

IS GOVERNMENT GOOD FOR THE WORLD?

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A good man leaves more than financial inheritance

Text: Proverbs 13:22

A. Inheritance includes more than money

- Financial inheritance
- Relational inheritance
- Spiritual inheritance
- Social inheritance

B. Wealth alone is not enough

- Money can bless
- Money can also become destructive across generations
- A good inheritance must include more than assets

C. Children inherit a world, not just resources

- Society will be better or worse after you are gone because of how you lived
- Your children will inherit the kind of social order you helped build



D. The question for Christian parents

- What kind of world am I helping create?
- Will my children inherit blessing or breakdown?
- Am I thinking only privately, or also publicly?

Politics shapes the social inheritance children receive

A. Politics is not marginal

- It affects land
- It affects property
- It affects taxes
- It affects vehicles
- It affects manufacturing
- It affects building costs
- It affects energy codes
- It affects housing affordability
- It affects business regulation
- It affects local economics

B. Politics is structural, not fringe

- It shapes the daily conditions of life
- It shapes the long-term conditions of society
- It shapes whether children inherit order or disorder



C. Politics without Jesus cannot produce a social inheritance of blessing

- Public life detached from Christ will not remain neutral
- It will move toward confusion, disorder, and collapse

D. The church has been deceived into privatized Christianity

- Keep your faith quiet
- Do not bring Christianity into public life
- Being salt and light means being passive
- Silence is witness

E. Silence is not witness

- Silence is surrender
- The church has voluntarily ceded ground

Politics matters because political ideas become social realities

A. Political evil is not merely theoretical

- Bad ideas become systems
- Systems become policies
- Policies become suffering

B. Politics can become the machinery of mass destruction

- Stalin's gulags
- Hitler's camps



- Mao's Great Leap Forward

C. Evil often comes with attractive language

- Destructive ideas are often sold optimistically
- Slogans can hide suffering

D. Christians must judge systems by fruit

- Learn history
- Refuse to evaluate policies only by marketing language
- Understand that ideas have consequences

The command to leave an inheritance includes civic and social inheritance

A. The burden is generational

- We are commanded to leave our children an inheritance
- That inheritance is not merely economic
- It is also national, social, civic, and political

B. Faithfulness may mean holding the line

- The goal may not be dramatic immediate improvement
- The burden may be resisting further decline
- Preserving what remains is still meaningful faithfulness

C. Think generationally



- Measure your life by what follows you
- Ask what your children and grandchildren will inherit
- Embrace costly faithfulness for their sake

The first political step is to put Jesus over politics

A. Vote for Jesus as King

- Christ must remain supreme
- Hope must not shift to politics
- Elections must not become functional saviors

B. Politics is real but not ultimate

- It is a real tool
- It is a terrible savior

C. Politics makes a lousy god

- Just as money is a good servant but a bad god
- Politics can be useful, but it must never be worshiped

D. Christ must remain over nation, office, party, and outcome

- Engage politics
- Care deeply
- Hope ultimately in Jesus

The second political step is to adopt God's Word as the governing constitution



A. Systems arise from ultimate authority

- If God's Word does not govern people, something else will
- The alternatives are self, ideology, culture, appetite, or power

B. Political systems are never neutral

- Every system is built on some moral source
- Every social order rests on some authority structure

C. Public life must be shaped by divine truth

- A rightly ordered society cannot be built by people detached from God's Word
- Scripture is socially relevant, not merely privately comforting

D. The church must stand under Scripture before trying to shape society

- Public convictions must be built from biblical truth
- Christians must resist cultural pressure as their moral source

The church must fight for definitional, categorical, and moral clarity

A. Without proper definitions, people are easily manipulated

- Terrible ideas can be made to look good
- Citizens can be duped by slogans and optics

B. Political thought requires more than reaction

- More than vibes
- More than personalities



- More than debate performance
- More than emotional reaction
- More than branding

C. Christian citizenship requires deeper questions

- What do these terms mean?
- What kind of moral order is being assumed?
- What kind of society is this policy creating?

D. Christians must reject shallow politics

- Refuse to think politically in slogans
- Learn to define before reacting
- Seek moral and conceptual clarity

Government is one of three God-ordained spheres of limited human sovereignty

A. Government is God-ordained

- It is not merely man-made in origin
- It exists because God designed it

B. Government is one sphere, not the only sphere

- It is not total
- It is not ultimate
- It is not absolute



C. Government is limited

- It has real authority
- It has defined boundaries
- It is accountable to God

D. Power and authority are not inherently evil

- They are necessary
- They can be used for good
- They can also be abused

E. Christians must reject two errors

- Anti-government anarchism
- Totalizing statism

Christians must ask better political questions

A. What structure of political theory allows Christians to do the most good?

- What order best permits Christian obedience?
- What order best allows public faithfulness?

B. What system best wields and checks power?

- Power must be strong enough to restrain evil
- Power must be limited enough to prevent abuse

C. What works best for human flourishing?



- Some systems align with God's design better than others
- Human flourishing is a theological concern, not merely a political slogan

D. The key political questions

- Does this system help Christians obey Christ?
- Does it restrain evil without becoming evil?
- Does it promote stable flourishing?

Ordered society requires nations

A. Nations are God's plan for ordered society

- Ordered society requires authority
- Ordered society requires power
- Ordered society requires law
- Ordered society requires enforcement
- Ordered society requires interpretation

B. Tribalism fails

- Instability
- Conflict
- Fragmentation
- Insecurity
- Weak rule of law

C. Globalism fails



- Concentrated elite power
- Abuse of authority
- Distance from ordinary people
- Susceptibility to domination

D. Nation-ordered society best serves flourishing

- Stable boundaries
- Rule of law
- Civic order
- Space for Christian influence
- Resistance to both chaos and centralized tyranny

E. Stability is a moral good

- Flourishing collapses where rule of law is unstable
- Governance failure produces social dysfunction

God has ordained three spheres of sovereignty

A. The family

- Responsible for health
- Responsible for welfare
- Responsible for education

B. The church



- Responsible for the Word
- Responsible for truth
- Responsible for sacraments
- Responsible for worship
- Responsible for worldview formation

C. The civil magistrate

- Responsible for justice
- Responsible for peace
- Responsible for restraint of evil
- Responsible for protection of order

D. Each sphere has authority, responsibility, and limits

- These spheres are meant to strengthen one another
- They are not meant to swallow one another

E. Sphere confusion weakens society

- When government takes what belongs to family or church, order deteriorates
- When family or church tries to wield civil power improperly, disorder follows

F. Christians must learn what belongs where

- What belongs to family
- What belongs to church



- What belongs to government

Ordered society must reject both anarchy and tyranny

A. Anarchy is a distortion of authority

- Rejection of authority
- Collapse of law
- Social disorder
- Chaos

B. Tyranny is a distortion of authority

- Abuse of authority
- Oppressive law
- State overreach
- Domination

C. Both are forms of idolatry

- Under tyranny, the state becomes god
- Under anarchy, the individual becomes god
- Under ordered nationhood, individuals submit to God

D. Biblical illustrations

- Anarchy: the age of the Judges, when everyone did what was right in his own eyes
- Tyranny/statism: Egypt, Persia, Babylon, Rome



E. Ordered liberty is a theological good

- Christians must reject both chaos and control
- Christians must discern idolatry in both lawlessness and overreach

Because of sin, man must be governed

A. Government is necessary because evil is real

- Human sin requires restraint
- Order does not preserve itself

B. Because of sin, government must also be constrained

- Rulers are also sinners
- The problem is not authority itself
- The problem is unchecked authority in the hands of fallen people

C. The answer is not no authority

- The answer is checked authority
- Power must be exercised
- Power must also be restrained

D. A biblical political order must account for human fallenness

- Citizens are fallen
- Rulers are fallen
- Structures must reflect both realities



Constitutional republicanism best reflects these realities

A. Mere majority rule is dangerous

- Majorities can be wrong
- Majorities can be evil
- Majorities can vote destructively

B. Democracy alone is insufficient

- The majority is not automatically righteous
- Popular will is not the same thing as justice

C. Constitutional order creates limits

- It restrains what even majorities may do
- It protects people
- It distributes power
- It preserves ordered liberty

D. The goal is a structure that can exercise and constrain power

- Separation
- Accountability
- Limits
- Distributed authority

Political structure can reflect divine order

A. Isaiah 33:22 reveals God in governing categories



- The Lord is our judge
- The Lord is our lawgiver
- The Lord is our king

B. These correspond to political functions

- Judicial
- Legislative
- Executive

C. Good political order reflects God's design

- Separation of powers
- Ordered authority
- Accountable structure

No lasting inheritance of blessing exists apart from submission to God

A. A society cannot flourish where rulers reject Christ

- Law severed from God becomes destructive
- Judges replacing divine standards with self produce disorder
- National order detached from Jesus cannot sustain blessing

B. The final burden is generational

- Until a people live under God again, they cannot pass on a stable inheritance of blessing

C. Christ must remain supreme over all political thought



- Politics cannot save
- Government is not ultimate
- Society flourishes only under the lordship of Jesus

Final charge

A. Think beyond money

- You are leaving your children a world

B. Stop treating politics as superficial

- Politics shapes inheritance
- Politics shapes order
- Politics shapes flourishing

C. Refuse privatized Christianity

- Silence is not faithfulness
- Retreat is not witness

D. Recover biblical categories

- Definitions
- Moral clarity
- Proper political structure
- Proper spheres of authority

E. Submit politics to Christ



- Vote for Jesus as King
- Adopt his Word as your governing constitution
- Think and act under his lordship

F. Seek an inheritance of blessing

- For your children
- For the church
- For society
- Under one nation living rightly under God

Summary statement

Christians must think biblically about government and politics because the social inheritance they leave their children depends on whether society remains rightly ordered under the lordship of Jesus

