

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Peter 2:13-17

Lesson #11

Submission to Caesar

10/18/2020

Why are Evangelical Christians so politically stressed when God is not?

1 Peter 2

“¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. ¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. ¹⁶ Act as free men, and **do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but **use it as bondslaves of God.** ¹⁷ Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”**

Is this a way of demonstrating the Word of the Cross through the Way of the Cross?



1

This teaching is replicated by Jesus and Paul

Matthew 22:21

“Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

Romans 13:1

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”

Titus 3:1

“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.”

2

Philippians 2

“⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”**

Is this the Way of the Cross that should distinguish Jesus’ followers?



3



1 Peter

Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a fallen world

This is who we are “in Christ”

This is how we should express our identity

	Indicative	Imperative			
“chosen”	Salvation	Sanctification	in the church		Shepherding
Introduction	“salt”	Holy People	Submission	Suffering	Conclusion
“aliens”	“light”	In the world			
1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:12	2:13-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11
					5:12-14

Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world.

4

25% of 1 Peter is focused on SUBMISSION



Application 101

Submitting to Kings	Submitting to Masters	Submitting to Husbands	Summary
2:13-17	2:18-25	3:1-7	3:8-12

witness through “faith”, “hope”, “love” as “salt”, & “light”

Inheritance	Suffering
Privileged	Submission

CHOSEN

ALIENS

5

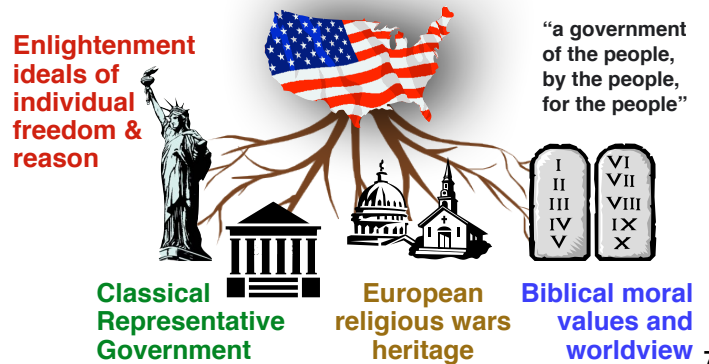
Challenges for Christian aliens

- ✓ **Submission** to (America) Caesar
- ✓ **Separation** between church and state
- ✓ **Sacrifice** through the way of the cross

6

✓ **Submission** to “Caesar” (American style)

America’s roots define its political culture.



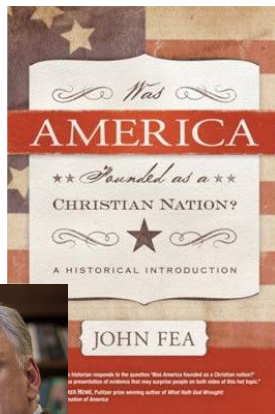
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Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?

America was never founded constitutionally as a Christian nation.

Its culture could be called “Christian” but only through the mid 19th century.

John Fea
Historian
Messiah College.



8

American exceptionalism (in a spiritual sense) **must be nuanced very carefully.**

Patriotism	Nationalism	Imperialism
“render to Caesar”	“the city on a hill”	“under God”
Pay taxes Salute the flag Honor the officials	Put USA first Defend USA policy Export USA values	USA (OT promises) USA savior of world USA is the new Israel

The USA is not mentioned in Biblical prophecy for a reason - **it may not be all that important.**

9

Freemasonry



Geometry (reason)
God (religion)
Gnosis (righteousness)

The essence of which is **rational, moral, religion.**

honesty, courage, loyalty, prudence, truthfulness, compassion, etc.

10

America is not God’s “family cottage” on earth.
We are aliens in America and as Americans.

John 18:36

“Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting**, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

1 Peter 2:11

“I urge you as **aliens and strangers**”

- Jesus & the Apostles give ~~little~~ **NO attention** to the formation of a “holy state” in our age.
- What does this **suggest about the Evangelical posture** in American politics?

11

Our government is to promote “the general welfare”.

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, **promote the general welfare**, and **secure the blessings of liberty** to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Constitution of the United States

12

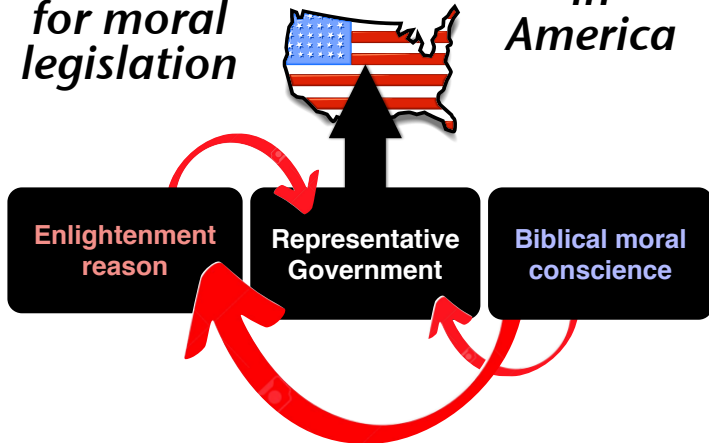
Our government derives its powers not directly from God but through its citizens.

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness: — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the governed;**”

The Declaration of Independence

13

Protocol for moral legislation in America



14

✓ Separation between ch. & state

A pillar of the American Constitution



15

Christian citizens should promote moral values
in a secular state through
the general population and from the inside out.

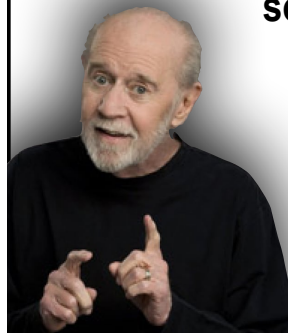
Jeremiah 31:33

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “**I will put My law within them and on their heart** I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Ethical standards that are
**forced militarily, manipulated
psychologically or coerced legally**
are generally shallow and ineffective.

16

“I’m completely in favor of the
separation of Church and State.
My idea is that these two institutions
screw us up enough on their own,
so both of them together is
certain death.”



**History gives some
evidential support.**

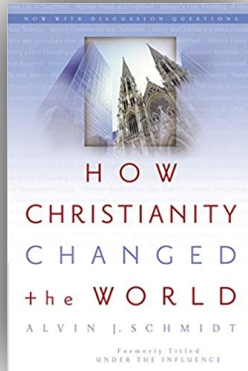
George Carlin

17

**The close association of church & state
has proven to be a mixed blessing for both,
especially the church.**



Alvin J. Schmidt
Sociologist

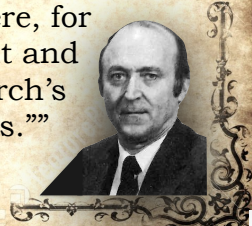


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When Constantine united church & state:

“The mere outward conforming to the Christian faith, rather than being spiritually transformed, became all too frequent in the life of the church. It often impeded the spiritual transformations that were, for the most part, so vibrant and effective during the church’s first three hundred years.”

Avin J. Schmidt
“How Christianity Changed the World”

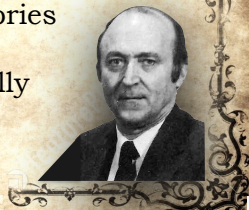


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Constantine politicized the church,

“Even worse were the many contradictions that surfaced in some of the teachings and life of the organized church: tolerating clergy corruption, often on the highest level; condoning slavery; burning false teachers at the stake; and incorporating secular theories into doctrines and then defending them as biblically correct.”

Avin J. Schmidt
“How Christianity Changed the World”



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**We are to be sensitive in imposing Kingdom ethics
on those outside the family of faith.**

1 Corinthians 5

“¹² **For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?** ¹³ **But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.**”

Matthew 19

“⁷...Why then did Moses command to *give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?*” ⁸ He said to them, “**Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you** to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.”

21

**We are kingdom builders not nation builders.
We are ambassadors of the Cross not the crown.**

- Jesus’ temptation in Matt.4:1-11 was all about priorities
 - **Spiritual over material food,**
 - **Servanthood over entitlement,**
 - **Means as a part of ends.**
- We impact the state as we build the Body of Christ (the church) to be a light on a hill.

Galatians 6:10

“So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.**”

- America is a light on a hill, **but not in God’s plan.**

22

✓ **Sacrifice** through the way of the cross

**The Cross is our message
and our method**

1 Corinthians 1:18

“For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Matthew 20

“²⁶ It is not so among you, but **whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,** ²⁷ **and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;** ²⁸ **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give His life a ransom for many.”

23

God's kingdom does not need or seek to
"Make America Great Again."
We are peacemakers (with God, self, & others).

Jeremiah 29:7

"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare."

1 Timothy 2

"¹ First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, **so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.** ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,"

24

We are to yield our rights for the sake of peace
because we are citizens of a higher Kingdom?

Matthew 17

"²⁵ ... Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?" ²⁶ And upon his saying, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Consequently **the sons are exempt.** ²⁷ **But, lest we give them offense,** go to the sea, and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."

1 Peter 2:16

"Act as free men, and **do not use your freedom as a covering** for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God."

25

We bear a cross to a banquet - We are assured, not of a smooth ride, but only of a safe landing.

Romans 8

"¹⁸ For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. . . . ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the **first fruits** of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons,** the redemption of our body."

1 Corinthians 15:19

"If we have hoped in Christ **in this life only,** we are of all men most to be pitied."

26

We are expected to make sacrifices
in living in a broken world.

Matthew 19

"⁷...Why then did Moses command to *give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?*" ⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, **Moses permitted you** to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way."

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How to generate more light than heat in politics.

- **VOTE, VOICE, VIRTUE** - We don't have the option of withdrawing.
- **Stay homesick** - Don't place too much hope in political systems, America, or human leaders.
- **Stay cool** - Political power, economic prosperity, military might, & social utopia are not the main thing.
- **Promote the "general welfare"** - Discern what is in the public's best interest for the "long term."



- **Political systems** are important but not more than political leaders.
- **Encourage wise civil servants** - who are both civil and servants.

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**If we wish to restore the church to its
1st cent. vibrancy remember -**

- that it was **functioning under Nero's Roman Empire.**
- that it was **outside the shelter of a friendly state and ethical culture.**
- that it was **called to bear a cross, suffer long, fear not, and shine bright as it bore witness.**
- that it was **called to present itself as one body majoring on majors, not minors.**
- **and listen to Peter's coaching us in the Way of the Cross, which is the way of Jesus.**

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