

**DOES THE BIBLE ADDRESS POLITICAL ISSUES?
SHOULD THE PREACHER ADDRESS POLITICAL ISSUES?
IF “YES,” HOW?**

WHAT I WILL & WON'T DO AS A MINISTER...

1. I will address biblical issues that are relevant to our culture without apology, but I will seek to do so respectfully. 2 Tim 4:2-5 *“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”*
2. I will avoid mentioning the name of a specific political party, or politician's name, out of respect for our nation's laws.
3. I may alert the congregation that there is a party or particular politician that is involved in an unbiblical issue, but I won't name them. I will only alert the congregation to the issue and challenge them to study and determine what a Christian should do.
4. I will respect my Lord's call to preach the truth first and then respect my country's plea for diversity and harmony second. Jer 8:10-11 *From the least to the greatest... prophets and priests alike ... dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace.*
5. My first obligation is to preach the Gospel of Peace through Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls. Rom 1:16-17 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*
6. But I must also call the Christian community to repentance based on the Bible's definition of “right and wrong.” I must do this whether my community views the issue as a sin or not. Jer 15:19 *“If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.*
7. Any issues about which I have an opinion but are not biblical will be addressed away from the pulpit and outside my role as a preacher. I will encourage the same perspective among those that come to our church.

WHAT I WILL LEAD OUR CHURCH TO DO AS THEIR MINISTER...

1. I will seek to always base any discussion of right and wrong on the Bible. Any other source or authority is to be considered secondary.
2. I will lead my congregation by example to disagree if I must, but respectfully and for sound biblical reasons.
3. I will lead the church to avoid unnecessary disagreements over issues that cause division and have no biblical and moral value. Titus 3:9-11 *But avoid foolish*

*controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. **10** Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. **11** You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*

4. I will encourage people that want to learn the truth about our history as a nation which was conceived out of a Christian perspective but not created to propagate a Christian religion.
5. I will seek to BALANCE my preaching and teaching ministry that neither focuses nor neglects biblical topics that people perceive as “political.”

TOPICS TYPICALLY VIEWED AS “POLITICAL” BUT CLEARLY ADDRESSED IN SCRIPTURE

Acknowledgement of Almighty God

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me."(NIV)

2 Chronicles 7:14 "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.(NIV)

Psalms 9:17 The wicked return to the grave, all the nations that forget God. (NIV)

Psalms 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.(NIV)

Against Abortion

Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder. (NIV)

Exodus 21:22-24 "If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, (NIV)

Proverbs 6:16-17 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, (NIV)

Proverbs 31:8-9 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (NIV)

Philosophy of Education: Parent Controlled and for Religious Freedom

Deuteronomy 6:1-7 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (NIV)

Psalms 78:4-7 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell

their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. (NIV)

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. (NIV)

For Free Market (Capitalism vs. Socialism)

Proverbs 10:2-4 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death. The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. (NIV)

Matthew 25:14-27 Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. (NIV)

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." (NIV)

For Capital Punishment Against Murderers

Genesis 9:6 Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. (NIV)

Exodus 21:12-16 Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death. However, if he does not do it intentionally, but God lets it happen, he is to flee to a place I will designate. But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from my altar and put him to death. Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death. Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death. (NIV)

Numbers 35:33 'Do not pollute the land where you are. Bloodshed pollutes the land, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it. (NIV)

Romans 13:4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (NIV)

Pro Self Defense (Firearm Ownership)

Proverbs 25:26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked. (NIV)

Nehemiah 4:14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (NIV)

1 Timothy 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (NIV)

Opposes Homosexual Agenda

Matthew 19:4-6 Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (NIV)

Romans 1:24-32 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (NIV)

Opposes Discrimination Based on Race

Lev. 24:22 'You are to have the same law for the alien and the native-born. I am the LORD your God.' (NIV)

Numbers 15:15-16 The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the alien shall be the same before the LORD : The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the alien living among you.

Lev 19:15 Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...

<http://www.savotersguide.com/> (South Africa Voter's Guide)

A CASE STUDY IN REAL LIFE NEWS

The message on the telephone answering machine was typical of any election season. It was from a woman calling about Proposition 8, the controversial ballot measure seeking to overturn same-sex marriages in California.

This seemingly typical call, however, was unique because the caller was a church volunteer with Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church in La Jolla. Recently the church held a phone campaign targeting its 1,200 family member parish.

The campaign raises questions as churches actively lobby on behalf of Proposition 8.

Could the lobbying be a violation of separation of church and state? Should political activity involving the church impact its tax exempt status?

"I am troubled by the fact that churches that preach God's love are now in the business of trying to change our state constitution to eliminate fundamental right so citizens of California," said Rev. Kathleen Owens of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego.

Her church has performed at least 25 same sex marriages since June 17, when the state legalized same sex unions.

But while Rev. Owens is outspoken against church activity promoting Proposition 8, her church is actively campaigning against Proposition 8. Do the same questions of church and state separation apply in her case too?

"It's a complex issue," said Professor Julie Greenberg of the Jefferson School of Law.

Greenberg said churches can 'educate', so long as they are not 'advocating' a political issue. However, there's a fine line when it comes to endorsing ballot issues like Proposition 8.

"You are allowed to lobby as long as the amount of lobbying you do is not a substantial portion of the church's activity," said Greenberg. She said that usually means staying within five percent of the church's resources.

[http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/Political Predaching Churches Seek to Educate Voters on Controversial Proposition.html](http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/Political_Predaching_Churches_Seek_to_Educate_Voters_on_Controversial_Proposit ion.html)