

## Week 4

From Culture Shock

Chip Ingram: The Church and Politics Part 2

Part 2a: Start to 11:02

*Role of the Church*

Principle #1: Let the Church be the Church

3 specific ways the church can be the church in the area of politics:

1. Pray

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What is the purpose of these prayers? Who and what are we to be praying about?
- How can you put this passage into action?

2. Preach and teach the Word

- I am your child, before I am a Republican or Democrat or Independent, what do you want me to do, what do you want me to say, how do you want me to vote on these issues and these people that would honor you? Discuss

- Do you realize the power you have to change the world for Christ? Are you more concerned over changing the world for Christ or over changing people's votes?

- Discuss the idea of absolute and relative truth? His examples were: What is the truth about human sexuality? What is the truth about abortion? What is the truth about the environment?

3. Modeling

- We come together to love people, trying not to judge, and point them to Jesus. When does that become difficult?

- Chip said, "Jesus' church has been hijacked by the right, and by the left." Think back to we have dual citizenship, and we are to have higher allegiance to Christ than any other. Do you agree with Chip? Discuss and give examples as possible.
- Are we radically living out and modeling, not subservient agendas around smaller issues, but the big agenda of Christ and Him crucified? If so, how? If not, how can we begin/do better?

Part 2b: 11:02 at 16:39

### *Role of the Government*

Principle #2: Don't expect the government to achieve what only the church can accomplish!

1. Chip said, "I think God is absolutely committed to having born again kingdom minded servants of His, in both parties."
  - Do you agree with this? Any struggles?
  - He continued to say that these people's commitment to Jesus would superimpose any shallower commitments to their political parties. Do you show this to be true in your life? How does the word shallower in relation to politics make you feel?
2. "We consciously or subconsciously believe that the political process has the power to change the culture and to change people's hearts."
  - Do you agree with this? Any struggles?
  - Examples of where you feel you have witnessed this.
3. Chip talked about morality and righteousness. Discuss these two terms and how the government does or can affect each.
4. Quote by Chuck Colson, "The danger with christian political movements per say, is that they tend to make the Gospel hostage to particular political agendas. You may wrap the cross in the flag and make God a prop for the state, and this is a great danger." Thoughts? Discuss.

Part 2c: 16:39 at 26:04

Role of the Believer

Principle #3: Don't expect the Church to accomplish what only individual believers can achieve!

1. Chip talked about people wanting the church to talk about certain issues, voting rights, pamphlets to help with candidates, etc. Then said, "These things are too low and too small of a priority when compared to the overarching message of exalting Christ and the message of redemption when we are gathered."
  - Discuss.
  
  - Personally, are you finding an appropriate balance?
  
2. Read Matthew 5:13-16, then answer/discuss the following:
  - What are we called to be?
  
  - Tony Evans in one of his books said, "Our job as christians is to infiltrate where the bacteria of unrighteousness and darkness have permeated and made themselves at home." What does this look like in politics? Does it happen in just one party?
  
3. "At the end of the day we want someone or something else to accomplish what God says is your job, my job." Discuss this statement. How does it play out in our lives?
  
4. "The government solves the problems", or "Get the church to be a big political bully." Why does Chip say these are both wrong? Agree?
  
5. Is your first allegiance truly to Christ alone? Do people know that in every area of your life?
  
6. Read and discuss John 13:35. How does this need to play out in our lives? Specifically in the times we are living in, where there are strong beliefs in what often seems to be two opposite directions.

Submit your questions for next time!

1. Email me at [Dustin@calvarycommunity.net](mailto:Dustin@calvarycommunity.net)
2. Head to Sli.do, enter code "PoICCC" and submit your question
3. Turn in a note card with a question