



A Guide to Responsible Christian Citizenship

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC POLICY

There is a direct connection between Biblical truth and issues facing our society today. God has given us guidance through His Word on how to approach these issues. The Bible has much to say about civil government and our relationship to earthly authorities. Although not often discussed, these truths should form the basis for our thinking and our actions as citizens.

CTV is dedicated to the preserving and promoting of our time-honored, traditional Judeo-Christian values in the public arena of Michigan. For our values to be represented, we need an increasing and vibrant grassroots network resulting in elected and appointed leaders who share these core principles.

We believe that **Responsible Christian Citizenship** includes participation in the public conversation about issues important to the faith community, in order to positively influence decisions affecting every aspect of our lives.

Citizens of Heaven and Earth

We live our daily lives as a part of a “God-given Stewardship”. As citizens of two kingdoms - Heaven and Earth, our foundation for this program is built on the belief that it is our responsibility, to be engaged citizens. Christians are blessed with the privileges and responsibilities of both kingdoms!

Although we owe God our first and highest allegiance, we are also “stewards of the garden” for our faith-based community here in Michigan. A garden that is not regularly tended will not bear good fruit. We must be careful not to neglect our citizenship responsibilities to our peril. With our eyes set on Him, He has called us to be responsible stewards and caretakers of the realm in which we live.

⇒ By supporting policies on earth that reflect the eternal truths of the Kingdom of Heaven, we are making Earth a better place for everyone!

A New Definition of Politics

When boiled down to its essence, politics is essentially:

“A public conversation, about important issues, leading to ultimate decisions, that will profoundly affect every aspect of our lives.”

We are all a part of this conversation, whether we like it or not. We can seek to be a positive influence in the selection of leaders and the passing of laws, or we can do nothing. We must actively participate in the electoral process or risk living under the leaders and laws that others have chosen.

- If people of faith do not take part in the dialogue on these important issues, there is little chance that the ultimate outcomes will reflect traditional biblical values.

- ⇒ *“You are the salt of the earth...”* (Matthew 5:13-14). Even small measures of salt can influence and change its surroundings!
- *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16).

Informed Voting

A big part of this earthly stewardship is voting in such a way to ensure that Judeo-Christian values are represented. The goal of Responsible Christian Citizenship is that those who fill civil government positions will reflect the traditional time-honored values passed down from previous generations.

Biblical Principles

Jesus on Authority

All human authority flows from God to man and should be exercised with the understanding that He will hold everyone, including civil leaders, accountable on Judgement Day. God’s commandments are very clear. Not only are we to be active participants in our surroundings, but we are to **pray, give thanks for, respect and honor all authority**, even those with which we disagree.

Government was important enough to God for him to clearly instruct us: *“For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God...”* (Romans 13:1b).

⇒ By obeying Him in this way, our nation will be blessed and we will bring glory to God!

- And Jesus came and said to them, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* (Matthew 28:18)
 - *“On his robe and on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”* (Revelation 19:16)
 - Jesus answered, *“My kingdom is not of this world.”* (John 18:36)
 - *“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.”* (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
 - Jesus answered him, *“You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.”* (John 19:11)
- ⇒ *“So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* (Philippians 2:10-11)

The Early Church and Civil Government

Although civil government is ordained by God, as citizens of both Heaven and Earth, Christians know that our first and primary obligation is to His ultimate authority. In Matthew 6:10, Jesus taught His followers to pray: *“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*

In the Epistles, early Christians were taught to maintain their allegiance to God, while respecting government leaders and obeying the laws unless they were required by those laws to disobey God.

We must remember that we are citizens of two realms—the Kingdom of Heaven and the kingdom of this world. We have important duties and responsibilities in both. Scripture teaches us that we are “in” the world, but not “of” the world, so our prayer is, *“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*

- *“But our **citizenship*** is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 3:20)
*Politeuma: government, homeland, community, commonwealth, colony.
- Jesus said to them, *“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”* (Mark 12:13-17)
- *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kinds and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.”* (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- *“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”* (1 Peter 2:13-17)
- *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”* (Romans 13:1,6,7)
- But Peter and the apostles answered, *“We must obey God rather than men.”* (Acts 5:29) *“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”* (Galatians 6:10)
- *“And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray unto Jehovah for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”* (Jer. 29:7)
⇒ *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Matthew 19:19)

Key Issues at Stake

We stand at a crossroads in our nation that if people of faith do not engage and virtue does not return, we may very well lose our liberties. This is not about a political party or individual candidate—it is about fundamental truths. We should be pre-partisan in our approach, meaning that the values we endorse existed long before being adopted by a political party and will still be true even if abandoned in the future.

It is our duty to ensure the values of the faith-based community are represented, that those who fill those civil government positions are **pro-life, pro-natural marriage, freedom of education and parental rights, and support limited government in all seats of elected power.**

⇒ Now more than ever in our nation, it is imperative to increase the Church's awareness of what is happening with Public policy in Michigan on issues that matter!

The Sanctity of Life

Now more than ever in our nation, it is imperative to increase the Church's awareness of what is happening in the public arena on issues that matter. We must promote the common good by protecting unborn children.

- *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”* (Jeremiah 1:5)
 - *“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.”* (Psalm 127:3)
 - *“And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,”* (Luke 1:41)
 - *“Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you.* (Isaiah 44:2)
 - *“Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”* (Genesis 2:7)
 - *“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.”* (Psalm 139:13)
 - *“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of the, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”* (Psalm 139:14-16)
- ⇒ *“...and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked.”*
(Exodus 23:7)

Religious Freedom and Protection of Conscience

If people of faith, virtues, integrity and traditional values do not monitor the activity of our local, state and national leaders NOW, or **our freedoms** could be **stripped away very soon**. Nowhere in the Bible does God call us to give up when things grow challenging!

- *“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”* (Galatians 5:1)
- *“Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed?”* (Psalm 2:1-2)
- But Peter and the apostles answered, *“We must obey God rather than men.”* (Acts 5:29)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, *“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”* (Daniel 3:16-18)
- Ensure religious freedom for all, opposing the corrupting moral influences in our schools and society, and calling for a limited government that does not usurp God-given individual rights of religion and conscience.
- But Peter and John answered them, *“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge.”* (Acts 4:19)

Educational Freedom and Parental Rights

We support parental rights and educational choice focused on the best options for children across the economic spectrum.

Participation in this important public conversation can take many forms including issues awareness, letters to the editor, contacting elected officials, prayer, advocacy, volunteering and voting.

“Should Congress take up legislation affecting the federal government actions, I will stand on the side of common sense and restraint, and for allowing parents and local officials to run their schools in the way that best protects and meets the needs of their children.” Senator Rand Paul, June 2016.

- *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”* (Proverbs 22:6)
- *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”* (Ephesians 6:4)
- *“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”* (Psalm 127:3)
 - ⇒ *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Marriage and the Family

We believe that there is a direct connection between biblical principles and issues facing our society today, and that God has given us guidance through His Word on how to handle these issues. We are called to be involved, conscientious citizens who are mindful of our place and purpose on this earth. We must do our part to preserve traditional marriage and the family.

- He answered, *“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”* (Matthew 19:4-6)
 - *“...two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”* (Ephesians 5:31-33)
 - *“For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.”* (Romans 1:26-27)
- ⇒ *“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”* (Hebrews 13:4)

The Proper Role of Civil Government

In America we are blessed by a rare and wonderful Judeo-Christian heritage that enshrined self-government and limited government in the U.S. Constitution. While civil government has a God-given role, we must work to protect the inherent rights of the individual from the encroachment of the power of government.

When the people of God are absent, so are standards and worldviews involving Godly virtue, righteousness and integrity. As a result of being citizens of the United States, we have the **privilege to vote** on issues and leaders, and it is **our duty to vote** in a way that ensures the values we believe in are represented, that those who fill our civil government positions are pro-life, pro-natural marriage and supportive of limited government in all seats of elected power.

⇒ The government rests on God’s shoulders, but He gives us an opportunity to participate in it!

- *“You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.* (Deuteronomy 11:1)
- Then Jesus said to them, *“Therefore, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”* (Matthew 22:21)

- *“For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad.But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.”* (Romans 13:3-4)
- *“Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.”* (1 Peter 2:13-1)
 - ⇒ *“Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of ten. And let them judge the people at all times.”* (Exodus 18:21-22)

Key Historic Quotes

Stewards of a Great Legacy

America's Founders have given us an incredible legacy that must be preserved. Let us engage as citizens in such a way to ensure that traditional Judeo-Christian values are represented, and that those who fill those civil government positions reflect the time-honored values passed down from previous generations.

- *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness**. - That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men. ...**appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence...**” Exerts Declaration of Independence, 1776*
- *“...**religion [is] the basis and foundation of government**...Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the **Governor of the Universe**.” James Madison, 1785*
- *“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual – or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is **accountable to God and his country**.” Samuel Adams, “Father of the American Revolution”*
- *“...civil liberty cannot be long preserved without **virtue**. A Republic must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty.” Reverend John Witherspoon, 1783*
- *“**Religion**, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.” Michigan Constitution 1963, Article VIII, Section 1*
 - ⇒ *“**Where an excess of [government] power prevails, property of no sort is duly respected. No man is safe in his opinions, his person, his faculties, or his possessions. Conscience is the most sacred of all property.**” James Madison, Federalist 16*

Conclusion

Instead of just getting angry or complaining about the problems, CTV is dedicated to the preserving and promoting of our time-honored, traditional Judeo-Christian values in Michigan public policy.

We want to work with those who believe that all life is sacred, that the traditional family is a God-ordained institution, that individual religious and educational freedoms are priceless, and that limited government is essential.

For our values to be represented, we need an increasing and vibrant grassroots network resulting in elected and appointed leaders who share these core principles. These are moral issues, not political issues to be ignored by the faith-based community.

How exciting it is that God has bestowed upon us the role of “**salt**” and “**light**” in the culture! (Matthew 5:13-16)! Salt and light - even in small measures - influence and change their surroundings. As representatives and ambassadors for Christ, we must be engaged and ready to influence!

⇒ *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”* (1 Peter 3:15)

Remember, it is our duty to ensure the values of the faith-based community are represented, that those who fill those civil government positions are **pro-life, pro-educational freedom/parental rights, pro-traditional marriage** and supportive of **limited government** in all seats of elected power!

All scripture verses were taken from the English Standard Version Bible

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