

OVERVIEW: *A fully-devoted Christian is civically engaged.* That's a painful statement, because the state of civic engagement among Christians in this generation is sad. Many are uninvolved. Many are uninformed. And many aren't taking their Christianity with them to the voting booth and City Hall. But while it may be a painful statement, it is true. In this discussion we will talk about why Christians should be civically engaged and how to better serve the Lord with our citizenship.

1. 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. Does it make you uncomfortable to discuss civics in church? Explain.
3. Read Romans 13:1-7. Does anything in this passage surprise you? Is anything in this passage hard to understand? What are the most important truths to take from this passage in order to be a good citizen?
4. These are some of the common reasons that Christians give for not voting: "My vote won't make a difference." "I don't like politics." "All politicians are crooked anyway." "The only way to truly change the world is through evangelism and discipleship, not civics." "I don't have time." "Politics are too divisive, and I don't want to drive people away and lose an opportunity for evangelism." Do any of these describe you at some point in the past? Explain. Are any of these legitimate reasons for not being civically engaged?
5. The sermon focused on three reasons Christians should be civically engaged. What are they? Can you think of other reasons?

7. The first reason to be civically engaged is to preserve religious freedom. What is religious freedom? Why is it important to you personally?
8. Do you think religious freedom is taken for granted in America? Explain.
9. The second reason Christians should be civically engaged is to show love for neighbor. How is it selfish and unloving to avoid civic engagement?
10. Psalm 82:3-4 says, "3 'Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. 4 Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people.'" There is no better example of injustice in our government than abortion – the legal murder of human beings as long as they are preborn. How can you civically engage more actively and effectively to rescue the preborn in our country?
11. The third reason to be civically engaged is because we are responsible for the direction of the government. If we are the government, and the government greatly impacts people's lives, is it accurate to say that it is sinful for a Christian to neglect civic involvement? Explain.
12. One way to be civically engaged is to vote for Biblical morals and principles. Is this the same as trying to force our religion on others? Explain.
13. How would you describe yourself in terms of civic engagement? (1) Highly engaged, (2) Somewhat engaged, (3) Barely engaged, or (4) Unengaged. What steps do you need to take to better serve the Lord with your citizenship?

The Last Word: "Civil government is that system that has been set in place to create and maintain a righteous and just environment in which freedom can flourish." Tony Evans