



CHANGING  
THE FACE OF CHRISTIANITY

[www.changingthefaceofchristianity.com](http://www.changingthefaceofchristianity.com)

***Our mission is to reverse negative Christian stereotypes in the world and prepare the field for more effective witnessing to non-believers.***

**Negative Stereotype:** Non-Christians believe we are **Too Political**.

This essentially means they believe we use politics or the legal system to force our beliefs on them. We make their immoral or undesired behaviors illegal, instead of just allowing them to live their lives their own way. This is NOT merely a belief in post-modernism (your truth is your truth, my truth is my truth, truth is relative). This is NOT merely a separation of church and state mentality either. Although when non-Christians hear the phrase "This is a Christian nation", their negative reaction is partly that of feeling minimized or disenfranchised and partly a fear that we are trying to create a theocracy (e.g. a government controlled by a particular religion...namely Christianity). In their mind, they believe we are attempting to control them through politics.

- What's your definition of being too-political?

**A Story to Make It Real:**

*From "anonymous" on thinkatheist.com*

*"No one goes out and tries to force Christian men to be gay, but many Christians take no issue with going out and trying to force gay men to be straight."*

*"I am slowly growing more anti-Christian as the political religious right is pushing their agenda and therefore imposing their beliefs onto me."*

*"School boards across the country (most notably in Texas of late) are working to change the curriculum to promote an exclusively Christian viewpoint. From gutting science courses to rewriting history texts to mandating abstinence-only sex education to introducing Bible study courses."*

*"If one was a faithful Christian in their personal life but was able to respect the freedoms of others, what objection could truly be lodged against them? No one cares what you believe, only how your beliefs affect the personal lives of others."*

*"I can give two examples... 1) My brother keeps trying to impose his beliefs on my family, even when we have told him not to. 2) A local school board attempted to include the bible into school curriculum as required reading."*

*"Examples: how Christians politicize same sex marriage, sodomy, stores closed on Sunday, no mail on Sunday)"*

**Examples: (Do you have any stories to share? What's the impact of being too political?)**

1. We are viewed as too political when we oppose same sex marriages.
2. We are viewed as too political when we oppose a women's right to choose abortion.
3. We are viewed as too political when we fight for prayer in school.
4. We are viewed as too political when "right wing" politicians talk about "family values" when they feel we're really saying "our family values...not your family values".

## Discussion:

- Where should we draw the line in influencing our culture (other people) with our morals through politics?
- How would you feel if we were in the minority and other people were making our beliefs and values illegal? (Such as in China, Saudi Arabia, etc.)
- How can we engage in politics to reinforce and sustain our values and beliefs without taking rights and freedoms away from people with different values and beliefs?
- What should we do when another person's "rights" come in conflict with universal "self evident" truths, such as right to life (abortion).
- Pick an issue and answer, "how can we address this issue positively within our churches, communities, or state/federal government?" Death penalty, legalization of marijuana/other drugs, prostitution, topless clubs, and sodomy laws.
- If we disengaged from the political arena, would we eventually be at risk of having OUR rights and freedoms restricted? What fears do we have?

## What God Say About It (The Bible):

- **Matthew 22:17, 21 (NASB)**  
<sup>17</sup> "Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?"  
<sup>21</sup> ... "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."
- **Romans 13:1-2, 5-7 (NASB)**  
<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. <sup>5</sup> Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.
- **Daniel 1-5.** Story of Daniel's involvement as counselor to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.
- **Esther** married King Ahasuerus of Persia. When the king's prime minister Haman influenced the king to kill all the Jews in their country, Esther used her marital and political influence to convince the King to save the Jews from genocide and allow them to defend themselves.

## Closing Thoughts on Christian involvement in politics:

Jesus Christ lived in a time of Roman control of Jerusalem. He was more interested in how Church leaders were using His people and soiling the holiness of the Jewish temple. He was not standing in opposition to the Roman government as many Jews wanted. What can we learn from the example of Jesus Christ as it relates to our political climate and culture?

## Action:

- As you engage in political conversations or activities, be mindful of other people's rights and freedoms. Consider how non-Christians may perceive your political passions and activities.

Stay in touch via Facebook for upcoming study dates and topics. Share our cause with others, and consider supporting us financially: [www.facebook.com/changingthefaceofchristianity](https://www.facebook.com/changingthefaceofchristianity)