

# NOW...HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

November 13, 2016

*"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool." —Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## What is the Church's response to the Presidential election?

### Overall Biblical Perspectives on Government

Origin - Genesis 8-9

Noah was to prosecute wrongdoing and scatter and fill the earth, but his descendants failed at the Tower of Babel.

God's punishment was to confuse their languages at Babel and scatter the people across the earth.

God Maintains His Authority

Proverbs 21:1 - The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Daniel 4:17b - that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men.

### Religion Alongside Politics in America

Three Components of a Moral Revolution:

1. Something that was nearly universally condemned is now nearly universally celebrated.
2. That which was celebrated is condemned.
3. Those who refuse to celebrate are condemned.

Moral concerns such as personal character and family ~~stability questions have been~~ marginalized in both of the major political parties, leaving evangelicals politically homeless whether they know it or not. In other words exiled.

- ⇒ The Benedict Option -
- ⇒ Micro-Christendoms -
- ⇒ The Evangelical Persecution Complex -
- ⇒ The Jeremiah Option -

### Dual Perspectives of Jews Returning From Exile - Ezra 3:1-13

1. The focus of the Jews as they returned to their homeland is worship.
  - A. Feasts (vs. 4); Offerings (vs. 5); Orderliness (vs. 8-9); Praise and singing (vs. 10-11)
2. Their worship was structured according to the Word of the Lord.
  - A. The priests and Levites took their places. (1 Chron. 25:1)
  - B. They sang psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (vs. 11 and Psalm 100)
  - C. They practiced corporate worship. (vs. 12)
3. At the laying of the foundation for the temple, notice the reactions of the older members vs. the others.
  - A. The older members wept while the others rejoiced.

Why?

4. Do we see a similar divergence in American believers when it comes to political perspectives?
  - A. Older believers are generally more likely to perceive America as Israel.  
Drawbacks:
  - B. Younger believers are generally more likely to perceive America as Babylon.  
Drawbacks:

### So Knowing This, What Can We Do Now?

1. Christians are called to be in the business of nation building (Romans 13:1-7).

## So Knowing This, What Can We Do Now (cont.)?

2. We should obey the government and give honor to whom honor is due. (Romans 13:1-7)
3. We should pray for our leaders their good, the church's good, and for the good of lost sinners (1 Timothy 2:1-3) .  
"In relation to earthly nations and events, the supreme question to ask ourselves is always, how is the Church of God affected? This should be the direction of all our prayers with regard to world governments – not for or against one side or another, in politics or war, but for the will of God."  
Watchman Nee
4. All Christians are called to seek peace and unity within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3)
5. Be willing to speak out against injustice or anything that is opposed to Christ telling the truth regardless of its impact on our so-called political enemies or allies .
6. No matter the racial divide in our country, believers should love one another. By this, America will know that we are Christ's disciples (John 13:35) .
7. Fight against the merging of faith and politics. They are not the same thing, and to make them so is idolatrous .

## Application

- ⇒ Don't allow political differences or preferences to become a stumbling block .
  - ◆ Above all, put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity - Colossians 3:14
- ⇒ While working for the good of our nation is certainly an important role that believers play in allowing the light of Christ to shine through us, remember that it is not our first role
  - ◆ But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Matthew 6:33
- ⇒ What is our answer for how to navigate this new political chapter in America's history?
  - ◆ Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly - Colossians 3:16a