

## **TURN UP THE WICKS --- ADD MORE SALT.**

Politics according to the Macquarie Dictionary is  
*'The science or art of Political Government'*

**.Parliament has been described as a place  
where somebody gets up to speak, says nothing,  
nobody listens and everybody disagrees!**

In recent times it has not been uncommon to hear  
Christians and others saying 'Christians should not  
be involved with politics'!

Do they mean that:

- \*Christians shouldn't hold political office?
- \*Christians shouldn't vote?
- \*Christians should not question the actions of  
government?
- \*Christians should not support political parties?
- \*Christians should not confront political leaders?
- \*Christians are not suitable to govern a nation?
- \*Christians should not be advisers to political  
leaders?
- \*Atheists, humanists and socialists make the best  
leaders?
- \*The Bible has nothing to say about politics?
- \*The Bible is only relevant to some areas of life?
- \*God never gave instructions to rulers and  
governments?

## WHAT DO PEOPLE MEAN WHEN THEY EXPRESS THESE AND MANY OTHER VIEWS?

The not uncommon statement ‘that Christians should not be involved in politics’ proposes a number of excuses!

Firstly, that religion and politics don’t mix or there is a separation between church and state. The reality is that politics and religion are already mixed! The question should rather be ‘Which religious or ethical principle should form the foundation of politics?’ If Christian values and principles do not form the foundation of politics, then rest assured someone else’s values and principles will!

Charles Finney considered by some to be the most remarkable man of the nineteenth century, said, *“The church must take right ground in regard to politics. Politics are a part of a religion in a country as this and Christians must do their duty to the country as a part of their duty to God. He will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics.”*

Secondly, some say you cannot legislate morality. R.J.Rushdooney says the reality is that “all legislation is simply enacted morality”. It is based on someone’s moral system. It is not a question of

not legislating morality – it is a question of which morality is being legislated as the basis of our societies' laws.

George Washington said *“It is impossible to govern rightly without God and the Bible”*

Thirdly, that politics is a ‘dirty’ game. The reality is to a large extent that humanists, socialists and atheists have applied their values as the basis of their legislation and actions while many Christians have made excuses why they (Christians) shouldn't be involved. As long as this continues, other ‘isms’ will dominate, Christian principles will be watered down and assume second place and politics will remain a ‘dirty’ game. David Holloway in his book ‘A Nation Under God’ pp-33-34 describes Lord Shaftsbury's experiences when he saw Christian principles and politics going hand in hand. *“He (Lord Shaftsbury), of course, saw these two things going hand--politics and the Christian faith. He suffered for allowing his Christianity to affect his politics.”*

Fourthly, some are adamant that you can't use the Bible to impose your ideas on those who don't believe it. The question is – if the Bible is not appropriate then who decides whose ideas and philosophy is relevant? It is certainly not out of order to seek Godly wisdom when debating in parliament in this country simply on the basis of

the Speaker's and President's Daily Prayer asking for Almighty God's blessing and directions to enable the Parliament to advance His (God's) glory and engage in legislation that will bring true welfare for the people of Australia. The Bible is our authority for our Moral values. Objectively these values can be judged as desirable for the common good of society. Using the Bible and preaching Christ as 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' is the focus of the Great Commission and is the most powerful 'two edged' Sword in our battle against evil.

Robert Thorburn in his book 'The Christian and Politics' p.3 says '*Religion and politics are inseparable*'

Fifthly, it is argued that we are called to preach-not to protest and contest elections.

The irrefutable argument against this is that Christianity impacts every part of life and a political campaign is an opportunity to declare the relevance of the Bible and its message for the prosperity and peace of the nation.

John Eldridge from 'Focus on the Family' wrote that "*When our Christianity fails to address all aspects of life, it appears to the world too trivial to be true.*" ('Why You Should Be Involved', an FOC Publication, p.7)

Proverbs 29 V 2 sums it all up in a nutshell when it says **“When the Righteous are in authority the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”**

In his popular book ‘Kingdoms in Conflict (1984 pp 278 & 279) Chuck Colson states *‘There are at least three compelling reasons why Christians must be involved in politics and government. Firstly as citizens of the nation/state, Christians have the same civic duties all citizens have. Secondly, as citizens of the Kingdom of God they are to bring God’s standards of righteousness and justice to bear on the kingdoms of this world. Thirdly, Christians have an obligation to bring transcendent moral values into the public debate.’*

Some direct results as Christian MP’s have stood in the ‘Gap’ for Christ whilst in Parliament - (1) Setting aside a dedicated ‘Prayer room’ in the New Parliament House – ‘The Upper Room’—(2) A ‘Thanksgiving and Prayer ‘ceremony at the ‘Opening’ of the New Parliament House - (3) Providing a ‘Full Bible’ to be part of the ‘Dedicated Furniture’ of the new

Parliament House - (4) Making sure that the 'Opening Prayer' is said each day Parliament sits. – (5) Commenced the 'National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast' –held annually in the 'Great Hall'-Australia's premier Christian Event – (6) - Arranged the first ever public meeting-A combined churches Christian Service of dedication in the 'Great Hall' with a capacity crowd of 2300 - Commenced the National Youth Leadership Forum on 'Faith and Values' held in PH and hosted annually by The PM and sitting MP's – Run the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship – etc etc.

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