

Local Church's Role in Government



Church's Role in Government

Introduction

What is government?

What is the local church's
role?



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What is Government?

The current edition of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines government as follows:

- 1) the group of people who control and make decisions for a country, state, etc.
- 2) a particular system used for controlling a country, state, etc.
- 3) the process or manner of controlling a country, state, etc.

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What is Government?

From a Biblical standpoint, government is a divine institution created by God. Genesis 9:1-7

Why did God establish government at this time in history?

What can we deduce was God's purpose for government?

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Government's Purpose

Government is intended to restrain evil and promote righteousness. Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-17

What is righteousness and what is evil can only be measured by God's standard.

God gives authority to government and its authority is thus limited by God's mandates given in His Word. Acts 4:18-20

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Qualities of a Leader

What are the qualities needed for a good ruler or political leader?

- quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger
- puts aside wrongdoing
- doer of the Word and not just hearer
- diligent, morally excellent, knowledgeable, self-controlled, godly, kind and loving

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Qualities of a Leader

What are the qualities needed for a good ruler or political leader? (continued)

- humble
- patient
- has foresight

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Qualities of a Leader

What are the qualities not wanted in a ruler or political leader?

- speaks without knowledge
- immoral
- follows current whims
- arrogant
- lovers of money

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Qualities of a Leader

All man is depraved and naturally has the unwanted qualities. Galatians 5:19-21;
1 Timothy 6:10

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Qualities of a Leader

God set the parameters needed in political leaders. Exodus 18:19-26; Proverbs 8:14-16

Only faithful Christians who are having their lives and thinking transformed consistently reflect the wanted qualities. Romans 12:1-3; James 1:19-25; 1 Timothy 4:6-10; 1 Corinthians 1:20-25; 2 Peter 1:5-10; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

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Mandate from Scripture

God blesses those who do justice and are righteous in every aspect of life including those who rule in government. Psalms 106:3; Micah 6:8

God establishes governments and places the rulers in power. Colossians 1:16-17; Daniel 2:21, 4:17

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Mandate from Scripture

We must not forget, however, that we ultimately are placing our faith in God and not man or government. God uses government and the men who He places in ruling positions to bring blessings to the country and its citizens, if it and they are faithful to him. Psalm 22:28, 118:8-9

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Building Leaders

What is the local church's role in government?

The local church's role should be clear. It is responsible for training men to properly function as leaders of a community, state and country. Ephesians 4:11-12



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Building Leaders

Only by consistent intake and application of all of God's Truth can a leader properly function in the role given to him by God.

The leader's role is to promote righteousness which comes from the application of God's Word in his deeds and the laws that he promotes/opposes. II

Timothy 3:16

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Founding Fathers

George Washington:

“It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.”

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable.”

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Founding Fathers

John Adams:

“The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

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Founding Fathers

John Jay (1st Supreme Court Chief Justice):

“Providence has given our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

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Founding Fathers

Eight states (Arkansas, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas) currently have a religious test provision in their state constitution as it relates to holding a state constitutional office

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Founding Fathers

Interestingly, the founders of the State of Tennessee recognized that only Christians could adequately understand and implement the purpose of all government offices.

What was originally Article VIII but is now Article IX of the Tennessee Constitution reflects this in who is eligible to hold office in Tennessee.

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Founding Fathers

ARTICLE IX.

Disqualifications.

Section 1. Whereas ministers of the Gospel are by their profession, dedicated to God and the care of souls, and ought not to be diverted from the great duties of their functions; therefore, no minister of the Gospel, or priest of any denomination whatever, shall be eligible to a seat in either House of the Legislature.

Section 2. No person who denies the being of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments, shall hold any office in the civil department of this state.

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Conclusion

Accurate understanding and application of God's Truth is fundamental to all Divine Institutions

As such, in this dispensation, the local church is the foundation for the proper establishment and implementation of all governments

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Conclusion

It is vital for the local church to consistently and accurately teach the entirety of God's truth for the leaders of this country to be properly trained

Only principled leaders can guide a nation into responsible action and enable others to understand and appreciate those principled decisions/policies

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Conclusion

Government will be used to promote someone's standard. If Christians abandon the responsibility, there are plenty of others ready and willing to take their place.

In the end, we must remember that only through Christ are we truly free. Galatians 5:1

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Conclusion

Questions?

