

"Political simply means the activities associated with the organization and governance of people. It has to do with rulership and who has the right to order our lives. It is what happens in the public domain. To paraphrase Augustine, politics is people bound together by common loves." – Patrick Schreiner

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." – Plato

➤ **God desires and intends His world to be run by human authorities.**

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

rule = radah (raw-daw') = to have dominion, dominate, reign

Romans 13:1

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Psalms 8:4-6

Human beings establishing structures of authority to rule and govern is how God created this world to be run. AND God intends those authorities to act with wisdom and justice, serving the common good of the people.

➤ **Civil government and governing authorities are legitimate, but they are not ultimate.**

Psalms 146:3-5

3 Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. 4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. 5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

Viewing civil magistrates as *ultimate* manifests itself in an obsession over their rule.

"When Ruth Bader Ginsburg died in September of 2020, groups of mourners gathered outside the Supreme Court. Some knelt, others prayed, others held candles. The steps of the Supreme Court had become the American Western Wall. But the Scriptures put the governing authorities in their proper positions...Jesus announced another kingdom was present amid these kingdoms. We serve another king. This means that no affection we feel toward a political tribe should compare to our allegiance toward Christ's heavenly kingdom. We are united under another king, no matter our political differences." – Patrick Schreiner

➤ **Sin must be taken into account—even when politics and government are working at their best, they are still broken.**

"...Human authority is corrupted by the poisonous pursuit of power and contaminated by the human attachment to idols of every kind." – N.T Wright



Jeremiah 17:9-10

All political corruption has its roots in character corruption, it's a heart-issue.

The ultimate hope for changing what's wrong in the world is to change the human heart.

"Christian teaching affirms that obedience and respect for government is the norm even if the government is imperfect or unjust in some matters. Civil disobedience is reserved for unjust laws, and uncivil disobedience should be reserved only for violent authoritarians." – N.T Wright

Daniel 3:14-18

"Government is to be respected, and its rule honored. But worship is reserved solely for God."
– Chuck Colson

submission – honor and support the authorities that God has put in place

subversion – advocate for reform, draw attention to injustice & evil

300 AD = 10% of the Roman Empire were Christian

By 380 AD = 50% of population were Christian, including emperors, generals and governors

"There is no greater drama in human record than the sight of a few Christians, scorned or oppressed by a succession of emperors, bearing all trials with fierce tenacity, multiplying quietly, building order while their enemies generated chaos, fighting the sword with the word, brutality with hope, and at last defeating the strongest state that history has known. Caesar and Christ had met in the arena, and Christ had won." – Will Durant,

The Story of Civilization: Caesar and Christ

Recommended resources:

Jay Kenworthy, jdkenworthy@gmail.com, elder, communications director for Sen. Todd Young,
20 yrs. experience working with state and federal elected officials

Tim Swarens, tswarens1@gmail.com, elder, deputy opinion editor for USA Today,
journalist for 40 yrs in areas of economics, politics, & social issues

Books:

Jesus and the Powers by N.T. Wright, *God and Politics* by Mark Dever

Political Gospel by Patrick Schreiner, *God & Government* by Chuck Colson

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