



# BEING THE CHURCH IN A POLITICAL SEASON

- ✘ Your Christian faith should support what you believe politically.
- ✘ In my lifetime the religious /political climate has changed many times.
- ✘ Democrat Jimmy Carter “born again.”
- ✘ Ronald Reagan cultivated the “religious right.”
- ✘ Bill Clinton claimed to do daily Bible devotions
- ✘ George W Bush claimed new life in Christ
- ✘ I heard a Christian testimony on Youtube by Obama before it was pulled
- ✘ Each President’s faith was doubted by those who disagreed with them

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- ✘ The issue of abortion has been the dividing line
- ✘ Christians believe God creates human life and that it is a sin to murder, especially those who have no voice
  - + Does it become life at conception?
  - + Does it become life when God breathes life in?
  - + Both are Biblical ways of looking at the issue of the beginning of life.
- ✘ Is a Christian nation one that proclaims the gospel in public areas? Or one that feeds poor?

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- ✘ I refuse to take a political stance on either predominant political party
- ✘ Using definition of liberal vs conservative
- ✘ Info from [studentnewsdaily.com](http://studentnewsdaily.com)
- ✘ Chart found on [wp.lps.org](http://wp.lps.org)
- ✘ Proved helpful to me to see the big picture of where I think the direction the nation should be going.
- ✘ Not centered on party or person

# BEING THE CHURCH IN A POLITICAL SEASON

- ✘ I refuse to take a political stance on either predominant political party
- ✘ I am a Christian Pastor and I seek to influence people
- ✘ I challenge you to THINK! and to be led by God.
- ✘ The Bible tells us how we are to act in HIS kingdom, the church.
- ✘ God tells us the basic ways to treat people well.
- ✘ Then we, as Christians, take those principles and place them into our politics.

# THERE IS NO “CHRISTIAN GOVERNMENT”

- ✘ It has been tried many times
- ✘ One must separate out life in the church from life in the government
- ✘ Citizenship in the Kingdom of God supersedes citizenship in the USA.

**✘ Romans 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.**

# AT THE END...

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- ✘ I will ask you questions based on the scriptural guidance of being a church
- ✘ NOT discussion questions. They would be divisive.
- ✘ They are private, internal questions.
- ✘ No Bible study leader, teacher or person in any leadership position is to give their opinion.
- ✘ The church is big enough to handle both political parties/perspectives.

# MY UNDERSTANDING OF BELIEF STRUCTURE



# LAST WEEK: WE HAVE DIED

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- ✘ Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

# OLD LIFE DEAD- NEW LIFE BEGUN

- ✘ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

# THE INTERNAL WAR

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- × “The Flesh”
- × The natural part of you
- × So “natural” you cannot say “no” to the activity
- × “The redeemed life”
- × The new “Spirit driven”
- × So counterintuitive, it seems odd to even try

# FOR YOU DIED... PUT TO DEATH

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- ✘ Your job as a follower of Christ is to put to death those things within you that are not pleasing to God.
- ✘ Identify them
- ✘ Own them
- ✘ Resist justifying them
- ✘ Put them to death
- ✘ Let them die

# THE WORK OF THE LIVING SACRIFICE

- ✦ Rom 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

# THE WORK OF THE LIVING SACRIFICE

- ✘ Rom 12:1-2 ...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...(unto death)
  - + Nobody should be offering you as a sacrifice
  - + Except you
  - + The problem with a living sacrifice
  - + It keeps crawling off the altar
  - + What I confessed, asked forgiveness for...
  - + Keeps coming back
    - ✘ Sexual stuff
    - ✘ Evil desires
    - ✘ Greed

# LOOK AROUND YOU

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- ✘ In the church:
  - ✘ People mess up
  - ✘ They want to do good,
  - ✘ The Bible is our standard
  - ✘ We live by different rules
  - ✘ But we just don't measure up to the Bible's standards
  - ✘ If we mess up,
    - + Called hypocrites
    - + Find forgiveness
- ✘ In society ruled by govment
  - ✘ Laws and Constitution are the standard
  - ✘ The bar is lowered:
    - + NOBODY KEEPS THE LAW
    - + Drunkenness OK; don't drive
    - + Infidelity OK
  - ✘ Culture shifts: rules change
    - + 80's materialism
    - + Today, wealth is out of vogue
  - ✘ Those outside the church don't want to live by our/or other, moral laws;

# WHAT IS OUR TASK?

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- ✘ Identify your natural self
- ✘ Die to it
- ✘ Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus
- ✘ PUT TO DEATH WHATEVER IS OF YOUR EARTHLY NATURE:
  - + Gal 5:19 **The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.**

# THIS IS AN OUTDATED WAY OF THINKING!

- ✘ Secular humanism believes we are neutral
- ✘ “Who’s to say?” has ruled society’s thinking
- ✘ I am responsible for my own actions
- ✘ I can pursue happiness any way I choose
- ✘ “I have rights” and I will claim them;
- ✘ I need to stand up for what I believe

# TAKE THIS ONE BIBLICAL TEACHING AND APPLY IT TO YOUR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

- ✘ How does the natural rottenness of humankind affect/inform your political leanings?
- ✘ What role does greed play in corrupting government programs? How often is impure sex an issue with politicians?
- ✘ What does natural rottenness tell us about the need or right to protect ourselves from evil?
- ✘ As hard as it is for Christians to “die to self” in order to live a pure life, can we expect those who choose not to follow Christ to do so? If not, what does this tell us about the need for government control? Laws? Police?