

My Political Jesus #2

WELCOME

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission in life

FHNew - If you would like to get to know us a little better, text **FHNew** to **72000** and we will send you a link to some short videos about Foothills Church.

FHBaptism - If you would like to know more about believer's baptism, text **FHBaptism** to **72000** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism. Next Sunday (the last Sunday of the month) following both services, there will have a Baptism of Believers meeting in the Chapel if you want to learn more about baptism.

Review:

1. Benedict option
2. Charlemagne option
3. All Things to All People option
4. Don't Take Sides option

Everyone has an expectation of the church. The church is the most embraced and maligned organization or community in the world.

Today we are looking at what is the mission of the church when it comes to politics?

Matthew 16:17-18 (NIV) *“Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

- **Main Principle:** the church is a community of people called out by Jesus, founded by Jesus, and belongs to Jesus

Matthew 28:18-20 *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- **Main Principle:** The specific mission of the church is to go and make followers of Jesus Christ

Acts 1:7-8 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- **Main Principle:** Jesus is the power that drives the church forward. The Holy Spirit is the divine presence of Jesus. Without Jesus empowering the community of faith in his name, there is no community of faith in his name.

Ephesians 3:10-11 *"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

- **Main Principle:** The authority of God is made manifest through the church. If we are not connected directly to God, we have no authority.

Acts 20:28-31 *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.*

- **Main Principle:** The primary responsibility of the leaders of the church is to protect it from false teaching.

Therefore, the mission of the church is to lead people to Jesus.

1. Our mission should be to create the best circumstance in which people can discover Jesus and meet him

2. We cannot force people to have faith in Christ (doctrine of non-coercion)

- You cannot force your kids to learn
- You cannot force your kids to believe in God
- You cannot force your kids to have faith in Jesus
- Every parent educates their kids; every parent exemplifies to their children what they really believe in worship
- Parents are the single biggest factor in how much they learn and the number one factor in whether or not their kids believe in God
- If you worship Jesus, your kids will worship Jesus

3. We must proclaim Jesus personally

- Our witness as a Church is dependent on how often we are proclaiming Jesus (see Matthew 25)

4. We must stand opposed to the ideological values that are in opposition to Jesus and His reality

Now that we have looked at the primary source texts and distilled the Biblical principles from them accurately and objectively, let's apply them to politics today.

- Option 1 (Benedict) refutes the Biblical principle of "go"
- Option 2 (Charlemagne) refutes the Biblical principle "We are to be his witnesses" (the doctrine of non-coercion)
- Option 3 (All Things to All People) refutes the Biblical principle of "Teach them to obey all that I have commanded"
- Option 4 (Don't Take Sides) refutes the Biblical principle of exposing false teachings (ideologies)
- **Main Principle:** Each option misses the mark. Why?

Jesus, in John 15:5, said *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

- Jesus spoke often of fruit -- you put it to seed, it produces a crop or fruit. A tree is known by its fruit, what it produces. Jesus said that if you are in me and I am in you, you will bear much fruit. This is an Upstream principle.

Logic dictates Upstream to Downstream

- What is Upstream -- a way to see the reality of how things work
- Values determine your morality, morality determines culture, culture determines politics

Main Principles

1. You want the Church to focus on leading people to Jesus and discipling them to maturity so that . . .
 - You can be a part of God's mission in this world
 - You can discover your personal mission in life
 - You can be disciplined to maturity
2. We want to win a hearing by being a witness
 - I believe Peter meant it when he said in 1Peter 3:15 to be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in you but with gentleness and reverence. What is reverence?
3. We must engage in values clarification
 - Values drive your morality; morality drives your culture; culture drives politics
 - The same Peter that said submit to governing authorities is the same Peter who said, "We will obey God rather than men."
 - Jesus didn't command us to be nice; he commanded us to be righteous
 - According to "Perceptions on Self-Censorship: Confirming and Understanding the "Chilling Effect"" A study on France, Germany, Columbia, and Mexico
 - "We have seen that a high degree of religious illiteracy leads to misunderstanding of how religion informs behavior in different spheres of society and what the

legitimate role of religion in the public domain is,” the authors wrote. “Illiteracy, therefore, can consequently be the cause of ‘practical intolerance’ against Christians.”

Conclusion

The gospel is the answer, and the church must preach the gospel. But make no bones about it, the gospel confronts the false ideologies of this world:

- To the male chauvinist, the gospel says that females are created in the image of God. Their value is ascribed by the King of Kings Himself. Male chauvinism is based in anger and hurt towards a group that has hurt you. In order to not be hurt, you call women inferior. The gospel says that you're hurt, angry and bitter towards women because you haven't found your identity in Christ. You haven't taken responsibility for your own decisions and your own failures and instead you blame them on women. This is what fuels your anger and your bitterness. You will never be free until you release this hatred towards women and have your soul brought back to life.
- To the feminist, the gospel says your desire to feel value will never be satisfied in an attempt to gain more power. When you see the world only through the lens of power and then have a desire to grasp it, it alienates you, isolates you, and you must always have someone to hate. You have deceived yourself into believing that all your problems are due to men. The only way to quench the thirst of your soul is to find your true self in Jesus Christ. It is found in submission to Him, not more control, because control is an illusion and deceives you into thinking that your hurt, your anger, and your bitterness empower you. It does not, it is a prison of loneliness. Come and follow Him -- He will free your soul!
- To the neo-Nazis, ethnic supremacists and fascists, the gospel says that all human beings are created in the image of God and therefore have equal value in the eyes of God. Any attempt to diminish or categorize people based on ethnicity will only cause you to become more arrogant. Your ideology is fueled by a sense of injustice. However, blaming other ethnicities for these injustices is a deception of Satan. Only the King of Kings offers true justice. The only way to real freedom and wholeness is to find your brotherhood of masculinity in the Kingdom of God.
- To every Marxist, communist, socialist, or collectivist, the gospel says that you will not escape the judgment of what you have done. Your ideology is proven to be the most dehumanizing ideology because it denies that people are individuals. Jesus would say to you: I came to save people, when you dehumanize individuals in the name of collective justice, you are not just or righteous but evil. Your ideology enslaves people, deceives people, and robs them of the potential for individual salvation. You have stolen individual sovereignty, and you destroy human dignity. The worst deception of all is the inability to see and take ownership for the evil you've propagated on humanity in the 20th century. This will not be forgotten.

The values of Jesus, and Him alone, have human advancement to the place it is today.

It is His values, His definition of what it means to be a human being, His definition of what is true and authentic justice, the sovereignty of the individual, and the need to feel a part of a family all of which brought us the renaissance, the scientific revolution, universal education, modern medicine, industrial revolution and so much more.

GK Chesterton (1874–1936) said in his letter to the modern world: “People do not know what they are doing because they do not know what they are undoing.”

If we forsake the gospel of Jesus Christ, all of these things will be lost. It opens the door to those who seek to undo the very foundations of everything that you hold dear.

Discussion Questions

1. How did the study of these verses about the mission of the church change your thinking about what the church should focus on doing in today’s world?
2. What ideologies (false teachings) do you think are most harmful to people in today’s society?
3. What happens when the foundational values on which society is built are lost and abandoned?
4. What is your strongest take away from today’s teaching?