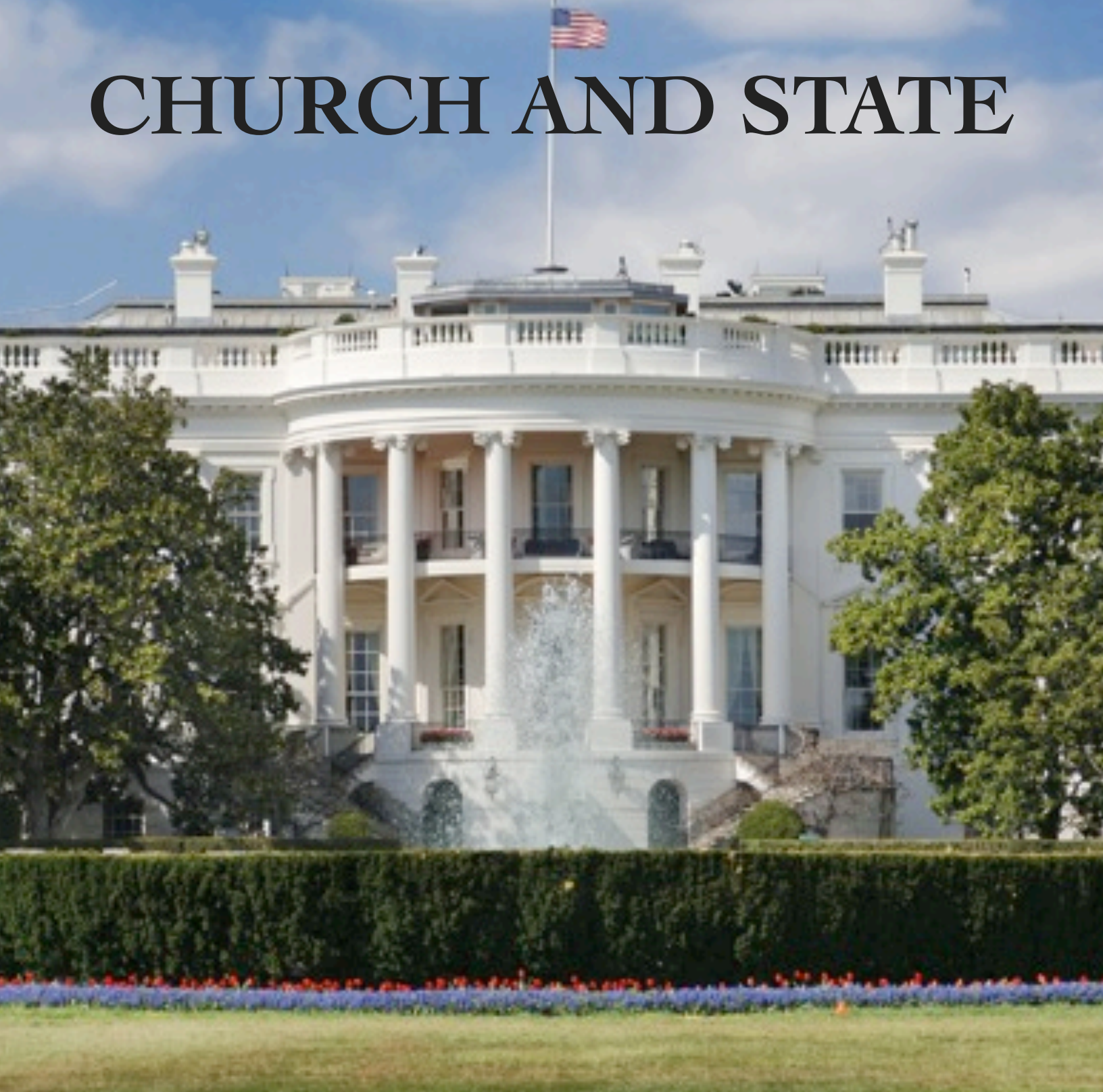


THE BIBLICAL CHURCH AND STATE



BIBLICAL ROLES OF GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

“And Jesus answering said unto them, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ And they marveled at him.”
Mark 12:17 (KJV)

“For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval.”
Romans 13:3 (ESV)

“Appoint judges and officials for your tribes in all your towns the LORD your God is giving you. They are to judge the people with righteous judgment. Do not deny justice or show partiality [to anyone]. Do not accept a bribe, for it blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. Pursue justice and justice alone, so that you will live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.”
Deuteronomy 16:18-20 (HCSB)

“Seek the welfare of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for when it has prosperity, you will prosper.”
Jeremiah 29:7 (HCS)

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”
Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

“When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.”
Proverbs 29:2 (NLT)

“Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back.”
Proverbs 24:11 (NASB)

FACTSHEET

God Created Government

- God created civil government and purposed it to restrain evil and promote justice (Romans 13:3).

Civic Leaders are God’s Servants and Are Called to Rule Righteously

- In Romans 13:4-6, God says that rulers are God’s servants who carry a sword (authority). For this, we pay taxes to support governing authorities who are God’s servants, giving their full time to governing.
- In Exodus 18:21 and Deuteronomy 16:18-20, God says to select capable and trustworthy men who fear God and hate dishonest gain and appoint them as officials.

God Calls Christians to Be Active Citizens

- Christians are to pray for the nation’s leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- Christians are to pay taxes (Matthew 22:21).
- Christians are to follow the law, submitting to “every authority instituted among men...” (1 Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:2-5).
- Christians are to show authorities proper respect (Romans 13:4).
- Christians are to stand up and speak out when man’s law conflicts with God’s law as Peter and the Apostles did in Acts 5:29.

Why Christians Should Vote

- God says to “select capable men from all the people -- men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain -- and appoint them as officials (Exodus 18:21, emphasis added). In America, we have the privilege of voting our leaders into service.
- God says Christians are the “salt of the earth” and we can help influence public policy for good when we vote for leaders who share our values (Matthew 5:13). Silence in the face of evil is sin (Proverbs 24:11); but Christians in this country can speak out with their vote, as well as their voice.
- In the parable of the talents, the Bible says Christians should be good stewards (Matthew 25:20). American Christians have been given a nation built upon the biblical principles of freedom -- a nation our forefathers fought and died to preserve for future generations. We must be good stewards our our country, preserving those principles that make us great. We can do this by selecting leaders who adhere to the Judeo-Christian principles that built our nation. “Christ has liberated us into freedom. Therefore stand firm and don’t submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

Resources / Sermon Ideas

- How You Can Have Maximum Patriotic Impact (Sermon from Family Research Council)
- On Christian Citizenship (Sermon series from Curt Smith, Indiana Family Institute)
- www.ivotevalues.org
- www.freevotersguide.com