Life Group Questions

Election Day: Christian Considerations

Introduction: John reminded us that American government is set up as a constitutional republic, where the power to govern is based on the consent of the people. In light of this structure, an informed voting public is of high importance. John said Christians with the right to vote as American citizens should take that responsibility seriously and engage it thoughtfully.

Passages: Genesis 1:26-28, 9:6; Psalm 2:1-3, 2:10-12; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; Matthew 22:17-22; Romans 13:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17.

Questions:

1. John noted that when people asked Benjamin Franklin what kind of government the delegates of the Continental Congress had created, he replied, "a republic…if you can keep it."
   What goes into keeping a republic? How can individual Christians participate in this work?

2. **Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 9:6-7. What did God design people to do on earth? What value do people have by God's design, particularly in comparison to the rest of creation? How should this inform the laws we expect governing authorities to create and uphold?**

   Consider and discuss this quote, which applies Gen. 9:6-7 to the topic of freedom of religion: "It leaves open a space for religious freedom, and that space is anything outside of the government's jurisdiction. On the flip side, however, the verse doesn't allow someone to claim "freedom of religion!" if their religion causes actual harm, like a Christian Scientist who wants to deny medical care to a child whose life is medically threatened."[1]

3. John talked about the importance of upholding truth and practicing compassion as we consider for whom we vote. **Why is it important that truth define the limits of compassion and the ways we express it?**

4. **Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and discuss the following questions:**
   a. **What do we learn from this passage about the rule of law?**
   b. **What do we learn from this passage about the right of kings vs. the rule of law: which authority is higher in God's design? (Cf. Psalm 2:1-3, 2:10-12)**

[1] Jonathan Leeman, "What Authority has God Given to Governments?, https://www.9marks.org/article/what-authority-has-god-given-to-governments/

c. **What principles can we draw from Deut. 17 to apply to our current American context? What should we expect of government?**

5. **Read the New Testament passages about government listed above: Matt. 22:17-22; Rom. 13:1-4; 1 Pet 2:13-14, 17. Based on these passages, who gives government its authority? In what areas of life should we expect government to establish and uphold laws?**

Two more questions on page 2 ...

6. **Consider these two alternative structures and discuss which is more biblical and why:**[2]

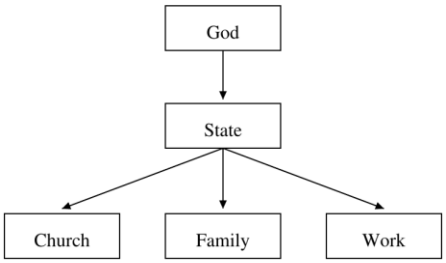


Fig. 2
Christian Statism

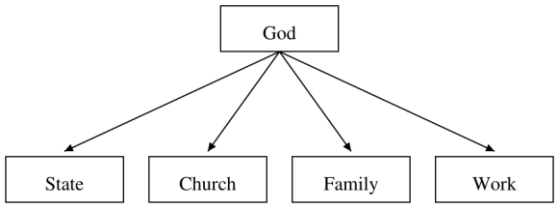


Fig. 3
Sphere Sovereignty

7. **Pray for the Lord to give you opportunities to share Jesus with non-believers He has put in your life. Who can you further relationship with this week who does not follow Jesus yet?**

[2] Levi Secord, *Servant not Savior: An Introduction to the Bible's Teaching about Civil Government*, (Levi Secord, 2025), 155.