



The Christian and Politics

By the time you read this, our nation will soon be announcing the next President or the election will be over already. I have been doing some thinking, studying, and praying about the role of the Christ follower and politics.

What is this relationship between God and government? A good passage to look at is Romans 13:1-4. Paul points out that government is to act on God's behalf to promote good in society and limit evil in society.

In America we live in a democracy. Actually, the world is a theocracy. The world is ruled by God. God has set up governmental systems. Here are three important ones God established: The family, the church, and civil government. Each of these has been given certain jurisdiction and authority. God says he is over each of these institutions. God tells each what to do, not the other way around. They are not equals. We must not allow institutions to tell God what to do or what is right. That is God's role.

For example, we are told in Ephesians that the husband is the head of the home (Ephesians 5:23). He is the head of the home, kind of. The husband is the head of the house underneath God. "But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor. 11:3). Any institutional leader who takes himself away from the authority of God is no longer governing God's way. If you want government to rule independent of God, God says, "Ok, that is your choice, but I am going to hang out someplace else. I am going to pick up stakes and move on." And that is exactly what God did to Israel as recorded in Ezekiel 43:7-9. God says the human kings, which is the government in Biblical days, put their throne next to his throne. Government got so close to God that there were two thrones in God's house. So, you have human kings and God and they were treating God like they were equals.

The problem is that politics and government brought their evil things with them into the house of God. The temple was God's throne in which God rules. God runs the show in his house. Kings are not to run the show. The separation of church and state was never intended to be a separation between God and government. The key was to remember that God was over government. The kings brought civil religion into the church and thus defiled God's name. It is government's job to reflect a theocracy that already exists. It is the job of the family to reflect a reality that already exists. It is the job of the church to reflect a truth that already exists – God's rule. These three institutions are fine if they complement God's rule.

Here is a big problem I see with politics today. We have allowed politics to dictate the kingdom of God. We need to remember, as Dr. Tony Evans says, "God does not ride the backs of elephants or donkeys." God doesn't sit on a throne in the White House. He has his own throne and he is calling the shots.

We must be careful that we don't become so committed to a political party that we are actually competing with the throne of God. Whatever political or non-political party you endorse, understand that we are part of an eternal kingdom that is not of this world (Jn. 18:36) and the glory of the Lord is present there.

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Mark

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

2206 Tecoma Drive
Knoxville, TN 37917
865-523-1764

Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org



Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Drive By Baby Shower



**Drive by Shower for David and Laura Price,
next Sunday, November 8, 3 to 4:45 p.m.
They are registered at the
Target baby registry: www.Target.com.
Address: 1613 Winding Ridge Trail, Knoxville, 37922**



Dear Brethren at Arlington Church of Christ, Thank you so much for the food and supplies collected for us here at the Tennessee Children's Home. We appreciate it so very much.

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Elders

Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515

Deacons

Jason McDougal - YPYF/Vacation Bible School
Bud Norris - Worship Participants
Keith Tatum - Education/Picture Board/Family Camp
Ronnie Weldon - Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY

9:00

Opening Prayer	Keith Tatum
Communion	Tommy Drinnen
Security	Mark Harper
"	Tim Mallicoat

Happy Birthday!!



Nov 1 Missy Turnbull

Nov 4 Allison Wachter



Family Matters



Online
Bible Study

We continue
to have our
Sunday night
Bible study at
6 p.m. and **Wednesday** night
Bible study at 7 pm via Zoom.



We now have **two**
options for Sunday
morning worship.

We will have a service at 9 a.m. and a service at 10:30 a.m. The 9 a.m. service will be live-streamed for those who are at home. We ask that those coming to the building wear a mask when entering and exiting as well as during the worship time. The seating will be first come, first serve, so there will not be assigned seating. Every other row will be marked off and we ask people to keep six feet of space between their family unit and others where you sit. We appreciate your patience as we continue to make adjustments to aid our worship and time together. There is no nursery or children's Bible hour for now. All children will remain with their parents. A handout for children to take kid sermon notes along with a treat is located at the back of the auditorium where the communion is located. Please take an individual communion cup/wafer as you enter. A contribution box is also located there.



Arlington Family:

Our sympathy is extended to Gregg Summers and family as they mourn the sudden death of Gregg's mother, Vonda Summers
Ron Hill diagnosed with prostate cancer
Judy Baker is having back pain
John & Laura Burka
Rick Case
Ben Cavin
Tina Childress
Frank and Teresa Combs
Joe Croteau
Danny & Deborah Davis
Tom Drinnen
Laurie Duncan
Jerry Fittro
John Hoff
Becky Johnson
Bill Langley
Bruce McQuaig had some tests last week
Heather Percell
Marge Percell
Danny Rider
Terri Trent
Shirley Waggoner
Ronnie Weldon

Missionaries:

Tom & Angie Langley
Tommy Drinnen

Shut Ins:

Rosaline Davis	Katheryn Norman
Lynda Elliott	Bill Pruett
Doris Hightower	Dan Trent
	Peggy Mehlhorn

Friends and Family:

Kelly Wachter's step-dad, Mark Schmidt, has been diagnosed with a reoccurrence of Leukemia after seven years of remission
John David Potter's co-worker, Dan Warner, has heart issues
Tracy Case has diabetic retinopathy. Please pray her vision is restored.
Delinda Summers' friend and neighbor, Shawyn, has breast cancer
Terri Trent's niece, Kate, is struggling as she lost her friend Elise to suicide.
Bernice Borg's mother, Sue Brady, is in hospice
Doug Childers' wife, Sue, is dealing with early on-set dementia.
Betty Smith's 4 year old niece, River Folan, David Price's coworker, Jennifer, and his cousin, Brent, both have brain cancer
Joyce Sanders' grand daughter, Taylor Helms, is expecting a baby boy with heart problems
John and Bernice Lowery, relatives of Becky Johnson, battling health problems
Becky Johnson's friend, Doris Berry
Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law starting stronger chemo treatment
Ada Shannon's sister, Shorty, and her husband Ben Ream's neighbor, James Childress
Joe Turnbull's brother, John
Diana Yarborough's friend, Jason Hibbert
Mark's niece, Katelyn Hargrave
Heather Ream's mom
Jerry Brackney
Faith Tindell
David Hunter
Deb and Rob Colones
Aleta Esau's grandson, Aiden
Earl Werkheiser
Merrick Hermann
Amanda Taylor on chemo
Laura Owens father