



Stand 4 Jax

“Duty is ours ...
results are God’s”



**FLORIDA
CAPITOL
PROJECT**

*Bringing Together
Church Leaders and
Government Officials*

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CAPITOL PROJECT

**"Pastors, Politicians
and Biblical
Partnership"**

Director - Kevin Baird, D.Min.

Personal testimony of how a pastor
got involved with civic engagement...

GOVERNMENT...

is an ever-expanding mission field that needs evangelism, discipleship, and the wisdom of Florida pastors.



The Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr.

1929 - 1968

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

*"The action or manner of ordering,
administering, organizing,
regulating, or controlling a nation,
organization, or people."*

Government is GOD'S IDEA

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:1-2

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men...

I Peter 2:13-15

JURISDICTIONS (Kinds) of Government



Abraham Kuyper

1837 - 1920

"There is not a square
inch in the whole
domain of our human
existence over which
Christ, Who is
Sovereign over-all,
does not cry, 'Mine!'"

FOUR jurisdictional areas
(Each limited in scope & function)

1. Self-Government
2. Family Government
3. Civil Government
4. Church Government

***Each one distinct from the other, but ALL 4
are responsible to God and Scripture.***

***WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CIVIL
GOVERNMENT?***

1. To restrain evil.

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Romans 13:3

2. To promote justice, virtue, and the common good.

So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people.

2 Samuel 8:15

3. To punish evildoers.

*For he (ruler) is God's minister to you for good.
But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not
bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister,
an avenger to execute wrath on him who
practices evil.*

Romans 13:4



Why Should Pastors Develop Relationships With Politicians?

These relationships forge these possibilities...

1. A presentation of the Gospel for salvation or recommitment.
2. A discipling relationship in both personal sanctification and civic responsibilities.
3. A partnership with them in solving needs and problems in our communities and state.
4. A relational accountability and support with regards to righteous leadership.

***ANSWERING OBJECTIONS TO
PASTOR - POLITICIAN
RELATIONSHIPS***

OBJECTION #1

Church (religion) and state should be separated. Pastors are blatantly religious.

- 1. Pastors do not forfeit citizenship to enter civic arena.**
- 2. There is no biblical distinction between the sacred & secular (Colossians 1:16-20)**

OBJECTION #2

Civil government is dirty and evil; no place for pastoral presence.

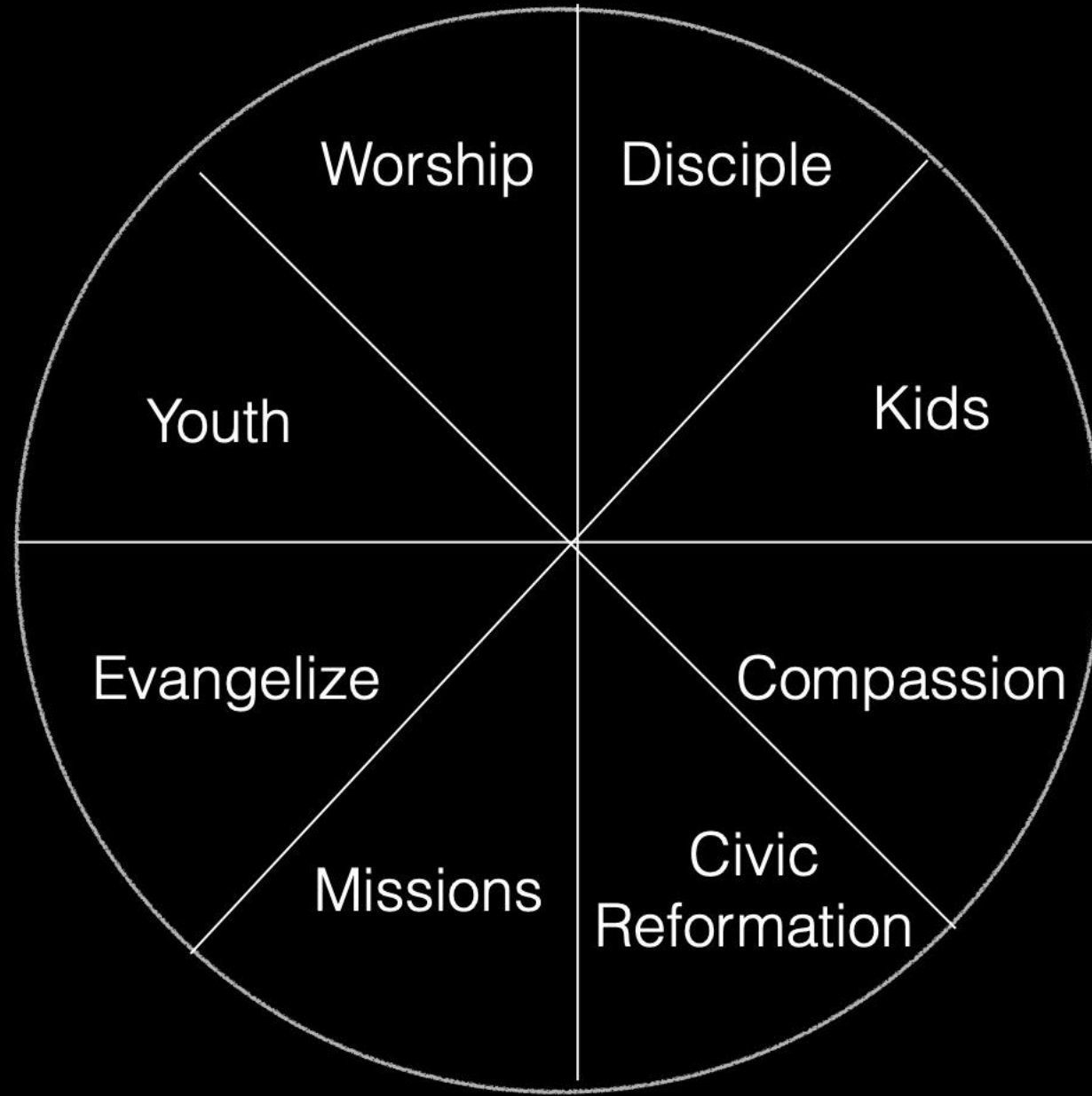
- 1. We are "in" the world, but not "of" it. (John 15:19; 17:14-16)**
- 2. The ominous implication of ceding ground to Satan.**

OBJECTION #3

Pastors (churches) should do the work of evangelism and not politics.

- 1. A far too narrow view of the Gospel and the possibilities of transformation. (Matthew 28:18-20)**
- 2. Cultural reformation is not antithetical to personal evangelism. (See Church Ministry Wheel)**

Church
Ministry
Time /
Emphasis
Wheel



Slices of the
"Ministry Pie"
Will Vary

OBJECTION #4

This isn't my calling.

- 1. If Jesus interacted (Prayed for, challenged, confronted) with civil authority, why would we be exempt?**
- 2. Historically, ministers have always brought leadership to the civic arena.**

"The ministers of the Revolution were, like their Puritan predecessors, bold and fearless in the cause of country. No class of men contributed more to carry forward the Revolution and to achieve our independence than did the ministers...by their prayers, patriotic sermons and services, [they] rendered the highest assistance to the civil government, the army, and the country."

B.F. Morris, *Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States*, 1864

"If Christian Ministers had not preached or prayed, there might have been no Revolution as yet. Or had it broken out; it might have been crushed."

British Periodical, 1856

THE VISION OF FCP

1. To be a bridge for connecting Florida Pastors and civic leaders in an important spiritual relationship.

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

I Timothy 2:1-4 NKJV

2. To be the first step in a multi-step mission to help Florida pastors spiritually impact and influence civic representatives and leaders in important public policy discussions.

3. To identify, inspire, equip, and empower pastors as point leaders for gathering other pastors for participation in the civic arena.

THE INVITATION TO THE MISSION

The Church (and Pastors as its leaders/shepherds) are the linchpin (Key) to either cultural renewal or deterioration.

How can I say that?

Jesus said that His people were “the salt of the earth and the light of the world” (Matt. 5:13-16).

If anything of worth is to be preserved or maintained, it's on us.

SOME SOBERING TRUTHS...

- 25 million, unregistered Christian voters who sit out elections.
- While 7 out of 10 people claim to be Christian, only 6% of church attenders hold a consistent biblical worldview (down from 9%). That number will drop to 4% (or lower) in the aspiring generation Z if those trajectories continue.

The number of adults holding a biblical worldview has declined over 50% in the last quarter of a century.

One-third of all adults (34%) believe that moral truth is absolute and unaffected by the circumstances. (In other words, 70% practice situational ethics)

Slightly less than half of self-identified born-again adults (46%) believe in absolute moral truth.

Just one-quarter of adults (27%) are convinced that Satan is a real force. Even a minority of born-again adults (40%) adopt that perspective.

Only 51% of protestant pastors pass a test on holding a biblical worldview.

I can accurately speculate that over 95% of the 360,000 pastors in America have ostensibly disconnected from any ministry or influence in the civic arena.

The Ominous Implications of Ceding an arena to the Adversary. (Matthew 12:43ff)

The POINT? (several) There is a dangerous implication in creating vacuums and then ceding that ground to the devil. Every vacuum will eventually be filled with something. Either righteousness or evil. There is no such thing as neutral.

A Biblical Philosophy of Selecting Civic
Leaders
(I know...Jesus Isn't on the Ballot)

There is no such thing as a “PERFECT” form of government this side of the eternal Kingdom of God.

WHY?

People are involved in government and they are inheritors of a sin nature.

(Romans 3:10-12, 23; Psalm 53:1-3)



“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

John Adams to
Massachusetts Militia

October 11, 1798

WHY IS THIS FOUNDATIONAL POINT CRITICAL?

Because as important as it may be to have a constitutionalist as a representative, it is imperative that our representatives be Christian in their understanding of that constitution.

The conscientious Christian desires to glorify God and obey His Word in all they think and do.

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

I Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

The Christian citizen believes that the Word of God is able to instruct them in righteousness and equip them for EVERY good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

This includes the “work” of candidate selection and voting. We turn to the Scriptures for guidance.

“Moreover, you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

Exodus 18:21

Fear God

“The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: ‘He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.’”

II Samuel 23:3 NKJV

Able men (skilled at ruling)

“Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you”

Deuteronomy 1:13 NKJV

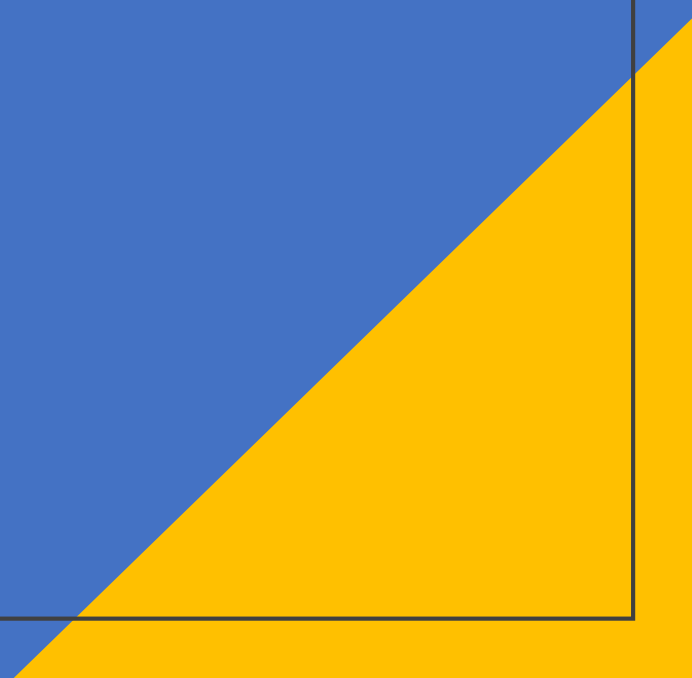
1. *SELF-GOVERNMENT*: Has the candidate ruled his own life well? Has the candidate demonstrated self-control and restraint in attitudes, actions, and responses? Is there an “order” to their life?

2. *FAMILY/MARRIAGE GOVERNMENT*: Has the candidate governed and exhibited a family and marriage that is in order? Have they managed their relationships well? Has fidelity been exhibited toward their most important commitments?

3. CHURCH GOVERNMENT: Has the candidate connected with a local pastor and church family for accountability or exercised leadership? Has the candidate held any church office or position of influence?

4. CIVIL GOVERNMENT: Has the candidate been integral with any civic leadership he has been given? Has there been any experience that qualifies them for higher office?

Success at #1, qualifies for #2. Success
at #2, qualifies for #3. Success at 1-3
qualifies for #4
(See I Timothy 3:4-5)



Hates Covetousness (not moved by money).

“You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

Deuteronomy 16:18-20 NKJV

Embraces Truth (there are absolutes).

“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 NKJV

Civic Leaders are actually
“MINISTERS” in the eyes of God. In
the Old Testament the "elders"
literally were a governmental
position within Israel. This concept
is picked up in the New Testament in
Romans 13:1-6.

"For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."

Romans 13:4 NKJV

"For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing."

Romans 13:6 NKJV

It is not an unrealistic expectation that our Civic Leaders aspire and demonstrate the qualifications of an “elder”. (I Timothy 3:1-3, Titus 1:6-9)

The Greek word, EPISKOPEO (bishop) literally translates as the “one who watches over”. (Is this not an apt description of those in civic service?)

20 QUALIFYING MARKS:

Good Testimony

Monogamous

Temperate

Sober minded

Good behavior

Gracious

Communicator

No addictions

Not Violent

Not Greedy

Not quarrelsome

Not covetous

Manages Family

Solid Believer

Good reputation

Loves what God loves.

Righteous

Self-controlled

Holds to Scripture

Defends the Faith

Exodus 18:21, has been used numerous times throughout our American history by our founding fathers and statesmen as a standard in selecting our civic representatives.

(Example: Noah Webster, *“Advice to the Young”*, 1783.)

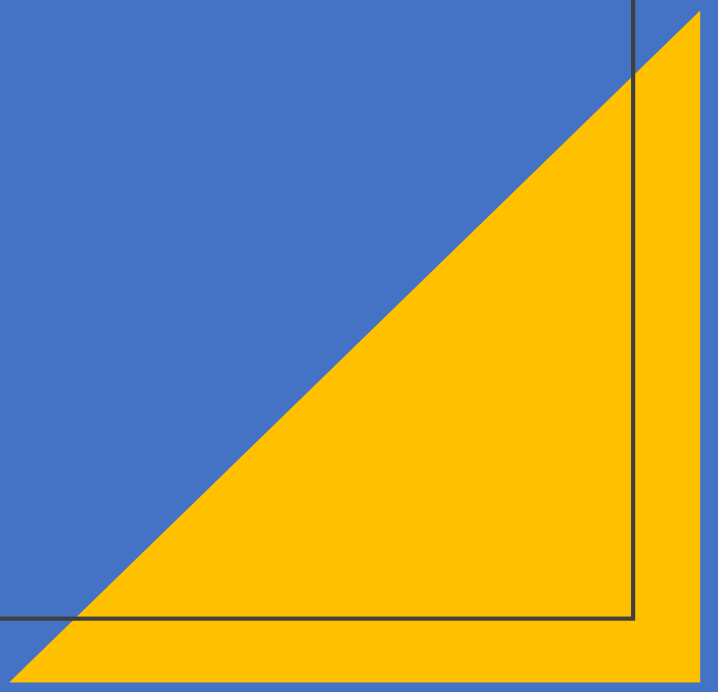
1. Rejecting a Capricious Hermeneutic

... We didn't switch God's at the Cross.

... The Cross changes only what the Cross was purposed to change.

2. Using the Bible as Suggestion.

3. The Nature of Inspiration.



Developing a Biblical Philosophy of Voting

Upon What Historical Basis Do Most Americans Vote?

1. Party Affiliation
2. Passion for Candidate
3. Pragmatism
4. Fear of Alternative

What Does a Vote Currently Represent (If we were to really think about it)

1. A Declaration of Support.
2. An Empowering of an Agenda or Platform.
3. Participation in a Mandate to Govern.
4. The Elevating of a Person to Leadership.
5. Communicating a Value System.

A Christian Philosophy of What a Vote Represents

1. Affirmation of the Biblically Qualified.
2. An Opportunity to Personally Honor God.
3. The Endorsement of a Worldview which Honors God in the Public Arena and Blesses the Citizens of the Jurisdiction.