

# 11 DOES JESUS TRUMP YOUR POLITICS?

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!"*

**Matthew 23:23-24**

## **THIS SESSION:**

1. Should Christians be Involved in Politics?
2. What Are the Most Important Issues?
3. Does Abortion Trump Everything Else?

## **SHOULD CHRISTIANS BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS?**

A simple response to anyone who doesn't see the need for Christians to be involved in politics is to ask them to google a photo of the Korean Peninsula at night. Then ask them which country they would prefer to live in. These countries are the same historically, ethnically, and geographically. The only thing that has separated them since 1945 is their politics. Now, if you were to choose between living in North or South Korea, do you have a preference? That preference rests on one thing – politics.

Whenever the topic of Christians getting involved in politics comes up, there are two main objections.

### **1. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.**

Christians who want to get involved in politics are sometimes accused of wanting to establish a theocracy. But this is not the goal (not before Jesus returns, at least). Christians do not wish to legislate religion but morality—something the government is already doing.

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All laws legislate morality; the only question is, “Whose morality will we legislate?”  
-Frank Turek

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## 2. DON'T IMPOSE YOUR MORALITY ON ME!

Anyone who makes this demand forgets that they are imposing their morality on someone else by telling them not to make a moral demand. In other words, the demand is self-defeating, as it requires the speaker to violate the very request that they are making of other people.

Additionally, it is worth pointing out that Christians didn't make up their own morality -- they didn't make up the fact that murder is wrong, that abortion is wrong, that rape is wrong, etc.. They are not trying to legislate *their* morality, but *the* morality, the one written on all of our hearts by the Creator (Rom. 2:14-15). These moral laws are the ones Thomas Jefferson claimed to be "self-evident". All people know this, but many suppress these moral truths or have been "educated" out of them.



# WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES?

Many people view the moral issues today as being somewhat equal with one another. This way of thinking is typically linked to the false belief that all sin is the same. It's true that all sin separates us from God, but not all sin is the same, nor does it have the same consequences.

## THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”***

Matthew 22:37-40

This verse indicates that there is some type of hierarchy in the commandments. Below we shall see that, in addition to lesser and greater commands, the Bible also demonstrates that there is also greater and lesser love, sin, and judgment. Christianity itself is built upon the greatest of love.

## GREATER LOVE

***“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”***

John 15:12-13

Jesus says that sacrifice is the greatest way to love someone. This also demonstrates that love does not require approval. Opposing someone's sinful behavior is not an act of hate but love. Real love requires sacrifice, putting your own self-interest aside for the benefit of others. In fact, you'll notice in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, the most popular scripture read at wedding ceremonies, that not one descriptor of love is linked to an emotion or feeling; they are all action words. Love is patient, kind, does not boast, is not proud etc.

## GREATER SIN

Just as all commands are not equal, neither is all sin.

***“Pilate said, “Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”***

Matthew 19:9-11



## GREATER JUDGMENT

In Matthew 11:21-22, Jesus talks about judging particular towns in Israel more harshly because some saw his miracles but still wouldn't repent. In other words, to whom much is given, much will be required. Jesus goes on to say that those who know that he will return must make sure that they are ready.

## GREATER KNOWLEDGE = GREATER PUNISHMENT

*"The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."*

Luke 12:47-48

Here in America, we have access to more knowledge about God than any other generation before us. In fact, we even have more revelation about God than Paul. Why? Because Paul probably never read the book of Revelation (it was probably written after he died). We are a group of people to whom *much has been given*, and we are truly without excuse when it comes to fulfilling our greatest calling: **To know God and make Him known.**

## JESUS VS. THE POLITICIANS

In Jesus' time, the Pharisees were both the religious and political leaders in the region. Many of them were on the Jewish Sanhedrin, the Jewish Ruling Council, which could be compared to the Supreme Court here in the USA. Although Rome controlled Israel, it delegated most of the day-to-day political activity to the Sanhedrin. Here's what Jesus had to say to these politicians in Matthew 23:

*"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected the **more important matters of the law** – justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!"*

Matthew 23:23-24

What would Jesus have to say to our politicians today who tell us what lightbulbs we can and can't use but won't step up and say that it is wrong to kill an unborn baby? We have neglected the more important matters of the law!

Though we are commanded to obey the government when it submits to God, we are not required to obey when the government tries to replace God, or creates policies that are contrary to God's commands.



# DOES ABORTION TRUMP EVERYTHING ELSE?

Is abortion the only issue Christians should be concerned about? Of course not. However, since abortion is the deliberate taking of an innocent life, it should be at the top of our political and moral priority list.

## **Abortion vs. Poverty**

Is failing to give money to a poor person just as bad as murdering a poor person?  
Is having a different government plan to assist the poor just as bad as using government funds to murder the poor?

You are neglecting *the more important matters of the law* if you think that *your* anti-poverty plan is more important than the murder of nearly a million innocent babies each year.

## **Abortion vs. Environment**

Many people are concerned about climate change, and yet not even all scientists agree on the facts regarding its reality and impact on humanity. The problem with attempting to reduce carbon emissions is that it will likely mean reduced productivity, jobs, and therefore an increase in poverty and crime. With every possible solution, there is a tradeoff.

You are neglecting *the more important matters of the law* if you think that *your* climate change plan is more important than the murder of nearly a million innocent babies each year.

## **Abortion vs. Healthcare**

When it comes to healthcare, you can have any two of the following three options: Affordable, High Quality, Universal. People complain about the healthcare system in the United States because of its high cost, but they forget that our for-profit system is what drives the innovation and technology that other socialist countries rely on. Take that motivation away, and the whole world suffers.

You are neglecting *the more important matters of the law* if you think that *your* healthcare plan is more important than the murder of nearly a million innocent babies each year.

## **Abortion vs. Racism**

What legislation will alleviate racism?  
What legislation will improve opportunities for minorities?

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According to the Guttmacher Institute, which generally supports abortion, in 2011 360,000 black babies were aborted. CDC statistics for 2011 show that 287,072 black deaths occurred from all other causes, excluding abortion. By these numbers, abortion is the leading cause of death among blacks.

-Walk Blackman, AZ House

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You are neglecting *the more important matters of the law* if you think that *your* plan to combat racism is more important than the murder of a million innocent babies each year.



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These positions are from the 2020 platforms of the two major parties in the United States:

National Party Platform		
Democrat		Republican
Pay for it	Abortion	Ban it
Restricted	Religious Freedom	Unrestricted
Lawmaking	Judges	Law applying
Against	Race Neutral Policies	For
Against	School Choice	For
Decrease	Military	Increase

## DOES JESUS TRUMP YOUR POLITICS?

Are you a one-issue voter? I'm not. I'm a one-issue disqualifier! We should want our candidates to support moral and reasonable positions on several issues. But if they support the taking of innocent life in the womb, then they have disqualified themselves. The top priority of our government is to protect innocent life (Romans 13). If a candidate doesn't want to do that, then why put them in office?

Being pro-life doesn't necessarily qualify someone as a good candidate;

But being pro-abortion necessarily *disqualifies* someone as a good candidate.

The rate at which the population is killing their unborn children in the name of freedom, convenience, and expense can be compared to the Israelites sacrificing their children to the false god, Molech. King Solomon started to permit these grievous sins 350 years before the judgment came. How long does the United States have?

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## TOOLBOX/RESOURCES



- **Book** – *Legislating Morality: Is it Wise? Is it Legal? Is it Possible?* Frank Turek & Dr. Norman Geisler
- **Book** – *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues and Options*, Norman Geisler
- **Book** – *Abortion: A Rational Look at an Emotional Issue*, R. C. Sproul.
- **Book** – *The Case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture*, Scott Klusendorf.
- **Book** – *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments (Expanded & Updated)*, Randy Alcorn.
- **Podcast** – *Does Abortion Trump Everything Else*, 'I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist' Podcast with Frank Turek, August 21, 2020.
- **Video** – *What is the Role of Government?*, Dr. Norman Geisler and Bobby Conway, One Minute Apologist
- **Video** – *A Biblical View of the Separation of Church and State: Romans 13:1-7*, Mike Winger.

