

PoliticKING | Our God-Given Politick

Matthew 28:16-20 & 1 Timothy 2:1-6

I. Announcements

- A. Midweek
- B. Community Groups
- C. Renewal Night of Worship: Friday, September 9th, 7:00pm @ The Robinson Gallery
(NO CHILDCARE)
- D. Raising Up Conference: Saturday, October 22 – \$15/person – Register online
- E. Baptism meeting – Sept. 11 immediately after service

II. Scripture reading

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

1 Timothy 2:1-6

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

III. Introduction – Our poise now, specifics later

- A. Charles Drew said that Politics is "the important but fallible efforts of fallible people to make life in our fallen world better, according to fallible and limited understanding." – Charles Drew
- B. We live in a fallen world and without the restraints that government generally brings, society would devolve into total chaos. So while government is not something we should neglect, there is a deeper, more transformational form of government that is stunningly beautiful and is worthy of captivating our aspirations.
- C. Imagine...a Politick which doesn't divide us in anger, but unites us in joy!...

IV. Message

- A. The Great Commission is our God-given politick.

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- 1. Government was designed by God to put restraints on people. Otherwise, society would devolve into chaos.
- 2. It would be better, though, if people willingly submitted to the king of kings.
- 3. Those who submit to God through faith in Jesus Christ our indwelt by the Holy Spirit who inscribes God's law on their hearts.
- 4. Note Ezekiel 36:25-28: *"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."*

5. So the church's primary calling is political, make no mistake. But we are not to invest our energies unduly into politics. Rather, we seek to promote The Great Commission – God's politick.
 6. Objection: This seems like an over-spiritualization; a futile campaign. Note John the Baptist in Luke 3:1-3: *"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."* John, in the context of ruthless dictatorship, political oppression, and foreign occupation, calls the oppressed people to repent. This was an entirely subversive politick in his day.
 - a) Calling masses to himself;
 - b) Promoting a coming Deliverer
 7. Today, we like the idea of evangelism, but we marginalize it as "spiritual" when it is the most potent politick we can wield.
 - a) Are we to believe that racism can be overcome by human politics? Terror? Spousal abuse? Child abuse? The sex trade?
 - b) Yet, administrative questions regarding government we'll address at a later date (social security; the economy; global terrorism; poverty; abortion; etc.)
 8. The Great Commission is a call to align ourselves with a different government, the kingdom of God. Yet, in doing so, we will become the most peaceful, law-abiding citizens in whatever country we live.
 9. The Great Commission was given to every believer. Every believer is called to politics.
- B. Obsession with human politics distracts us from our God-given politick.
1. Politics: We operate in a "fallen political construct" (A. Mohler)
 2. Because politics is an imperfect and often subjective science, even some of the most well-intentioned Christians will remain divided ideologically. These differences are

- not necessarily bad. As a matter of fact, there is a problem if all our friends' opinions only reflect our own (and I mean *good* friends). But these differences are often rooted in emotion and can quickly bring about dissension in relationships.
3. "Imagine someone visiting your church next Sunday. She has not been to church in years and is coming because of a providential crisis that has opened her heart to God. Imagine furthermore that she is a staunch Democrat, her parents and grandparents were all highly involved in the Democratic Party politics." She gives her life to Jesus, visits a community group where she begins to make promising new friendships, and within the next few months, her Facebook feed is often filled with anti-GOP rhetoric.
 4. Our negative or brow-beating political posture can be a stumbling block to people's faith:

Romans 14:13-17: *"Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean (OT food laws that were annulled). 15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*
 5. If we are to offend, then let the pure gospel we bear be offensive. Galatians 5:11 describes the offense of the cross. 1 Corinthians 1:18 says the cross is folly to those who are perishing. But let us heed the words of the Apostle Paul:

Galatians 5:13: *"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*
 6. So let us monitor our words:

James 3:6-12 – *"6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness...9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be*

so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water."

- a) Believers mustn't nurture a subcategory of communication in which it is permissible to shame people, to condescend, to be unkind, or to mock.
 - b) Your brothers & sisters, and even the most loathsome politicians are all made in God's image.
7. So if you must post/say political things, do it in a conversational way. Invite feedback. Speak face-to-face. Remain humble (curious). (Humility isn't only a meek poise. It's the cultivated inner belief that I may be wrong and I have much to learn – a crucial practice in a world satisfied with brief sound bites and oversimplified views.)

C. Prayer should be the foundation and the fuel of our God-given politick.

1 Tim. 2:1-6: *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."*

- a) More than a passing prayer
 - b) All kings (think internationally)
 - c) Why? To lead a peaceful, unobstructed gospel-life
 - d) Remember the BIG PICTURE: Worldwide reconciliation with God!
2. Are you more vocal about your political views on FB or to God in prayer?
3. **NEXT WEEK: we will publish a list of political figures for whom we should consistently be praying (including foreign governments)**