

Christian Engagement in Societal Issues

Should Christians engage in politics? What about issues of social justice? Together, let's delve into the complexities of Christian engagement in societal issues. We'll examine Scripture to uncover practical wisdom that empowers us to stand for righteousness while navigating the intricacies of governmental authority. Join us as we acknowledge the tension between complacency and courage and discern together what it means to embrace our role in shaping a more just and God-honoring society.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Is it possible to obey God and the government? Why or why not?
- How would you describe your current engagement in society or politics? Is it influenced by your faith? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Christian Engagement in Societal Issues*](#)

READ [Romans 13:1-7](#), [1 Peter 2:13-17](#), [Romans 3:10-12](#), [James 2:1-9](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Review the five stances Reinhold Niebuhr says Christians take regarding their engagement with culture that hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discussed in segment 1. Which stance seems most in line with your current perspective? What about the perspective of your church? Why?
- In your context, is it difficult or easy to view government authorities as God's servants or to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's"? Why?
- Reflecting on Abraham Kuyper's "sphere sovereignty" notion, Scott says, "You don't want to treat the government like it is supposed to be the Church. You don't expect the government to do the work of the Church, and you don't expect the Church to do the work of the government." Do you think we struggle with this? Why or why not?
- In segment 3, Scott talks about showing more "generosity of spirit as we discern these things together." Where do you need to demonstrate more generosity of spirit?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#), [1 Peter 3:8-17](#), [Acts 5:29](#), [Psalm 24:1](#), [Hebrews 11](#), [Jeremiah 29:4-9](#), [2 Samuel 12:1-14](#), [Acts 25](#), [Proverbs 3:5-6](#), [Revelation 21:1-4](#)

CONCLUSION

In segment 3, Scott and Darrell summarize five practical steps from our study of the Bible that can guide how we interact with governmental authority:

1. Actively participate in our civic duties.
2. Speak truth to power.
3. Use discernment and prayerful engagement.
4. Give each other a generosity of spirit as we discern these things together.
5. Display endurance and hope to a watching world.

Do any of these come naturally to you? Which feels more difficult? Share those feelings with God in prayer and pray that God would help you be attentive to the Holy Spirit to discern how to engage in societal issues in your community.

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