

Jesus Is Involved In Politics!
Why aren't You?
Why isn't' Your Church?
The Sermon Notes
www.JesusIsInvolvedInPolitics.com

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Introduction

At 8:30 p.m. on October 31, in Salem, Massachusetts, police officers arrested a man preaching the gospel to a crowd of rowdy Halloween partiers.¹ They arrested him for disturbing the peace, though he was but one of many other just as loud “street entertainers” that night. That could have been your church high school group being arrested.

In Maine a Christian Group was fined \$4000 for sending out a letter that the State of Maine decided was anti-Islamic in content.

A pastor in Phoenix, AZ was sentenced to jail for 10 days and given 3 years of probation because a judge forbade their church bells to chime except for 2 minutes on Sundays. It's important to note that the bells were lower in volume than an ice-cream truck.²

In Arizona a young wedding photographer was sued because she said she'd rather not be the photographer at a lesbian wedding. The resulting legal costs were intended to destroy her.

In Philadelphia, a 70-year-old African American great grandmother and 10 other Christians were thrown into jail for having the audacity to stand on a sidewalk during a gay parade and preach a loving message about salvation. They were simply preaching the gospel and were not even condemning homosexuality. These peaceful men and women were arrested and faced 47 years in prison and fines of \$90,000 each.

In Oakland California, Walter Hoye was told that regardless of the fact that they had video tape showing that the owner of a particular Planned Parenthood had lied under oath about Walter, he could not go near a Planned Parenthood Abortion clinic. This was a violation of his constitutional rights and there was no current law in Oakland that could prevent him from being in front of that clinic, he was thrown into jail for 30 days.

All these laws could have been stopped by Christians and the Churches, yet your pastor, elders and people in your church do not think they should be involved in politics.

That's just the tip of the iceberg.

Last year, Christians were thrown in jail for distributing Bibles on public property, churches and Christian organizations have lost leases or have had to spend millions on legal fees because they did not want a gay couple to get married in their church or just to be able to build a bigger church.

In Canada and England and Sweden. Pastors are being arrested for preaching from passages in the Bible that say Homosexuality is a sin³. Soon it'll be a crime just to infer that we are all sinners. Perhaps because it'll violate our self esteem and hurt our feelings.

¹ www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYuaOenys60

² <http://www.telladf.org/UserDocs/PainterOrder.pdf>

³ <http://www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=30655>

So I ask pastors and Christians who don't think we should be involved in politics: Who is going to bail you out of prison when we are all afraid to stand up for what we believe? And when you yourself have encouraged people to not be involved in making the very laws that put **YOU** in that prison?

Social Justice

Our Lord told us that there are two main commandments: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. That second commandment beside love and concern of our fellow man also clearly includes what we call social justice. Care for the poor, the orphans, the oppressed and care for justice for all.

That means we as Christians have to keep our secondary priority the care of the innocents as the forefront of all we do. By the end of this hour I want to prove to you that IF you care for the innocent, the poor and the young, you have to be involved in politics. And it is ONLY if you are heartless or ignorant that you can ignore politics.

I was born in Ghana, some of you are thinking is that a town in Texas; it's actually a country just off the West Coast of Africa. My parents were Indians and I then grew up in Jamaica, Ethiopia, India, Yemen and Sudan. Yes yes, I know you are thinking Sudan really IS a **town** in West Texas just off Highway 84, take a left after the Dairy Queen, but that's not the Sudan I grew up in. The Sudan where I spent a large part of my youth is an Arabic speaking country right next to Egypt on the east coast of Africa. I used to speak Arabic fluently, but unfortunately forgot all of it once I started watching Star Trek in English.

Now you are probably wondering how I came to have traveled so much, well it wasn't that I was a world renowned jet setting toddler. You see my Father was a Professor in Physics and taught at universities all over the world. To clarify my faith to you, our family hails back to the church in India founded by St. Thomas in 52AD.

But I tell you this to introduce a brief story of my first attempt to come to the US.

Many years ago my father was a Professor of Physics at the University of Sana'a in the Yemen Arab Republic. He had worked there for about 6 years and planned to continue working there for quite a while longer. I was about 18 years old and for most of those 18 years I had dreamt about coming to the US to go to college. The US was the land of my destiny. It was the land of my dreams. It was the land of my heart. It was the land of very beautiful women, ...or so it seemed on the movies that I saw.

But a professor's pay in Yemen was not at that time sufficient really to pay out of state tuition and room and board in the US. It's probably even less so now. However my parents talked about it for awhile and I did a lot of research and we were finally able to find a school in Eastern Oregon that we could just barely afford. With great excitement I planned my future. Of course it was conditional that my dad would continue to work with the Government of Yemen making the same salary. But we saw no reason why he would not do that.

I remember that afternoon when he came home from work about 2 months before I was supposed to leave for the US. He came in and sat us all down. He told us that his contract with the Government and the University had been terminated. You see we found out that a fellow professor had committed suicide and when the police went into his house, they found a Bible with my father's name on the front. Because my dad was a well known professor with connections they didn't throw him in prison. But in effect my dad was telling me that because a fellow worker had a Bible from him, we had to leave the country and my dreams were shattered.

Why? Because it is illegal to give someone who is not a Christian, a Bible, in Yemen.

Why pain? Why destruction?

Does **everyone** here, know why after spending 40 years in the wilderness and 800 years building up the nation of Israel and 50 years building Solomon's kingdom into this immensely rich and influential empire, within 10 generations God sends the Assyrians to crush and destroy Israel and later the Babylonians into the nation of Judah to destroy it and burn it to the ground.

In fact they destroy it so effectively that the Ark of the Covenant disappears forever and the fires of the temple get so hot that the gold melts and drains away into the very ground. This terribleness of the sieges against God's people can be understood by this passage

2 Kings 6 ²⁶ As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, "Help me, my lord the king!"²⁸ he asked her, "What's the matter?"

She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son so we may eat him today, and tomorrow we'll eat **my** son.'

²⁹ So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, 'Give up your son so we may eat him,' but she had hidden him."

There are numerous passages like this. So why was this happening? Weren't these the children of God? Weren't they God's chosen people? Why did God abandon them like that? Why did God let them be so horribly tortured and destroyed? And then taken from their families into exile.

Why? Because what? You remember... What was slowly happening in the years before the destruction of the temple? They were abandoning God. This happened because they turned away from him, because they abandoned his principles and did not fear him anymore. But it wasn't just the people of Israel and Judah that turned away from God, it was especially their Kings whom they copied.

It was their Kings who INFLUENCED them.

It was their Kings who led them astray.

It was their Kings who disobeyed God.

In other words, God punished people also because of their leaders. This is even more interesting in that they didn't get to elect their leaders back then. How much more then are we who do get to choose our leaders going to be judged for what our nation does?

Now let me ask you this, during the sieges and the attacks, God obviously saved a few people like the widow who helped Elisha. But here's the question: did all the "innocent" people i.e. all who still loved God get spared? Let me ask that again did all the "innocent" people in Judea get spared?

Oh sure we'd like to think it was so. But the Bible never says so. In fact we know that the Good were taken into exile just like the bad. Good people in some cases castrated into Eunuchs just like the bad. Good women raped just like the bad, babies smashed and as you saw cooked and eaten. Are you telling me those babies disobeyed God?

No, of course they didn't. The good suffered along with the bad. The good experienced the terrible terrible Judgment of God just like the Bad. The good were raped, and beaten and kidnapped and orphaned and killed JUST like the bad.

And God didn't just judge his own people, he also judged all the other secular nations like Babylon, Assyria and Persia similarly.

What's my point? My point is that God judges ALL Nations and when God judges a Nation because of others in that nation or because of its leaders; YOU and I the followers of Christ, and our innocent children WILL ALSO SUFFER THE PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES!

This is so important so let me say that again: when God judges our Nation because of others or because of its leaders; YOU and I, the followers of Christ and our innocent children WILL ALSO SUFFER THE PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES of that Judgment!

Now let me ask you this: Do you think that our great nation deserves to be judged for our practices today? God wiped out the Canaanites because they sacrificed their children to Baal, we in America sacrifice our children to convenience through abortion. Do you think that some of the things we do violate God's law and are just as deserving of judgment as the ancient nations of Babylon or Israel.

Yes we do deserve judgment. Don't we?

I was talking an editor once, and I mentioned this to him. He immediately shot back: Well God never punished us for slavery!

Let me ask you this, did God punish America for slavery?

My wife and I recently had the solemn privilege of visiting Gettysburg, it was a cold day, and the fields were completely deserted. We had the entire field to ourselves. Standing up there alone on the ridge where one of the bloodiest battles occurred, looking down on the valley where brother marched upon brother in a war that eventually took the lives of 620,000 Americans, it struck me that God did indeed punish us. We have borne the price of the sin of slavery in our blood. And not only did the unjust die, but in tragic consequences, the just, and the merciful also paid the price for the centuries of sin.

I would suggest that God did indeed judge America for its sin. And we paid that price in blood.

Of course, knowing the standards of education these days, perhaps this person was never taught that history lesson. Not only that, but the cost of the war and its destruction was so great that any financial benefits, the years of slavery may have brought, were erased in those years of destruction as almost every single slave owner went bankrupt and the economy of the South was completely destroyed. In the end nobody and I repeat nobody benefited from slavery, everyone suffered, even the just. God judged us and punished us and in some ways is still punishing us as the rifts are not fully healed yet.

Will God judge us again for the slaughter of innocents? For allowing families to be broken up? We have to change our nation. We have to see it change not only from the bottom up in the people but also in the leadership, also in the culture, in the market places, in the arts, in the senate and the forum. But we have to be involved in its **leadership** to change its leadership, we have to be involved in its **laws** to change its laws, and we have to be involved in its **culture** to change its culture. Because if not,..... we are doomed - either way when God sends his judgment and we will pay it once again in blood.

Little things lead to big things. A couple years ago one of the most liberal newspapers in the country published a column showing how years ago changing the law about contraceptives led to a new concept of privacy which led to abortion and a repeal of the sodomy laws and now to gay marriage. Add to that No fault divorce, broken families, abortion, mercy killing, Euthanasia, killing a mentally retarded woman by making her dehydrate to death? What is next? Homosexuality being taught as an acceptable alternative to 3rd graders? It's already happening. People suing for Polygamous marriages, it's all ready happening.

There's a slippery slope here and we are on it.

We must turn the tide around lest God visit the wrath he visited on the nations of Judea - on you, your parents and your siblings. We must turn back to God. But how do we turn the tide? Do we stay in our churches and hide?

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But your pastor doesn't think so, in fact some Christians said to me:

Well I don't think we are called to get involved in that worldly stuff. We are all to influence the world through our love and not by forcing our morality on others. So do we just preach the gospel to anyone who will listen and hope that God will chose to just use that, and hope he ignores that our leaders and culture is corrupt and getting worse?

You see if this person even stopped to think for a minute what he was saying, he'd realize that he's saying that we should still have slavery and racism in America.

You see preaching the gospel and not getting involved in changing the laws didn't work for slavery? Did it? England and America were two of the most Christian nations in the world, yet humans were treated like animals. And Christians owned slaves. Do you think that slavery would have stopped if nobody had gotten involved politically? Do you think one fine day that all the Christians who'd already heard the Gospel and were slave owners would have suddenly said: Oh let's free all the slaves willingly today. And even if there was a slim chance that they would have, how long would we have had to wait? How many more slaves would have had to die on slave ships before they figured it out?

How often has God had to CUT things out forcibly out of your life and hurt you deeply before you learn a lesson? Do you want that to happen to America? Do you think he's not willing to do that? Countries die. History is littered with their bones. Don't think God would not do it to America.

So anytime anyone says Christians should not be involved in politics just say this: Oh yes, I agree, and we should still own slaves, kidnap our wives, force elementary kids to work, treat women as second class citizens, and have segregated drinking fountains. Because all those things were changed only through Christians getting involved in politics and changing the laws.

So what is the way to change the direction of our nation?

Simple!

In a democratic society we use Politics and we also use the Culture and we use Ministry and Evangelization. Today I'm here to talk about the Politics part of that. Perhaps another day we can talk about the Culture part. I think the church is already quite involved in the rest like evangelization and ministry, but **all** are important and we shouldn't forget that.

Now I've talked to quite a few Christians who just don't understand. One person I talked to said: Well all these politicians are corrupt and so we should just stay out of it completely. I don't think it occurred to him that one possible solution for corrupt politicians is what? Godly politicians, we need to elect godly politicians. But you can't elect them unless they.... run? And if they run you can't elect them unless you help them win.

Another person objected when I said that John the Baptist had gotten involved in politics when he condemned Herod, a political leader, his King, for committing adultery. By the way far too many pastors

were too scared to speak out like John did about the adultery of past presidents. John lost his head over this, they were afraid of just losing popularity.

Anyway this person said that John was not getting involved in politics like I said he was; He said, John was just speaking out against evil. This made me realize that while most of us have an understanding of what politicians do, we seem to forget what it is they are *supposed* to do. And thus, when I say we as Christians should be involved in politics; they think I am suggesting we get involved in the cult of personality, posturing for position, making ourselves out to be better than others, seeking favored positions in the eyes of men, taking illegal contributions, bribing people; in addition to doing all sorts of vain and pompous things.

But I am not talking about that. When I say Christians should be involved in politics, I am talking about what politicians *should* be doing; not what they *have* been doing.

Let me ask you this, what is the job of politicians? What do we elect most of them for? Some people say: Run the country. But that's not all. We elect just our president to run the country. Why do we elect our representatives and senators?

Why, we elect them to make laws. We call them lawmakers. And that's what they have been doing. Perhaps too much.

So when I talk about politicians, I'm not talking about the smoozers who are in it for power, I'm talking about lawmakers, speaking out loudly against evil men even if they are their rulers, speaking out against evil laws, taking action against evil men and eliminating evil laws, making just laws, appointing impartial judges, ensuring that justice is served, making sure that people are not oppressed, ensuring that true equality in opportunity is given regardless of results. That every person is free to achieve their greatest potential. I AM talking about what? Social justice. The LAW is ALL about Social Justice. Because without the law justice will not be served.

I'm talking about lawmakers who look towards the future and realize how a law today could damage an entire nation by undermining the family structure. I'm not talking about popularity or self-promotion. I'm talking about getting involved as "servant leaders", not "leader kings".

Why the law was given.

Now let me ask you this: Why did God give us the law? Was it so he could be this supreme killjoy? Because he didn't want us to have fun?

Some people have trouble with that answer, so let me see if I can ask it this way? Why do our lawmakers make laws? Do they make them just to oppress us? To be kill joys, do they make the speed limit only 70 because they hate to see us have fun with the wind in our hair and the pedal to the metal? Why is there a law that says you must stop at a red light? It is there just to bug us? Why do we have to slow down to 25 miles per hour if children are present? Because they want to ruin our fun?

Obviously not. The laws are there for what purpose? To what? Protect us. And just as important, to protect others from us. The laws are there to protect us as a community. So now let me ask you this, do you think there is even a single law that God gave us that is just there to make our lives difficult?

No of course not. Each and every law that God has given us has a specific purpose. It was given to protect us. Every law has a purpose. There is not a single commandment that God has given that is unneeded. And guess what, the more we follow those laws the healthier and happier we'll be. But wait. If we don't follow that law, will ONLY we be unhappy? Let me ask that again if we do not follow the Law of God will it only affect us? If you refuse to run stop at a stop sign will the consequence of you violating that law ONLY affect you?

Of course not. It will affect lot of others, it may even kill them. In the same way, when we violate God's laws, given for our protection others will suffer.

Some greatly. And you know who the first to suffer will be? The poor, the disadvantaged, the orphans and the widows. Violating God's laws is NOT loving your neighbor, it's the opposite of social justice. It's social oppression.

Now I said that Politicians make laws. And the law is made to protect us. But if they make a bad law? What do you think the consequence of that would be? Do you think a bad law could be destructive? Yes. So what if a politician made a law that went against God's law, do you think that it could do damage? Who do you think it would hurt the most?

Let's now look at just one law, God's law against Divorce. The Bible says that God hates divorce. Back in the late 60's the Christians said, if we make divorce easy with what was called "No Fault Divorce" it will destroy the family and cause major problems. Yet nobody listened. In 1969 California passed the first No Fault Divorce law. You could get divorced for any reason. Slowly every other state passed similar laws. Now 50 years later let's look at why God said he hates divorce and why he said it was sinful.

Despite wide spread divorce and out of wedlock births, children from broken, divorce or single parent homes are currently only 29% of the population⁴. Yet:

Seventy percent of all long-term prison inmates grew up without fathers

Sixty percent of rapists grew up in female only-headed homes,

Seventy five percent of adolescents charged with murder grew up without fathers.

Fatherless children are 300% more likely to fail school, require psychiatric treatment, and commit suicide as adolescents.

Fatherless children are up to 40 times more likely to experience child abuse compared with children growing up in two-parent families.⁵

Seventy percent of those describable as 'violent' came from female-headed homes.

Eighty percent of those motivated by 'displaced anger' came from female-headed (single-parent) homes.

Of the juvenile criminals who are a threat to the public, 75% came from broken homes⁶.

⁴ From iMAPP: New Research on Married Parents and Crime: Are children raised outside of intact marriages at increased risk for crime and delinquency? iMAPP's latest policy brief "Can Married Parents Prevent Crime? Recent Research on Family Structure and Delinquency 2000-2005" looks at empirical research from the United States published in peer-reviewed journals since 2000. September 21, 2005
<http://www.marriagedebate.com/pdf/imapp.crimefamstructure.pdf> as reported by <http://www.divorcereform.org/crime.html>

⁵ Source: Wade Horn and Andrew Bush, "Fathers, Marriage, and Welfare Reform," Hudson Institute Executive Briefing, 1997, Hudson Institute, Herman Kahn Center, 5395 Emerson Way, Indianapolis, IN 46226, (317) 545-1000. Quoted from <http://patriot.net/~crouch/adr/kids.html>

Even as far back as 1987 a study found that divorce - regardless of the economic status of the disrupted family - posed the strongest correlation with robbery rates in American cities larger than 100,000 populations.

Young men who grow up in homes without fathers are twice as likely to end up in jail as those who come from traditional two-parent families.

Studies have shown that there is a strong correlation with the number of single parent families and the crime rate in cities with a population over 100,000 regardless of the socioeconomics or racial composition of the city.

A 1993 study showed that the rate of violent crime and burglary in a community is related to the number of single parent households with children aged twelve to twenty.

Delinquency rates are 10 to 15 percent higher in broken homes than in intact ones.

This phenomenon is not limited to the US. A study conducted by two sociologists, Robert J. Sampson and W. Byron Groves, who analyzed data from hundreds of British communities found that in neighborhoods with a high percentage of single-parent homes the amount of crime was significantly higher regardless of race or income.

You are 200% as likely to be juvenile delinquent or get pregnant as a teen.

Among all possible contributing factors, "only divorce rates are consistently associated with suicide and with homicide rates."

Another recent study of 25,000 incarcerated juveniles made by the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicates that 72 percent of them came from broken homes. Since at the time seventy-four percent of the nation's children lived with two parents, and only 26 percent with one parent. That meant that a child growing up in a single-parent home (usually female-headed) is seven times as likely to be incarcerated, that is 700% more likely.

What's worse is this is self spiraling cycle. Because Children of divorced parents are more likely to themselves divorce⁷, almost 200% more likely⁸. They are sicker more often and have emotional problems more often and do worse in school and tend to have more chances of being abused physically or sexually.

Now do you understand why God hates divorce? Yet if you look at that statistic and say: Oh those poor kids, you have missed the point. Those poor kids are there because WE Christians allowed LAWS to be passed that said divorce was OK, that you could have an easy divorce, that you could divorce for ANY reason or no reason. Before the law changed you could only divorce for proven infidelity or physical abuse.

Tell me that our social justice should not care if we destroy the family. Tell me that our welfare roles and the amount of money we are spending on crime prevention, suicide prevention, vandalism, welfare, murder, drugs, psychological problems, education would still be the same if we had not made divorce not only easy but acceptable. Remember what I said: What is politics all about? It's about Making Laws. Why are laws made? They are made to protect us. If a bad law is made it can destroy and decimate society and hurt millions. If God's laws are the best for mankind, let me ask you this: Who should be making the laws? Someone who knows and loves God's laws or someone who has disdain for the Bible and hates Christ?

⁶ Ramsey Clark, *Crime in America: Observations on Its Nature, Causes, Prevention and Control* (New York: Pocket Books, 1970), p.39. Cited in Amneus, *The Garbage Generation*.

⁷ <http://www.jyi.org/news/nb.php?id=352>

⁸ *Divorce: Causes and Consequences* By Alison Clarke-Stewart, Cornelia Brentano, page 128

If you care about the poor and the helpless, you will care about who makes the laws. If you care about social justice you will care about Politics.

Laws can change hearts.

But you say: Wait a minute Neil. You seem to think if the tough laws on divorce were still around people would not get divorced. But people were getting divorced before the law changed.

“Besides” you may say: Laws can’t change hearts. So We shouldn’t force our morality on others, and anyway “you can’t legislate morality.

1. Laws can’t change hearts.
2. It’s wrong to impose your moral values on others.
3. You can’t legislate morality.

Now there are three major logical and factual flaws in these statements.

First if you think people would still be divorcing at the same rate if the law had not changed you need to look at this picture:



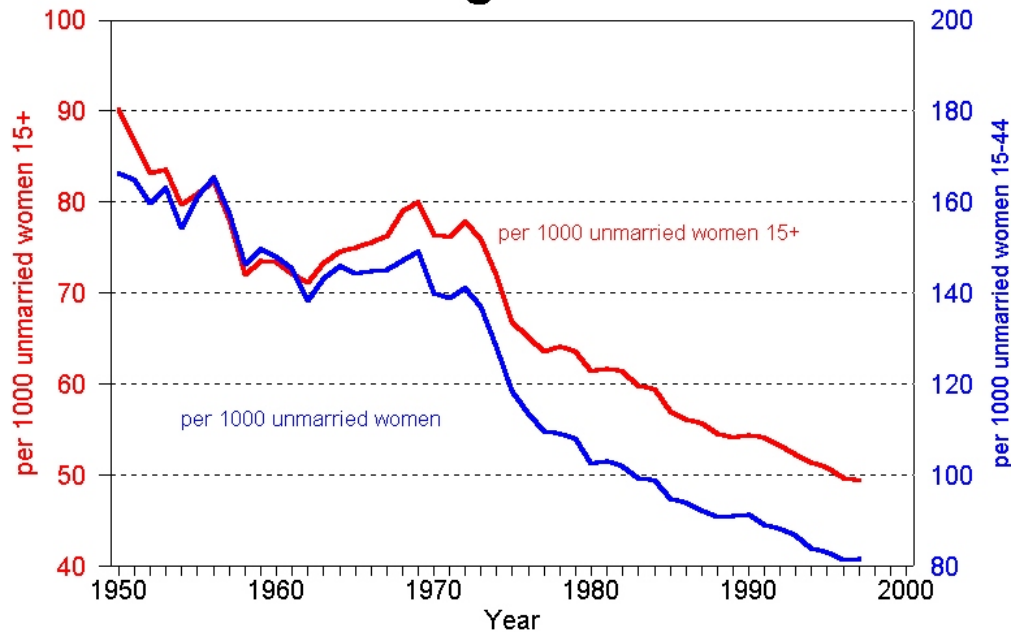
Source: Monthly Vital Statistics Reports

Anybody here want to guess when no fault divorce made it’s first appearance?

Ah OK you say but it looks like the divorce rate is now going down. Not too fast.

That’s going down because the marriage rate looks like this:

Marriage rates



Source: Monthly Vital Statistics Reports

Someone once tried to argue with me saying that well divorce rates are lower amongst atheists. I said of course they are. In fact in the more liberal states the divorce rates are much lower than the Bible Belt. Why do you think that is? It's because the marriage rate is so low in those states. Its hard to get divorced if you never got married and were only shacking up. Now if those folks want to start counting how many people lived together and then broke up, I don't think we'd compare badly. It would actually get worse.

Laws change hearts.

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Why is that happening? Well People say: Laws don't change hearts. That is pure nonsense. Laws do change hearts all the time let me give you an example.

As you know from my intro I am an Indian by blood, well after many years of refusing to do the Indian thing.. which is go have my parents arrange for me to marry an extremely beautiful and extremely rich doctor from India. In fact all my roommates used to think I was an idiot not to do it. Well after many years of this I met a very **young** gorgeous redhead. Yes she is **all** of that – young gorgeous and a redhead-. I met her while on a Junior High Outreach Ministry. Stop – I know what you are thinking. She wasn't in Junior High, she was a counselor, but she was young, I'll give you that. I know that she was young because after a few dates I asked her "Where have you been all my life" and she said: Grade School.

But here's the point lest you think I've lost my train of thought, distracted by the vision of my lovely wife. See, her maternal grandfather who died before I met her, while a very godly wonderful man would

probably have had trouble accepting me as a “foreigner” into her family. You see many years ago racism was the norm here in the United States of America. Young kids were born into a system of laws and regulations that encouraged racism and separation. These kids grew to believe that racism was acceptable.

But then the civil rights movement was born by Religious people and the laws were changed, and interracial marriage was legalized in 1967. As a result today almost all kids grow up observing and believing the laws, that it is wrong, immoral and wicked to discriminate.

In fact this law of the land is so prevalent that **even** in families where the parents **were** racists, the kids grew up rightfully believing racism was wrong. And thus when my wife’s parents met me, they accepted me even though I was not white? Why? Because they had grown up under the new law.

My point folks is that laws do CHANGE HEARTS. It may not change your heart, but it sure will change the hearts of your children and your children’s children.

We recently had an excellent example of this in action. Britney Spears, the troubled pop singer, was on the front page of every magazine and newspaper. Her crime? Holding her baby child in her lap while driving. Oh, you should have heard the talk about how horrible it was for her to do that. What a heartless evil mother she was. Some folks wanted Social Services to take her children away from her. People I know personally were commenting in this way on the incident. Yet, if you stop and think about it, less than 15 years ago everyone carried their babies in their laps while driving. There wasn’t a car seat law back then. How else was a mom supposed to go to the store? Nobody would have cared if Britney had done this back then. In fact, they might have admired her for wanting to spend extra time with her child despite being a busy rock star.

So here's a law that once it was in the books not only changed our children's hearts but *also* changed many adults hearts. And it did so in less than 15 years.

My point is that laws *do* change hearts. And while in some cases it may not change *your* heart, it sure will change the hearts of your children and their children. You see the law may not change the hearts of the ones under whom it was first legislated, but it will certainly change the hearts of the ones that grew up knowing only it.

Today the good laws say Homosexual Marriage is immoral. If the law of the land changes, our own children, despite what we tell them what God says, will reject the moral laws of God and have their hearts changed by the immoral laws of the land. They will come to believe, to embrace and to celebrate homosexuality, and as we’ve seen in Europe to assume that the institution of marriage is meaningless. They will ignore the fact that the law given by God was given for our safety and our health. Even today youth pastors tell me that in high school it is "cool" for young girls to be "bisexual" and to experiment with it.

1. Laws can’t change hearts.
2. It’s wrong to impose your moral values on others.
3. You can’t legislate morality.

Let’s look at item 2 but first I want to teach you about something called a Suicide statement.

A suicide statement is a statement that kills itself. In other words it is self refuting. For instance if I say: This statement is a lie.

Or if I say “I can’t speak a word of English” and I say that in English. That’s a suicide statement.

Another suicide statement is: There is no Absolute truth. To which I ask: Is that absolutely true?

Because if it is a true statement then we know there is at least 1 absolute truth. Greg Koukl's book on Tactics has a section on this.

OK so that second complaint against politics is a suicide statement. Can you see it? They claim: It's wrong to impose your moral values on others

Well if someone ever tells you: It's wrong to impose your morals on me? You immediately ask them? Why not?

To which they say something to the effect of: Because it's not...what? It's not right?

Then you simply say, and follow me closely on this "Oh so you are saying that you think it is morally wrong for me to impose my Morals on you?"

But wait isn't that YOUR moral value? In which case why are you imposing that moral value on me? You see the very fact that you told me that it's wrong to do something is a MORAL value in itself.

Of course it's OK to impose moral values on other people. If they are truly moral values. It's a logical necessity. The question is **whose** morals should we be imposing? Everyone does it, every culture does it, every law does it. There is no way around it.

Thirdly people say: You can't legislate morality. Let's think about that for a second. That is pure nonsense. We legislate little BUT morality. What sort of other laws do we legislate? Show me a law that is not based on some sort of a moral value. Like it's illegal to steal? Or it's illegal to murder? Or it's illegal to beat someone over the head with a large stick while kicking him in the shins and calling him a silly knigget, or it's illegal to speed or cheat on your taxes or pollute? What is this if it is not an imposition and a legislation of a moral value?

So we can and do legislate morality and we impose it on others.

BUT if the church is not involved in politics do you want to guess whose morality will be legislated? Exactly those who don't believe in God. If Godly people aren't making the laws then the UnGodly people will be making the laws. And as we've seen when ungodly people make laws the innocents suffer, the poor are oppressed and we see a lack of social justice. Imagine how many people have suffered due to divorce? Imagine the untold millions who have paid the price our Christians staying out of lawmaking?

Now I want to spend some time looking to see if the manual i.e. the Bible, gives us examples of if we should get involved in politics.

Let's look at Joseph in the OT, what does he do? He petitions the wine taster in prison to tell the Pharaoh about him and he not only becomes involved politically in Egypt but he becomes the chief **politician** under Pharaoh. And years later when the Jews shied away from politics and didn't keep their influence with the Egyptian leadership, what happened to them,

they became slaves.

What about Nehemiah? What about Daniel? He not only becomes involved in the Politics of his time but he sets a moral precedence showing civil disobedience and then leads by example and gets involved in changing their laws AND their culture.

The Bible is full of examples of people getting involved not only in the politics of their country but also the politics of their adopted countries. As an immigrant to this great land, I have some great Biblical role models as to why I should be involved politically with my adopted country.

The greatest example to me is Esther. You all remember the story. Esther is slave girl living in Persia. She is Jewish, but no one knows that. Through a sequence of events, she because of her great beauty becomes the king's wife (his only wife, not part of a harem).

But as she is in the palace a plot unfolds to kill and execute every single one of the Jews.

Her uncle Mordecai goes to her and asks for her help. And her first answer is basically this: It is not permitted for me to go to the king of my own accord. If I approach the king on my own, I could be put to death. Can we read more into her answer? In other words she is saying: Is this really my place to get involved? It is so dangerous, it is so costly, and it is so worldly. I don't think there is much I can do. I don't we should be involved this way. After all God is in control, he'll decide what the King does and does not do? God will choose the leaders, it's upto God to decide. This is someone else's job. Besides our nation will grow under persecution. Besides you can see the king is surrounded by crooked politicians. And even if we pass a law to save the Jews, laws don't change hearts and ...you can't legislate morality.

Let me ask you this: Is this your attitude today? Is this how you feel about politics?

Yet what does Mordecai her uncle say: Esther 4:13 "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

He is saying: What if this WAS the reason that God made you so beautiful? What if this was the reason that you were chosen to be Queen? What if this was WHY God put you here? What if this is the ONE reason for which you were created?

And her answer, knowing that by approaching the king of her own accord her life could be over: Esther 4:16 Then I will do it. And if I perish, I perish.

Then what does Esther do? She makes an appeal to the King. She creates a Political action committee of one and she lobbies the King and uses clever ways to get her point across. She gets involved in the politics of the situation and she plays it well, like a crafty snake. She has parties where she invites the very man who wants to kill her people and plots the most effective way to get her point across,

and God uses her to save the entire exiled population of Jews.

Somebody once said: Well Ester was involved in Politics because it was going to save lives and families?

And you don't think these stats about divorce has anything to do with saving lives and families. Of course it does? How many murderers and rapists and suicides and mental illnesses could have been stopped if our laws had insisted that families stay together?

OK, look at all the Prophets in the Bible. Just a simple survey will find you hard pressed to find many prophets who did NOT get involved in either advising the King on how to rule the land or admonishing the King on what a stupid or evil job he was doing or appointing Kings or working against the King. Even John the Baptist was executed because he did what? He spoke out about whom? Herod. And who was Herod? Oh he was a politician, a King. Some times I ask pastors why they didn't speak out against Bill Clinton in the 90's when he committed adultery. Were they afraid to be like John the Baptist? He lost his head. What were you risking? Popularity?

I was once teaching this class and a young gal shot up her hand and said: **Jesus** didn't get involved in Politics. He didn't try to change the laws of Rome. He said give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's. If Jesus didn't do it then we shouldn't.

The crown suddenly went silent. Was she right?

Let's look at it.

A. Well first just because Jesus didn't do something does not mean we should not. For instance Jesus never condemned Slavery directly. He never got involved in banning it. Was Jesus **condoning** racism and Slavery? Of course not. He just didn't address it. Jesus never started a company, nor did he design any new technology. Does that mean we should all be Amish? He didn't get married either.

But on the other hand if Jesus DID do something, perhaps that's a good reason for us to do it. Remember that as we move ahead.

B. **The** idea that Jesus never got involved in Politics is actually a misunderstanding of historical facts. People say well Jesus never did anything with the Roman politics or cared about Caesar. OK so let's look at Jesus and the politics of Rome. Imagine if today an Iraqi citizen were to come here and start petitioning to change the laws about marriage. Would it work? Obviously not. Why? Because he's not a US citizen. He can't influence our laws. He has no say in the matter. So when we look at Jesus? Was he a Roman citizen? No. He was a what? A Jewish Citizen, so would he be allowed to be involved in the Roman legal system? Would it make sense for him to try? Absolutely not. But hey guess who WAS a Roman citizen? Paul. And did Paul get involved in the Roman legal process? You bet he did both by appealing to the laws and by using his influence with Roman leaders.

But back to Jesus. Jesus was a Jewish citizen. So who were his senators and judges? Who wrote the Jewish laws? And who would it make sense for him to admonish and try to influence? Well let's read the definition of one possible body: The Sanhedrin

The **Sanhedrin** meaning "sitting together", hence "[assembly](#)" is the name given to the council of seventy-one [Jewish](#) sages who constituted the [supreme court](#) and [legislative body](#) of [Ancient Israel](#). The make-up of the council included a chief justice, a vice chief justice, and sixty-nine general members who all sat in the form of a semi-circle when in session.

And who were they? Exactly- the "senators" and "law-makers" of the Jews were the Sanhedrin, the Pharisees and Sadducees. And who did Jesus spend MOST of his time talking to and about? The members of the Sanhedrin. His Jewish Senators. His Jewish lawmakers.

Jesus is NOT only involved politically but he's using civil disobedience (harvesting wheat on the Sabbath, healing on the Sabbath) and telling the very Pharisee lawmakers that their laws or their interpretation of it were unjust. Jesus was lobbying them and showing them they were unwise.

But let's take it a step further, who among the followers of Jesus were politicians and lawmakers? Who were the Christian Sanhedrin senators? Joseph of Aramethia and Nicodemus. We don't see Jesus telling them to leave the Sanhedrin once they started to accept his teachings? In fact we know that at his burial Joseph was **still** involved in the Sanhedrin and we know that Joseph even went to the Romans to use his political connections to get permission to bury Jesus' body.

Getting involved in the law making process, civil disobedience and influencing the law makers politically is MODELED for us in the New Testament by Jesus and the very folks who wrote the Bible.

But what about: The line that says render unto Caesar? Well what does it say? If you are suggesting that Caesar is supposed to be "politics" then replace Caesar with the word politics and you get Jesus saying this:

Render unto politics that which is politics and unto God that which is God's. This means he's saying get involved in politics the same way you get involved with God.

Maybe you should tell that to William Wilberforce. Appalled as a Religious **Christian** man by the concept of Slavery, Wilberforce worked for 20 years in the British Parliament to abolish slavery and did so finally in 1807. The British Government, once masters of the slave trade now sent their vast armada of ships to what? To STOP slave traders. Here was a Christian man who was not afraid to get involved in politics. The Wilberforce movement later came to the US and coalesced under the reformed Republican Party with ...who as their President? Abraham Lincoln. Imagine if Wilberforce had said: If God wants to stop Slavery HE'LL do it, it's not for me to get politically involved, I should JUST be preaching the gospel to change hearts and hope things change.

Look at the rest of the history of change in this country?

The abolition of Slavery was brought about by **Religious People** like the Quakers and those who realized slavery was against the law? But whose law? Man's law? No God's law.

The entire civil rights movement was brought about by **Religious People**, not only by black ministers, but they were joined by thousands of white preachers and pastors and church goers. **Religious people** who got involved in the political process to pass new Godly laws.

The only reason that it's against the law to kidnap your wife and compel her to marry you is because a Christian decided that that practice in Northern Europe had to stop and decided to impose his morals on the others. Has Christian involvement really failed or is it just that you have not ever studied history?

The only reason kids aren't forced to work in sweatshops is because a Christian decided to impose their morality on the population.

Anybody who says Christians shouldn't impose their morals on the world is saying that Slavery, gladiatorial combats, child labor, racism and kidnapping should be legal. Are you really sure you want to take that stance?

Don't forget too, the laws that stopped social injustices like infanticide, child marriage, forced prostitution and child prostitution, the law that forbade a wife from being treated like property.⁹ The laws that forced the fair treatment of prisoners¹⁰ and of course child labor laws.¹¹ We could go on, as

⁹ Cod. Theod., lib. II, tit. 17, lex 1; lib. III, tit. 17, lex 4

¹⁰ Cod. Theod., lib. IX, tit. 3, lex 1

¹¹ Alvin J Schmidt, How Christianity Changed the World (formerly called "Under their Influence") Zondervan, 2004 pg 142.

there are thousands of laws in all Christian and post Christian cultures that were based on the moral values of Christians who were involved in politics. The same societies that now assume that all those values are self-evident and ignore the people who brought those *just* and *moral* laws into existence. All these laws took years and years and numerous heartbreaking tries to implement and they only came about because Christians took a stance politically, legally and judicially and just as important financially. And don't forget that all these laws were fought and rejected over and over again by those very same societies that later embraced these ideals.

Even when Roman society turned Christian in 313AD with Constantine, it was still legal to kill any baby you didn't want especially if it was a baby girl. It took a full 61 years till 374AD before a pastor, a preacher, a man of God named Bishop Basil of Caesarea was able to convince a politician, Emperor Valentinian to outlaw infanticide.

Don't tell *me* that Christian involvement in politics always fails. Go tell Bishop Basil.

So who will stop these evils in our time? Who will impose Godly values on the masses? If abortion is going to be stopped: who will stop it? **Religious People ...**

Trust me until slavery and racism were stopped people thought it was wrong for Christians to impose their values on the others. They thought it would never be able to be stopped. But now even the hearts of the unbelievers have been changed and the lives of many have been saved.

If the cloning of humans for spare parts is going to be stopped : who will stop it? **Religious People ...**

If gay marriage is going to be stopped: who will stop it? **Religious People ...**

YOU AND ME

If there is a change coming WE - HAVE TO BRING IT ABOUT!

So we must ask: Who are we going to allow to make the laws of OUR land? Of this great nation? Are we going to sit by and let immoral concepts become the law of our land? Are we going to let our children be brainwashed by bad laws?

Are we going to let our culture embrace laws that destroy us from within?

Or are we going to draw the line in the sand and say: Enough.

The decisions you make today will be borne by your children, your neighbor's children and your children's children.

Who makes the rules and the laws in our country? The elected officials. Who enforces the rules in this country? The judges. And if the elected officials and the Judges are not godly men then what will happen to the rules and the laws of this country? What does the Bible say?

A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor as a lion or bear attacking them – **Proverbs 28:15**

What kind of men are to make our laws and govern according to the Bible?

Exodus 18:21 Moreover you shall select [as rulers] able men, such as fear God, men of truth...;

But lest you think I am ONLY quoting the Bible and so it ONLY applies to Christians let me quote the founding fathers of our great nation:

Charles Carroll (Signer of the Declaration of Independence)

Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion,... are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.

Noah Webster:

... let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, just men who will rule in the fear of God.

There's lots more quotes where those came from.

You see if you believe Christians are **NOT** to be involved in politics then what you are saying is that every one of our founders was disobeying God by creating a new nation and overthrowing the oppression of King George. You are saying that the fact that a majority of the founding fathers were Christians and in fact many were preachers and lay ministers meant they were all disobeying God and thus our nation is an illegitimate nation founded by men violating the laws of God? They should have better spent that time **JUST PREACHING THE GOSPEL** and not worrying about politics. That is the logical extension of that belief is it not?

So let me ask you this are you not involved politically? Are you risking or sacrificing anything for a better tomorrow? Or are you just hoping that Jesus will come and sort out this mess? Well he isn't going to come too soon. Because however you read Revelation, we all know it's going to get a whole heck of a lot worse before it gets better.

But here is an alarming thought. Time is running out to stem the tide. Today over 70% of the general public in the US believes Gay Marriage is wrong. But when you survey people under 30, we find that a majority of them think it's **RIGHT**. Time is running out. A few years ago California passed prop 22 that says Marriage is a marriage between a man and a woman? Today we are worried if the constitutional amendment with the same words will pass.

My wife is a school teacher. I was talking to one of her fellow teachers the other day and the teacher said this: We decided that we didn't want to force our morals onto our sons, we wanted them to choose their moral values for themselves.

At this I responded. "Hmmm, OK I guess they'll just have to get their morals from MTV."

She was shocked. And as the light dawned on her – she said- Oh my!

But wait what is the difference between what she said and what most of us say. We don't want to impose our values on the World or on the United States by getting involved in politics. Well then to that I say. Oh, OK I guess the United States will just have to get their morals and their laws from MTV..... And isn't that exactly what is happening?

...we have filled every place among you—cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market places, art, theatres, philosophy, universities, newspapers, magazines, TV shows, Movies, popular music, the very camp, tribes, companies, Governorships, senates, forums—we have left nothing to you but the Evangelical Bible Churches of your God."

Is this the mocking letter sent **to** the Christians instead of **from** the Christians? Is the world telling us this? It's time to take back the market places **AND** the arts, the senate and the forum. It's time to go back to the methodology of the early church and Tertullian.

We CAN turn the tide around and we are. Judges are chosen by presidents and approved by congress. Presidents and Congress are elected by us. We must start here. We must be **them**. We must be the Presidents and the Congress and the Judges. We must be the civic leaders and the mayor and the school supervisors. We must be the school board members. We must be politicians. But **ethical** God Fearing Politicians.

You see as Rabbi Daniel Lapin would say: Politics is no other than the application of your deeply held beliefs: and the anti-Christian forces are applying their deeply held beliefs, why aren't we?

Their temples are pumping out their "quote" ministers and pastors everyday into politics..... and onto the school board and into the universities.

Their temples are pumping out their ministers and pastors into Senators and into Representatives and into Judges.

They are voting with their **religious** beliefs. Are you?

Isn't it time to take a stand?

Because any battle you abandon, you lose by default.

Let me ask you this question. **This year the Michigan Catholic adoption agency was forced to shut down because they would not allow gay couples to adopt through them. The Atheist Michael Newdow is still suing to remove God from the Pledge of Allegiance and In God we trust from our money. Our own 9th District court ruled that Parents have no rights as to what is taught to their children if they go to a public school. In New York in 2002 it became illegal to say: God Bless you in public school. Are you worried yet? ‘

And let me ask you all a quick question: Have any of you here ever spanked your kids? Can I see a show of hands? OK please turn yourselves in. You see if we don't get involved in politics then this is what is coming down the pipe.

What is next? No more Bibles? If we don't stem the tide now, in a few years from now will America be like Yemen. Will I have to turn to my son in turn and say: Son – because I your father gave a Bible to a fellow worker, we have to leave this country and our dreams.

Because it is illegal to give someone who is not a Christian a Bible, *in the United States of America*.

Is **that** the America that I will leave to my son? Is **that** the America that you will leave to your children? Will I be forced to leave the country that I have loved and honored all my life because I am a Christian?

Not on my watch, not on my watch. Not on our watch. Somebody must take a stand even if it is costly. Even if we get mocked, even if we lose, even if we fail...will you stand with me and say:

[Esther 4:16](#) Then I will do it. And if I perish, I perish

Yet we CAN win this battle. We can win this battle because Newt Gingrich's survey's have shown that Americans overwhelmingly agree with Christians moral values almost 60% to 40%. If we would just stand on our principles Americans would follow.

But even without them, we Christians could win this battle by ourselves.

Look at these numbers:

- **60 Million Evangelicals in America**
- **Only 28.9 Million Christians Voted in 2004**
- **24 Million not registered to vote**

In 2004: 7 of 9 Freshman Senators were Pro Life (78%)

25 of 40 Freshman House of Representatives were Pro Life (63%)

- **60 Million Evangelicals in America**
- **28.9 Million Christians Voted in 2004**
- **20.5 Million Christians Voted in 2006**
- **24 Million not registered to vote**

In 2006

1 of 10 Freshman Senators were Pro Life (10%)

17 of 54 Freshman House of Representatives were Pro Life (31%)

Note that 8 million existing Christians not voting changed everything.

We can win this and change this nation: If we just get enough Christians to register and then vote. Or just get out an vote morally. Can you commit to getting every Christian you know to register and vote?