

# HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VOTE?

**Pastor: Josh McPherson**

## Foundational Framing: Christian Duty and Political Responsibility

**Loving God and neighbor requires engagement, not avoidance**

- A Christian cannot claim to love God and people while ignoring politics.
- To be biblical is, in part, to be political.
- The church's avoidance of politics is a dereliction of duty.

**The Bible's storyline is deeply political**

- Scripture presents the conflict of:
  - the politics of heaven
  - versus the politics of hell
- This conflict works itself out in:
  - real time
  - real space
  - real history



- through people, citizens, and nations
  
- The biblical story repeatedly shows:
  - God confronting evil tyrants
  - God confronting rogue governments
  - God raising up his people to speak in the middle of political realities

### **The Church is called to be the conscience of government**

- Paul did not remain silent before political rulers.
- He spoke truth to Felix, Festus, and Agrippa.
- The church's task is not to retreat from public truth.
- When the church goes silent, the government goes crazy.

### **The Old Testament confirms this pattern**

- The Old Testament is filled with:
  - kings
  - despots
  - nation-states
  - policy
  - palace intrigue



- prophets confronting rulers
- God's people have repeatedly been called to stand against political tyranny.

### **Silence in times of evil has consequences**

- The question is raised: would anyone wish pastors in 1930s Germany had been more political?
- The obvious answer is yes.
- When politics loses the voice of righteousness, people suffer.

### **Political leadership is spiritually significant**

- Leaders may:
  - act in ways that bring God's judgment
  - themselves become a form of God's judgment
- Righteous leaders can do unrighteous things.
- Unrighteous leaders can do righteous things.
- God can use both.

## **The Core Issue: Our Problem Is Spiritual Before It Is Political**

### **A. The nation's deepest issue is spiritual, not merely political**

- The problem in the nation is not mainly political.



- The problem is spiritual.

## **B. External values cannot replace personal submission to Christ**

- A person can hold Judeo-Christian values and still go to hell.
- The central question is not merely national morality.
- The central question is personal lordship:
  - Who is Lord over your life?

## **C. Reformation and revival begin in individual hearts**

- Renewal begins with individuals bowing to Jesus.
- Revival begins with personal repentance and submission.

# **Christian Identity: Not Right vs. Left, but Up vs. Down**

## **A. Christians are fundamentally an “up-and-down” people**

- Christians are not ultimately defined by right or left.
- Christians are called to direct attention upward to Christ.

## **B. The hope of society is Jesus Christ**

- The church’s aim is to point people to the hope found in Jesus.
- Christianity historically produces real societal blessing when it takes root.

## **C. The kingdom of God works itself out in history**



- God's kingdom is not abstract.
- It acts in:
  - Time
  - Space
  - History
- The church must prioritize building God's kingdom, not the kingdom of men.

#### **D. The Kingdom is spiritual and practical**

- The Kingdom of God is:
  - Spiritual
  - Practical
  - Tangible
  - Real
- When God's kingdom enters a life, it changes that life in visible ways.
- When God's kingdom enters a community, it changes that community in measurable ways.
- The same principle applies to nations.

#### **E. Spiritual problems produce physical consequences**

- Spiritual realities work themselves out in the physical realm.
- Therefore the church cannot treat the public world as irrelevant.



# The Necessity of Truth, Discipleship, and Law

## A. If the church does not disciple people, the world will

- Neutrality does not exist.
- If pastors refuse to preach truth, false voices will fill the vacuum.

## B. Policies cannot change hearts, but they can restrain evil

- Law cannot regenerate.
- But law can:
  - punish evil
  - deter evil
  - reward good
- Historically, societies with godly laws flourish.

# “Walking and Chewing Gum”: Christian Tension Held Faithfully

## A. Christians can worship Jesus and still labor for earthly change

- These are not opposites.
- Christians are commanded to live in both realities faithfully.

## B. Christians can rejoice and grieve at the same time

- Rejoice in the final victory of Christ.



- Grieve the darkness of the present hour.

### **C. Christians can trust God's rule and fear national rebellion**

- Trust the Lord who reigns over all the earth.
- Fear for a nation that is actively rebelling against him.

### **D. Christians can love all people and still advocate truth**

- Love of neighbor does not require silence.
- Truth telling is part of biblical love.

### **E. Christians can submit to authority and call authority to submit to Christ**

- Submission does not cancel prophetic confrontation.
- Leaders must be called to live under Christ's lordship.

### **F. Christians can love immigrants and defend borders**

- Love for the legal immigrant and border security are not opposites.
- A preserved nation can remain a haven.

### **G. Christians can honor rule of law and oppose unjust law**

- Respect for law does not require approval of:
  - unrighteous laws
  - petty bureaucracy



- regulatory tyranny
- Good men should not be crushed by unjust systems.

## **H. Christians can pray for leaders and rebuke leaders**

- Prayer and rebuke are both appropriate when leaders oppress people and violate God's law.

## **I. Christians are citizens of heaven living temporarily on earth**

- Faithfulness to the King of heaven requires earthly obedience in the present age.

*Christians have to be able to "walk and chew gum at the same time."*

# **Three Categories for Thinking About Politics**

## **1. Areas of differing viewpoints**

### **A. Issues where Scripture does not speak directly**

- Examples given:
  - China most-favored-nation status
  - interest rates
- The pulpit should not bind consciences where the Bible is silent.
- Christians may discuss such matters freely and respectfully.



## 2. Shared goals, differing methods

### A. Agreement on the end, disagreement on the means

- Example:
  - helping the poor
- Christians may disagree about:
  - welfare
  - job training
  - business incentives
  - private charity
  - tax policy
- These are legitimate areas for discussion and mutual learning.

## 3. “Thus saith the Lord”

### A. Issues with clear biblical teaching

- These are not open questions.
- These are matters where:
  - the church must speak
  - Christians must stand
- These are not areas for moral vagueness.



- To stand against what God has clearly spoken is to put oneself at odds with God.

## **B. The preacher's obligation**

- He must not bind conscience where Scripture is silent.
- He must bind conscience where Scripture speaks clearly.

## **C. Present confusion in the church**

- There was a time when many Christian disagreements were about methods.
- Now, many claim Christian identity while aiming at destinations foreign to the biblical worldview.
- Some political positions today are incompatible with Christianity.

## **D. When the issue is clear, there should be no nuance**

- In such cases, the church must speak:
  - boldly
  - courageously
  - clearly

# **Salt and Light in the Political Realm**

## **A. Christians are called to be salt and light**

- Societies naturally decay because of sin.
- The church is meant to resist that decay.



## **B. Salt slows rot**

- Christians slow societal decay by:
  - living holy lives
  - shaping families
  - building faithful churches
  - voting for policies aligned with the word of God

## **C. Light exposes lies**

- Christians must identify and expose falsehood masquerading as truth.

## **D. Political engagement is required**

- Refusing to get involved is not the high road.
- God calls his people into the mess with clarity.

## **E. Spurgeon's exhortation**

- Citizens should give their vote as much devotion as their prayers.
- Voting is a serious spiritual responsibility.

# **The Seven Biblical Categories for Assessing Politicians and Policies**

## **Category One: National Sovereignty**



## **A. Government has a God-given responsibility to protect borders**

- Nehemiah 4:13 is presented as an example of protecting the people through defensive boundaries.
- Acts 17:26 teaches that God established nations and their boundaries.

## **B. Nations are part of God's ordering of the world**

- Nations serve:
  - Blessing
  - Order
  - Protection from anarchy
  - Protection from tribalism
  - Protection from globalist tyranny

## **Marks of globalism identified**

- Sending troops and money into wars not tied to national borders
- Refusing to secure one's own borders against illegal entry

## **Failure to protect sovereignty is failure of duty**

- A nation that will not protect its borders will cease to be.
- Securing borders is presented as a basic governmental function.



**Application:** Christians should assess whether a politician understands and will uphold national sovereignty.

## **Category Two: Moral Law**

### **A. Government must be anchored in an objective moral standard**

- A government makes laws and defends them.
- If it has no moral anchor, it will invent its own right and wrong.

### **B. Scripture defines righteousness and wickedness**

- Proverbs 29:2:
  - righteous rule brings rejoicing
  - wicked rule brings groaning
- Proverbs 11:14:
  - lack of guidance causes national collapse
- Proverbs 14:34:
  - righteousness exalts a nation
  - sin condemns a people

### **C. Christians must use moral categories in public life**

- Believers must connect:
  - words politicians use



- policies politicians push
- with biblical categories of righteousness and evil

#### **D. The prophet's warning to evil nations**

- Woe to those who:
  - call evil good
  - call good evil
  - overturn moral reality
  - acquit the guilty
  - deny justice to the innocent

#### **E. Rejection of God's law brings judgment**

- Nations that reject the revealed moral law of God invite destruction.
- The sermon emphasizes invasion, war, and collapse as forms of judgment.

#### **F. No political solution can solve a fundamentally spiritual rebellion**

- Yet Christians must still assess whether policy aligns with or rebels against God's law.

#### **G. Character and policy both matter**

- Not every person claiming Christ should receive Christian support.
- Some non-Christians may align more closely with moral law in policy than professing Christians do.



- Christians must assess:
  - character
  - track record
  - actions
  - policies

## **H. Government's role**

- Government should be:
  - a friend to law-abiding citizens
  - a terror to evildoers
- It should not reward lawbreakers and burden righteous people.

## **I. Local implication**

- Local government also matters.
- Policies can either help or hinder productive, law-abiding citizens.

# **Category Three: Biological Truth**

## **A. God made mankind male and female**

- Genesis 1
- Mark 10:6
- Biological sex is presented as a creational reality.



## **B. Public leaders must uphold basic created realities**

- Inability to affirm male and female is presented as disqualifying for office.

## **C. Confusion about sex and gender harms society**

- When biological truth is blurred:
  - communities suffer
  - states suffer
  - nations suffer

## **D. Forcing gender confusion on children is especially evil**

- Children trust adults to tell them what is true.
- To impose confusion on them is a profound betrayal.

## **E. Illustration from the locker room**

- A young woman's privacy was violated by a biological male in a women's space.
- The sermon frames this as:
  - a failure of adult protection
  - a denial of biological truth
  - a violation of sovereignty and dignity

## **F. Fear of being called politically incorrect has silenced many**

- Silence is hurting both:



- confused individuals
- those subjected to the confusion of others

### **G. Jesus' warning about causing children to stumble**

- The sermon connects gender confusion in children with Christ's severe warning about harming little ones.

### **H. Government overreach into parental authority**

- Shield laws and "temporary emergency jurisdiction" are presented as government seizure of parental rights.
- This is framed as both:
  - a denial of biology
  - a violation of family jurisdiction

### **I. Evil must be resisted**

- Evil does not stop on its own.
- Christians must actively oppose it.

### **J. Theological diagnosis: idolatry**

- Remaking the self in one's own image is described as idolatry.
- It is acting in the place of God.

### **K. Grace for the confused and wounded**



- Those wrestling in this area are told:
  - God did not make a mistake
  - they are fearfully and wonderfully made
  - brokenness is real
  - the answer is not fleeing the Creator
  - the answer is running to Christ for renewal
- Christ's wounds, not personal scars, are presented as the defining reality for redemption.

## **Category Four: Marital Sanctity**

### **A. Marriage is divinely instituted**

- Genesis 2:24
- Matthew 19
- Marriage is between one man and one woman in covenant union.

### **B. God alone defines marriage**

- Marriage, sexuality, and childbearing are all rooted in God's design.

### **C. Marriage reflects Christ and the church**

- It is not only social; it is theological and symbolic.

### **D. Application**



- Any policy or politician that attempts to redefine marriage is opposing God's revealed order and is unfit for office.

## **Category Five: The Nuclear Family**

### **A. Fruitfulness and family are part of God's design**

- Genesis 1:28 presents fruitfulness, multiplication, and dominion as blessings.

### **B. Government should protect, not replace, the family**

- Christians should ask:
  - Does this policy honor family?
  - Does it strengthen the ability of families to flourish?

### **C. Society does not fundamentally need more government**

- The sermon argues that what is needed is:
  - stronger families
  - stronger marriages
  - more fathers
- Policies that see government as solution and family as problem should be rejected.

## **Category Six: The Preciousness of Life**

### **A. Scripture commands defense of the weak**



- Psalm 82:3
- Proverbs 31:8
- The unborn are included among those who cannot speak for themselves.

## **B. Children in the womb are entrusted to adult protection**

- They are weak and defenseless.
- Abortion is framed as an attack on the defenseless.

## **C. Jesus came to bring life**

- John 10 contrasts the thief who destroys with Christ who gives life.

## **D. Supporting abortion aligns with destruction**

- Promoting laws that make killing the vulnerable easier is framed as participating in the demonic assault on the image of God.

## **E. God hates the shedding of innocent blood**

- Proverbs 6:17 is used to underscore the seriousness of abortion.

## **F. Political indictment**

- The sermon identifies the modern abortion movement as moving from “safe, legal, and rare” to celebration and promotion.
- It condemns abortion expansion and the framing of abortion as reproductive rights.

## **G. Application**



- A political party that celebrates abortion is described as one Christians must resist.
- Proverbs 8 is invoked: those who hate wisdom love death.

## **Category Seven: Religious Freedom**

### **A. Freedom is tied to the Spirit of the Lord**

- “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

### **B. Spurgeon’s argument**

- Civil liberty is presented as a fruit of Christian influence.
- Freedom is not sustained by institutions alone but by the presence of true religion.

### **C. Historical claim**

- Men of religion are credited with winning liberties.
- Christianity is presented as the ground beneath enduring freedom.

### **D. Implication**

- Even unbelievers benefit from living in a society shaped by Christian truth.
- Religious liberty must therefore be protected.

## **Bonus Category: Jurisdictional Respect and Restraint**

### **A. Government is not the solution to everything**



- A politician or policy that sees government as the cure for all problems will invade every part of life.

## **B. God has established distinct spheres**

- The family
- The church
- The civil magistrate

## **C. Each sphere has its own jurisdiction**

- Government must respect the boundaries of family and church.
- When it does not, it weakens those spheres while enlarging itself.

## **D. Warning against overreach**

- Government overreach leads to:
  - weakened families
  - weakened churches
  - confiscated resources
  - dependency
  - intrusion into education, charity, and moral formation

**Application:** Christians should favor politicians and policies that show jurisdictional restraint and proper respect for God-ordained spheres.



# The Christian Voting Lens Summarized

## Seven categories to use in discernment

1. National sovereignty
2. Moral law
3. Biological truth
4. Marital sanctity
5. Nuclear family
6. Religious liberty
7. Jurisdictional respect and restraint

### A. No candidate is perfect

- Jesus is not on the ballot.
- Christians must think strategically.

### B. The aim of Christian voting

- Support those who align most closely, in the most ways, with biblical policy.

## Final Prophetic Warning

The political left currently presents the greatest moral threat on these biblical categories.

### Specific Issues



- Sex-change procedures for children
- Removing children from parents over gender ideology
- Pornographic material promoted to children
- Redefinition of marriage
- Celebration of abortion
- Promotion of transgender ideology
- Undermining parental authority
- Assault on masculinity and the nuclear family
- Erosion of free speech
- Threats to religious liberty
- Criminalization of biblical convictions
- Lawfare against opponents

### **C. These are not treated as merely political disagreements**

- They are treated as moral and spiritual rebellion.
- The warning is:  
**Woe to the nation, woe to the party, woe to the candidate... who calls evil good and good evil**

### **D. The church must wake up**

- The church is warned not to remain silent while its voice can still be heard.



## E. Strong rebuke of evil

- The sermon characterizes celebration of abortion and transition procedures on minors as profoundly demonic and deserving public rebuke.

# Closing Burden for the Nation

## A. Prayer for the nation

- That pulpits and people would be filled with the Spirit's power
- That the lies of the enemy would be seen clearly
- That there would be spiritual revival, not merely political revival
- That the church would repent
- That Christian men would:
  - love their neighbors
  - embody the kingdom
  - lead families well
  - protect children
  - love wives
  - build churches
  - work for community good
  - speak truth to evil
  - walk in boldness and clarity



- live out a distinctly Christian worldview in every sphere, including voting

