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Politics and Integral Mission

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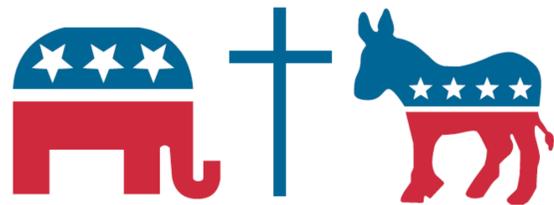
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Thesis & Integral Mission

Thesis: the public proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel in the United States calls for a counter-cultural understanding of political action and identity as citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Integral mission focuses upon both the proclamation and demonstration of God's transformative love. Integral mission connects Jesus and Justice in ways that create space for people to encounter the peace and reconciliation of the Kingdom of God.



Key Points

1. Church & State

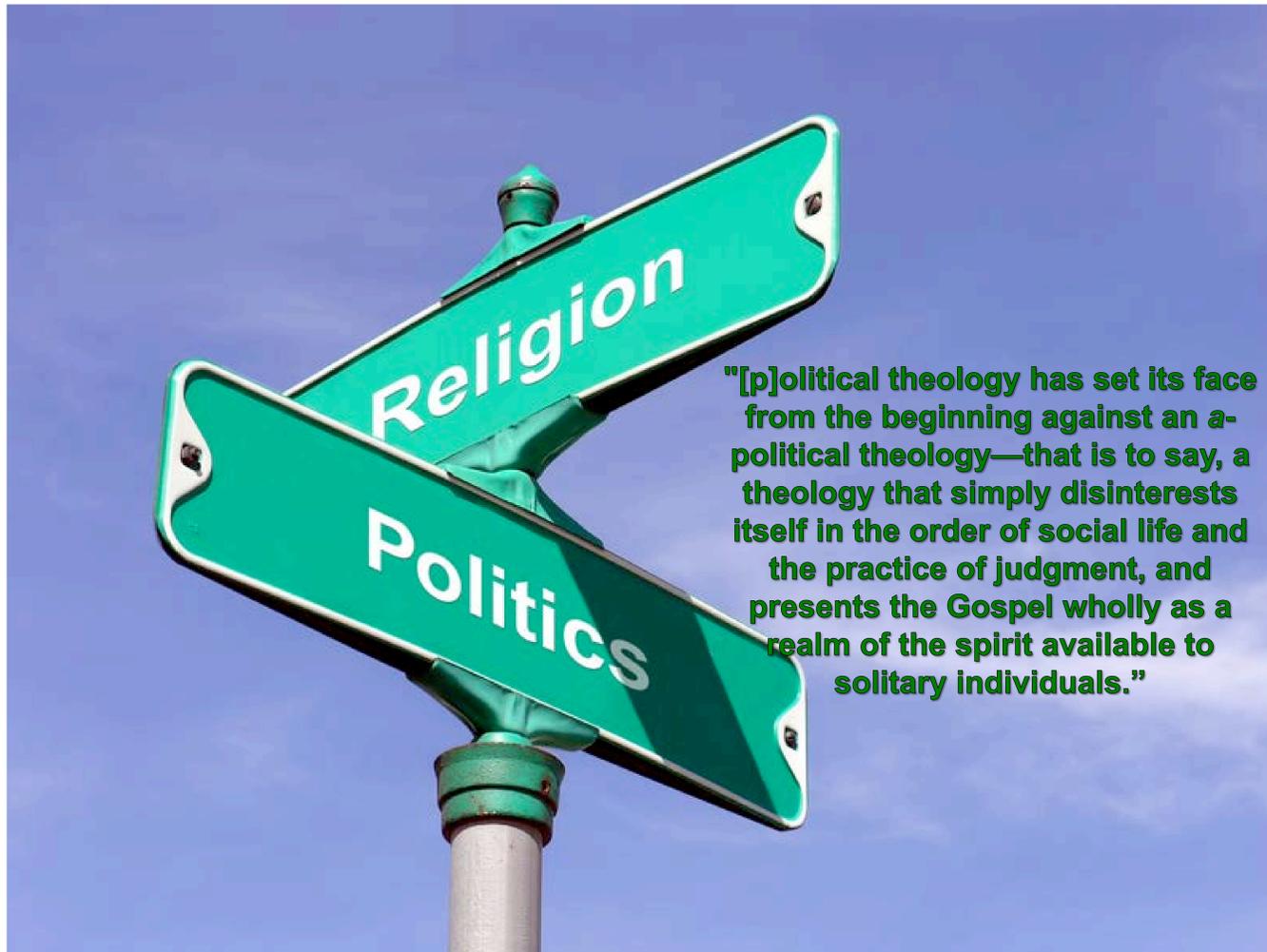
- Throughout history Christians have thought the constitutional separation of Church & State has implied a separation between faith and political action
- However, integral mission shows this to be a false dichotomy, teaching that faith should be integrated in political action

2. Dual Citizenship

- Citizens of the Kingdom of God & the United States
- Many Christians proclaim the lordship of Christ, but tend to shift their allegiance to the political parties and exclude the faith in their political decisions
- A Christian's primary citizenship is in the Kingdom, and so their political movements should holistically reflect God's mission and passion
- Karl Barth suggests that the Church is called to serve and witness to political parties, not identify with them

3. Party Problems

- Both parties, Republican and Democratic, fail to holistically follow the gospel
- Democrats – keep faith separate from politics
Republicans – only involve faith selectively
- Choose "lesser of two evils". Understand the importance of the politicians' commitment to uphold the Constitution, yet push Christian politicians to holistically integrate the Gospel



Biblical Basis For Advocacy

God's Love for Creation and the Greatest Commandment

When God created the world He declared it to be good. When the fall happened and brokenness entered the world, God didn't recant His love for Creation and humanity. God loves each and every one of His children and calls us to do the same. Jesus said that above all else we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Advocating on behalf of our brothers and sisters is a way for us to show God's love for them.

God's Concern for the Poor and the Vulnerable

Throughout the Old Testament God actively hears and responds to the cries of the poor and vulnerable. He was and is the constant provider and upholder for the hungry and poor. God sent Jesus into the world not only for the salvation of our souls, but to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for prisoners, give sight to the blind, and release the oppressed. Advocating is one way that we as God's people can show compassion and mercy for the people that God cares deeply about—the poor and vulnerable.

God's Love for Justice and Our Call to Do It

Our God is a God of justice. What does the Lord require of His people? To do justice, seek mercy, and walk humbly with Him. Jesus scolds the Pharisees for following religious rules while forgetting the justice and love of God. The Bible commands the body of Christ to seek justice for those in the community who are in need. Advocating is a tangible way for followers of Jesus to glorify God by demanding justice for the vulnerable.

God's Command to Be a Voice for the Voiceless

Christians are called to follow the example of Jesus, who intervenes on our behalf to God as our advocate. Christians are to be Christ's ambassadors, representing Christ to the world and speaking on His behalf. For this reason, we also defend those who are oppressed, weak, and who do not have a voice of their own. Advocating is a major way for Christians to be a voice for the voiceless and defend the cause of the widow.

God's Call to be Faithful Stewards

All that has been given to us comes from the grace of God. God calls us to be good stewards of what He's given us—using our resources not only for ourselves, but for the "least of these". The Bible is clear that our freedom is for the freedom of others. Advocating is a way for Christians to become good stewards of their citizenship and use their power as voters to pursue justice and mercy for the oppressed.

Take Action

- Sider suggests we can determine what the gospel requires through careful Biblical and Theological reflection

- Vote

- International Justice Mission

- Stand for Freedom
- Pray
- Partner with your church
- Advocacy
 - Human Trafficking
 - Slavery



- Donate
- Write to congress
- Connect with local bread team
- Start a Bread Student Team

Micah Challenge →

- Micah Challenge is a global Christian campaign to end extreme poverty. Inspired by scripture, guided by the Holy Spirit, and covered in prayer they advocate for a more just world

- Send messages to congress

- As Individual
- As a church
 - Invite a Micah Challenge speaker
 - Raise money



- World Relief empowers the local church to serve the most vulnerable – building peace, caring for children and women, responding to the needs of the displaced and devastated, and creating economic opportunities

- Pray

- for World Relief programs, staff, volunteers and the many people we serve

- Advocate

- Immigration reform

- Planned Giving

- Donations of stock

*And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and
to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8*