

## **CHRIST FELLOWSHIP'S VIEW SOCIAL/POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT**

The following principles guide Christ Fellowship's involvement in social and political action and can guide each Christian in his or her personal involvement.

### **BIBLICAL MISSION**

We keep the biblical mission of the church at the forefront. Working to create a Christian nation is not the mission of the church. Our mission statement is to be people helping people find and follow Christ. We do that through loving God, one another and the world. Our mission is a description of our primary role in culture. With the desire to build a vital and relevant Christian community, we focus on reaching out to those who have not yet begun a relationship with our Lord, and those who are unconnected Christians. The most profound way to impact our culture is to carry out our mission (Matthew 28:19-20; John 17:20-23; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:8-11).

### **REDEMPTIVE SOCIAL ACTION**

We participate in and encourage redemptive social action that furthers the mission of our church. By redemptive we mean that we want to visibly demonstrate the love of Christ to a lost world, showing how Jesus Christ can meet people at their point of need. As a local church we want to avoid any form of social or political action that would distract us from fulfilling our mission or create a cultural backlash that would harm the mission to which we are called.

We see our cultural landscape not so much as a battlefield but as a mission field in which we genuinely live out the love of Christ. The Bible tells us that by "doing good" in culture, we will silence the slander of evil men and positively reflect Christ's character (1 Peter 2). Examples of the way we apply this principle:

1. We encourage Christians in our church who are employed by secular companies to have a positive influence for Christ on the people that they are working with and even the business itself. We as a church choose not to support boycotts of secular organizations, which (predictably) make choices consistent with their non-biblical worldview (1 Corinthians 5:9-13). Such boycotts may undermine the positive influence of Christians in those organizations.

2. Through our Love Fund [Benevolence fund] and through our partnerships with many local nonprofits, we demonstrate Christ's love by meeting the tangible needs of people in our community. See our website [CFhome.org](http://CFhome.org) for a more comprehensive listing of Christ Fellowship's community involvement.
3. We encourage the people of Christ Fellowship to actively love their neighbors through engaging in meaningful conversations where people experience Christ through them, and through acts of compassionate care where people experience Christ's love in concrete ways.

## **CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We teach Christians how to relate to civil government, while we remember that our primary citizenship is in the kingdom of God. We will not participate in politics. As a church, we are nonpartisan, meaning we do not support particular political parties or candidates.

Our fundamental loyalty is always to God and his kingdom. While upholding our primary loyalty, we teach our people to live in a secular state in a God-pleasing way. Though the Bible does not directly address living as a Christian in a democracy, it does give guidelines on how Christians are to relate to civil government. As a part of living our life in Christ, the Bible provides the following guidelines for our relationship to civil government:

1. Submit to governmental authorities and treat them with honor, recognizing that even those who are unjust have been appointed by God. Those who rebel against the government are rebelling against God who appointed that government (1 Peter 2; Romans 13; Titus 3). However, in a democracy it is appropriate to oppose political officials and policies in legal ways. And in all nations, Christians should stand for justice and righteousness.
2. Do what is right and lawful (Romans 13; 1 Peter 2; Titus 3).
3. Where no alternative to civil disobedience is available, then we must obey God when commanded by a governmental authority to do something directly contrary to the revealed will of God. We need to live out what we see commanded in the Word, following our conscience, and accept the consequences of such disobedience, being prepared to suffer unjustly (1 Peter 2).
4. Be gentle, considerate, obedient, and ready for every good deed (Titus 3; 1 Peter 2).

5. Pray for the authorities, and pray that we as Christians might live in peace (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
6. Pay our lawful taxes (Luke 20:22-25).

Examples of the way we apply these principles include:

1. In election periods we may encourage and help people register to vote. Since Christianity is not affiliated with any particular political party, we do not tell people how to vote.
2. We believe God calls some people to public service – as we see in many biblical examples – and that Christians in public office can make a positive difference.

We do not support single-issue politics, by which we mean advancing one or more litmus-test criteria to evaluate political parties or candidates.

Today it is common to find Christian groups advancing political causes on the basis of a very small range of issues. The elders urge the members of Christ Fellowship to reach sound judgments (John 7:24) based on a wide range of facts. Whatever one might do in the realm of political activity should be pleasing to Christ (Colossians 3:17), a standard that is seldom observed in politics. It is our view that single-issue politics often leads to extremism, creates division in the church, and presents an overly-narrow Christian worldview to the watching world.

## **REACHING OUR CULTURE**

Rather than entering into culture wars, our challenge is to reach our culture with Christ's message. We want to equip our people to penetrate culture with the light of Jesus Christ and to demonstrate Christ's love to lost and hurting people. At times we may try new ways of reaching people that may not be comfortable to some Christians, but along with Jesus Christ we value reaching people authentically over maintaining a comfortable ministry.

In summary, we encourage the people of Christ Fellowship to:

1. Grow in loving God, one another and our neighbors by engaging God individually, connecting in groups, worshiping in gatherings and impacting others personally.

2. Impact others by sharing and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.
3. Obey governing authorities unless to do so would disobey God.
4. Pray for those in authority.
5. Participate in political action only in ways that are pleasing to Christ.

*Christ Fellowship's views on this subject are guided by the authoritative Word of God.  
Not all biblical references in the Word of God pertaining to this subject are listed.  
Biblical references are from the New International Version (NIV) 2011 unless otherwise noted.*