

The Church and Politics
Church Venture Northwest

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1. **Mark 12:13-17**
 - a. We are citizens of two kingdoms.
 - b. The state does not have to be Christian to be legitimate. (See **Gen 9:1-17; Luke 4:5-8**)
 - i. The covenant with Noah is universal, not particular.
 - ii. The covenant with Noah is preservative, not redemptive.
 - iii. The covenant with Noah is temporary, not eternal.
 - iv. The covenant with Noah is common, not holy.
 - c. We note also that Jesus does not de-obligate God's people from the kingdom of the world.
 - d. We must clearly delineate the rights, laws, and obligations of each of the kingdoms.
 - e. We cannot avoid obligations to one Kingdom by simply evoking membership in another.
 - f. The two Kingdoms are not equal (**Acts 4:19**).
2. Five wrong views on Christians and Governmentⁱ
 - a. Government should compel religion
 - b. Government should exclude religion
 - c. All government is evil and demonic
 - d. Do politics, not evangelism
 - e. Do evangelism, not politics
3. The Church is to hold some things firmly and others looselyⁱⁱ
 - a. The Bible is the book by which all our political activity is to be judged.
 - i. **Rev 6:15-17**

- b. We must differentiate between biblical wisdom and biblical law or commandment.
- c. Obedience to biblical covenants, commissions, and commands is to be held firmly.
- d. Commitment to the biblical concept of justice is to be held firmly. Such things are ordained by God.
 - i. **Deut 27:19; 24:17; Isa 9:7; 11:3-4**
 - ii. Most of the activities of good government takes place in the space between the moral absolutes and concept of justice. This is where wisdom is to prevail.
 - iii. Because wisdom dictates, the church must hold loosely ideologies, constitutions, parties, candidates, and policies. Such things are to be treated, evaluated, and constructed with wisdom.
- e. How straight a line can I draw from Bible to policy?ⁱⁱⁱ
 - i. The first step is distilling biblical principles that are relevant to politics.
 - 1. Humans are *imago Dei*
 - 2. Humans are fallen and finite

ⁱ Wayne Grudem, *Politics According to the Bible: A Comprehensive Resource for Understanding Modern Political Issues in Light of Scripture* (Zondervan, 2010), 23-54.

ⁱⁱ Jonathan Leeman, *How the Nations Rage: Rethinking Faith and Politics in a Divided Age* (Thomas Nelson, 2018), 88. See also his *Political Church: The Local Assembly as Embassy of Christ's Rule* (IVP, 2016).

ⁱⁱⁱ See Robert Benne, *Good and Bad Ways to Think About Religion and Politics* (Eerdmans, 2010).