



TRUTHS

about

**CHRISTIANS
AND POLITICS**

TRUTH 1

THE FOUNDATION OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IS RELIGION

- Every government needs a moral code, and that moral code must rest on religion.
- Without religion to sustain a nation's moral order, the options are anarchy or tyranny.

TRUTH 2

CHRISTIANITY MAKES THE BEST FOUNDATION FOR LAW AND POLITICS

- Pre-Christian Greek and Roman cultures had little respect for human life. Their laws and politics allowed the practice of infanticide and subjected millions to slavery.
- Christianity brought an end to infanticide and introduced biblical principles of justice, morality, and respect for human life into law.
- Even the king should be subject to the law.

TRUTH 3

THE BIBLE GIVES GUIDANCE FOR GOVERNMENTS AND CITIZENS

- The Bible provides detailed civil laws and first principles to guide our thinking about civil government.
- God is sovereign over all, including politics. Church and state have separate duties under God's sovereign rule.
- Christians have the duty to obey civil laws (unless those laws are unrighteous), and to be "salt and light" to the culture.

TRUTH 4

WITHOUT GOD, GOVERNMENT IS A FEARFUL MASTER

- The murderous regimes of Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler illustrate what can happen when governments govern without God.
- America's Founders acknowledged God and recognized the depravity of mankind. They crafted a government of checks and balances to safeguard against human evil.

TRUTH 5

AMERICA WAS BUILT BY BIBLICALLY LITERATE CITIZENS

- The men who drafted our nation's founding documents and fought for American independence came from a 150-year-old colonial culture that was self-consciously Christian. Some 24 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were seminary graduates.
- Colonial leaders embraced the Reformation leader John Calvin's ideas on resistance to tyranny as well as the Presbyterian representative system of church government, which offered colonists a laboratory for self-government.
- Reformation ideas were propagated through the Geneva Bible, which was first published in 1560 and was widely used by the Pilgrims and Puritans.



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▶ TRUTH 6

ALL GOVERNMENTS LEGISLATE MORALITY

- Laws against theft, murder, drug use, and prostitution, etc., all impose morality on the public. All law arises from a view of morality and is rooted in certain religious values.
- Morality, rooted in religious values, is the necessary and indispensable source of civil law.
- The law can lead to changed attitudes. The real question is, whose morality will be enacted into law?

▶ TRUTH 7

RETREAT OR RULE: NEITHER IS AN OPTION

- Christians should neither privatize their faith nor politicize it. Both have been tried. Both have failed disastrously.
- The Reformers rejected the union of church and state. The American colonies were the first to establish this as a political principle.
- Christians cannot retreat from politics and government into pietism. We are commanded to “fill the earth and subdue it” and “have dominion” (Genesis 1:28 NKJV).

▶ TRUTH 8

CHRISTIANS HAVE THE DUTY TO SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

- There is no morally neutral ground. In politics, as in every area of life, Christians have the duty to stand with the right, or by default they will be standing on the side of evil.
- The First Amendment has established the right of Christian citizens and their religious leaders to bring biblical truth and morality to bear on matters of public policy and law.

▶ TRUTH 9

GOD HOLDS HIS PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR CIVIC STEWARDSHIP

- Where Christians have been silent on public policy, secular humanism has advanced its control and gained greater cultural influence.
- America's Founders believed that voting is a duty owed to God. It has weighty public consequences for either good or ill.
- Our duty to God includes holding rulers accountable for their actions and exerting the influence of biblical morality on legislators.

▶ TRUTH 10

THE MOST POLITICAL ACT IS TO WIN SOMEONE TO FAITH IN CHRIST

- The life of William Wilberforce shows how a culture can be changed by the conversion of one person to Christ.
- Our civic duty never replaces our duty to God to share Christ's message of forgiveness and freedom from sin with those we meet every day.
- True cultural change comes through the turning of individuals to faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. Biblical morality in society flows from transformed lives.



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