

Does the church have a political message?

Margins 2016
Workshop



Definitions for this workshop

Church:

A public and visible community, whose position is known :

- Through its leaders.
- Through its members via social media posts

Politics:

- Activities which may influence the actions and policies of a government or obtaining and maintaining power in a government
- Someone's opinions about what should be done by governments : a person's political thoughts and opinions

Church over State

Lobbying

Theocracy



State over Church

Retreat

Subjection

Church over State

Lobbying

Theocracy

Witness

State over Church

Retreat

Subjection



Message

Example

Witness

Gospel-oriented & redemptive
Not moralistic and social

The church shows its morals
The church manifests good works

10 reasons against lobbying

- There is no NT mandate for political influence
- There are no NT examples for political influence
- There is a continuum from lobbying to theocracy
- Christianity is impossible without the Holy Spirit
- Morality does not save
- Lobbying antagonizes those who need the Gospel
- It leaves a painful legacy in church history
- It's impossible to balance biblical values
- We are aliens and visitors
- Difficult to honor those you oppose

Questions for debate ☺

- Is the presence of US flag in a ‘church’ building political? Is it OK?
- Should a Christian stewardess serve alcohol on a flight despite her convictions against it?
- Should a city clerk refuse to sign same sex marriage licences?

- Should the state forbid working on Sundays except for medical and emergency services ?
- Someone wants you (as a pastor) to make your position clear on gun control – what do you say ?
- What should the church do about prostitution and sex trade?
- How should the church react to laws authorizing euthanasia?

