

Intro: Controversial subject - why? Because of
an assumption in many of Christians that their duty
is fear of possible material + social loss.

Basic Basic Statements of Belief:

1. Politics concerns itself with the ordering, the arrangement of society and therefore deeply affects the lives of people created in the image of God.
2. Any ordering of a people's life which is not in accordance with the commandments of Truth, justice + love opposes the common good, endangers law + order, conflicts with God's will - and therefore leads to the downfall of such a people.
3. God has revealed, that He is deep in His acts of creation + salvation, that He is deeply concerned about human society as well as about the life + fate of every individual. The Christian shares in this responsibility, also through his political interest, concern + involvement.
4. The Christian's interest + involvement in politics should be based on the standards of truth, justice + love.
5. The Christian's support for a political party should be tested against these standards + support given to the party whose policies conform most closely to them.

Basis in Old + New Testaments:

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- O.T.: 1) The act of creation (ind. + society)
 2) Exodus: God's salvation expressed as liberation (Moses as leader)
 3) Prophets: Protest against social, econ. + polit. injustice

N.T.: 1) Incarnation: Christ became a man in the full sense of the Word - entered into every aspect of the life of man, ordering of man's life (i.e. politics) e.g. "Render unto Caesar"; rebuke to Herod, silence before Pilate

2) Apostles: a) Col. 1: ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ "In Christ everything in heaven and on earth was created, not only things visible, but also the invisible orders of thrones, sovereignties, authorities + powers".

g) Rom 13:1-12 + Rev 13

Rejection of these arguments:

- 1) "Render unto Caesars"
- 2) Paul's non-protest against slavery.
- 3) "My Kingdom not of this world" (John 18:36)

Responsibilities:

- 1) Church's fearless prophetic role:
 - fearless protest against injustice (Jesus)
 - "involvement in justice" (Spouse) (e.g. S.H.)
- 2) Church's pastoral responsibility to ruler:
 - ruled
- 3) No basic conflict between ind. salvation + social involvement: $1 - = +$
 Take assumptions: a) World evil
 b) Ind. option more accurate.
- 4) Church's preaching + teaching must become more political!
- 5) The responsibility of ind. Christians in politics + party-politics