THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

POLITICS PART ONE

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

READ
UNDERSTAND
SPREAD
HARVEST

APOLOGETICS PROJECT

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST

DREAM CITY CHURCH

JE SUIS CHARLIE
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Religion and Politics, because, what could possibly go wrong? DH

Special Thanks to……

Dorothy Smith, Mike Parkinson, John Bingham, Susan Hintz, & Ivy Glinski.

The purpose of this paper is to show:

1st that politics is an acceptable, and even necessary, exercise of the church.

2nd to cover some of the arguments.

Several of the arguments that fall into the political realm are also in the conventional apologetics arguments and positions covered in the R.B.S. Apologetics Papers previously. To be thoroughly versed you will want to review the papers on Abortion and Woke CRT & Cancel Culture, Creation Science, & History of the Bible among others.

Part One – Why Bother?

Biblical examples of God using His people in the realm of politics.

Old Testament Examples Here are just a few of the hundreds in Scripture.

Joseph

Role: He became governor of Egypt, second only to the Pharaoh, after interpreting Pharaoh's dream. This shows that believers are not only good at governance and jurisprudence, but even called and placed there by God.

41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.
44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."
Genesis 41:41-44.

Political actions: Developed a national plan to store grain during seven years of abundance and distribute it during a subsequent famine, saving Egypt and the surrounding regions from starvation. His policies led to Pharaoh gaining control over much of the country's land and livestock.

53 The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, 54 and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. 55 When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you."

56 When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. 57 And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

Placed by God:

19 But Joseph replied, "Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, what you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this— to preserve the lives of many people. 21 Therefore do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones." So Joseph reassured his brothers and spoke kindly to them…. **Genesis 50:19-21**

Moses

- **Role:** Led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and established their system of laws and governance. From God's declaration that he will deliver Israel to the release of Israel by Pharoah Is covered in Exodus 6 to Exodus 12. He also Wrote the Pentateuch which includes the Book of Levitcus which served as a constitution for the Nation of Israel.

- **Political actions:** Acted as a judge and lawgiver for the Hebrew people. With advice from his father-in-law Jethro, he delegated judicial responsibilities to other leaders to help manage the large population.

Deborah

- **Role:** Served as a prophetess, judge, and military leader for Israel.

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. **Judges 4:4.**

- **Political actions:** Administered justice from under a palm tree and commanded the army under the general Barak to defeat the Canaanites.

9 "Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

David

- **Role:** King of Israel. Also, not a pacifist. Great military mind and body. And God blessed him in battle.

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said to him, "Look, we are your own family. 2 Even when Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel in battle. The LORD said to you, 'You will be a shepherd for my people Israel. You will be their leader.'"
3 So all the elders of Israel came to King David at Hebron, and he made an agreement with them in Hebron in the presence of the LORD. Then they poured oil on David to make him king over Israel.
2 Samuel 5:1-3.

- **Political actions:** Unified the tribes of Israel, established Jerusalem as the capital, and was known for both his military and political leadership. Also provided the raw material and finances for the construction of God's House, The Temple in Jesrusalem, built by Solomon his son, another believer in God building the Temple!

6 The king and his men went to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived in that region. The Jebusites told David, "You will never get in here. Even the blind and the lame could turn you away" (meaning that David could never get in there). 7 But David captured the fortress Zion (that is, the City of David). 8 That day David said, "Whoever wants to defeat the Jebusites must reach the lame and the blind who hate me by using the water shaft." So there is a saying, "The blind and the lame will not get into the palace." 9 David lived in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built the city of Jerusalem around it from the Millo to the palace. 10 David continued to grow more powerful because the LORD God of Armies was with him.
2 Samuel 5:6-10.

Daniel

- **Role:** Served as a high-ranking government official in the Babylonian and Persian courts.

Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. **Daniel 2:48.**

- **Political actions:** Provided counsel and interpreted dreams for several foreign kings, including Nebuchadnezzar. He maintained his religious convictions, famously defying a royal decree by continuing to pray to God. Note the civil disobedience.

Book of Daniel

Esther

- **Role:** Jewish queen of Persia.

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. **Esther 2:17.**

- **Political actions:** Risked her life to expose a plot by the official Haman to annihilate the Jewish people. Her intervention convinced King Xerxes to reverse the decree, which led to Haman's downfall and the deliverance of her people.

Book of Esther

Mordecai

- **Role:** Persian court official and cousin of Queen Esther.

King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores. [2] And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king had promoted, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Media and Persia? [3] Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.
Esther 10:1-3.

- **Political actions:** Refused to bow to Haman and later used his influence through Esther to thwart Haman's genocidal plan. After Haman's execution, Mordecai was appointed to his position as prime minister.

Book of Esther

Nehemiah

- **Role:** Jewish cupbearer to the Persian king Artaxerxes, who was later appointed governor of Judah.

[14] I was appointed governor in the land of Judah in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' rule. I was governor of Judah for twelve years, until his thirty-second year. **Nehemiah 5:14.**

- **Political actions:** Led the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls despite opposition from neighboring territories. As governor, he addressed economic injustice and led religious and social reforms.

[15] But the governors before me had placed a heavy load on the people. They took about one pound of silver from each person, along with food and wine. The governors' helpers before me also controlled the people, but I did not do that, because I feared God. [16] I worked on the wall, as did all my men who were gathered there. We did not buy any fields. **Nehemiah 5:15-16.**

New Testament Examples

John the Baptist

- **Role:** Prophet.

[11] Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **Matthew 11:11**

- **Political actions:** Openly condemned King Herod Antipas for marrying his brother's wife, which led to his imprisonment and eventual execution.

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done. **Luke 3:19.**

Paul the Apostle

- **Role:** Apostle and missionary.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
1 Corinthians 1:1.

- **Political actions:** While not holding political office, he interacted with government authorities. The book of Acts records him standing trial and defending his actions before Roman officials like governors Felix and Festus.

Three days after Festus arrived in Caesarea to take over his new responsibilities, he left for Jerusalem, [2] where the leading priests and other Jewish leaders met with him and made their accusations against Paul. [3] They asked Festus as a favor to transfer Paul to Jerusalem (planning to ambush and kill him on the way). [4] But Festus replied that Paul was at Caesarea and he himself would be returning there soon. [5] So he said, "Those of you in authority can return with me. If Paul has done anything wrong, you can make your accusations." **Acts 25:1-5.**

Peter and John

- **Role:** Church leaders.

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. [2] These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. **Acts 4:1-2.**

- **Political actions:** Gave their testimony in court speaking truth to power.

[5] The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. [6] Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. [7] They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?"

[8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, [9] are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? [10] Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. [11] For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

*'The stone that you builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.'*

[12] There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

[13] The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. **Acts 5:5-13.**

There are many more examples.

Part Two – Where do I Start?

The Basics.

The Bible states that governments are established by God to punish evil and praise good,

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. [2] Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

[3] For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, [4] because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. [5] Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience. **Romans 13:1-5.**

and Christians are generally instructed to obey them, but this obedience is not absolute and must be superseded by God's higher law. Believers are called to be respectful, pay taxes, and submit to authority for the Lord's sake, recognizing that God is the ultimate authority and can use leaders for judgment or blessing.

[6] For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. [7] Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed. **Romans 13:6-7.**

Civil Disobedience:

However, if a government's law directly contradicts God's law, a believer's allegiance must be to God, not the earthly government. Does this mean we as Christians have to put up with all the monkey business the government throws our way? Does civil disobedience have a roll in the church?

[25]But someone came and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" [26]Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).

[27]When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, [28]saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." [29]But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. [30]"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. [31]"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. [32]"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." **Acts 5:25-32.**

The above forms this authors opinion on "when do we cross the line?" **When is *civil disobedience* authorized by scripture, and anointed by the Holy Spirit?** From the above it is **when the law goes from "allowing" evil to "commanding" evil.** Marijuana for example is legal in most of America at the state level. I would say from the above scriptures and more that I would be wrong in harming one of the dispensaries that have popped-up nationwide or harming an employee of the same. However, if marijuana was mandated by the state and I was forced to smoke weed, I would defend myself and my family physically without blinking an eye. Same with abortion, I would not harm an employee working in a legal abortion clinic. But if abortion was mandated, I will dust off my guns to save my family and yours and any other child about to be harmed. This isn't China, and this nation's Christians aren't sissies. I would not recommend such a law. I won't have to look far to find assistance either. My Bible Study has more guns alone than all the citizens in China combined and a boat-load of ammo. Praise God.

Examples of Civil Disobedience in the Bible.

The Hebrew Mid-wives.	**Not killing the Hebrew babies as Pharaoh commanded.**	**Exodus 1:15-22**
Moses Parents.	**Not killing baby Moses as Pharaoh commanded.**	**Exodus 2:1-2**
Elijah.	**Escaped the Queen, Defied the King.**	**1 Kings 18**
Mordecai.	**Would not bow to man, only God.**	**Esther 3:1-6**
Esther.	**She approached the King uninvited, breaking the law.**	**Esther 4**
Jeremiah.	**Well, he pulled more than one stunt. Read his accounts.**	**Jeremiah 38:1-6**
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. You know this story. The Fiery Furnace.		**Daniel 3**
Daniel.	**His disobedience landed him in the Lion's Den.**	**Daniel 6**
The Wise Men.	**Defied Herod's command to report on the Messiah's location.**	**Matthew 2:1-8**
Jesus.	**Defied Jewish Law which had civil authority**	**Mark 2:23-28**
Peter and John.	**Defied the Jerusalem Council.**	**Acts 4:1-22**
The Apostles.	**Apostles arrested for disobeying the Authorities.**	**Acts 5:17-42**
Paul and Silas.	**They both have long rap sheets. Here's a passage to start you off on.**	**Acts 16:16-40**

Conscientious Objectors:

Personally, I think you're a sissy. Here is how I justify it. I just can't take a draft dodger serious.

> **Romans 13:1-4**: This passage emphasizes submission to governing authorities, suggesting that military service is a duty of citizenship.
> **Ecclesiastes 3:8**: The verse states there is a time for war, implying that participating in conflict can be a legitimate part of life.
> **1 Timothy 6:12**: The call to "fight the good fight of faith" can be seen as a metaphor for standing firm in all aspects of life, including military service.
> **Joshua 1:9**: God commands strength and courage, which some argue includes serving in the military when called upon.
> **Acts 10:1-2**: The centurion Cornelius is portrayed positively, suggesting that military service can coexist with faithfulness to God.
> **Luke 7:1-10:** Jesus heals a servant of an officer in the Roman army. He says nothing of his military service.
> **Luke 3:13-14:** John the Baptist tells soldiers to be content with their pay.

A gazillion passages showing how when Israel was moving into to promised land and then maintaining the borders how God blessed them in battle and punished cowardice and people who refused the call to arms.

Just admit it, you're a sissy.

In Conclusion:

Mainstream theologians and the Christian right have interpreted Romans 13:1–7 to mean Christians should support the state and wield the sword when necessary, as God has instituted the idea of governments to be his main tool to preserve social order. On occasion (all too often in my opinion) Governments butt heads. Should we as Christians take up arms? Join the military, join the police force or National Guard?

Yes

Should we as a people allow conscientious objectors?

***Yes, for now*.**

Should the need arise, and the situation appear dire, we should draft. At that point we should force the issue. But not until then. Do we really want people in our Armed Forces who are afraid to fight? Or the timid? If I am fighting in war I don't want someone ill-equipped next to me. I'm fighting to win.

The Believer's Responsibility

- **Obedience:**

  Christians are instructed to submit to governing authorities and obey the laws of the land. Romans 13:1-4.

- **Respect:**

  Believers are to be respectful of government. Romans 3:1-7.

- **Taxes:**

  Christians are to pay taxes to the government, as the authorities are God's servants. Matthew 22:16-22.

- **Limited Obedience:**
  This obedience is not unlimited. When a government commands something that violates God's law, the believer must disobey the government and obey God. Acts 5:29

The Limitations of Government

- **Human Fallibility:** Those in positions of power are fallible people who need God's wisdom.
- **Warning Against Tyranny:** While God ordains government, the Bible also contains warnings about the increasing power of government.
- **God's Sovereignty:** God is the ultimate authority, and the role of any earthly government is limited by God's own authority.

"Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." **Matthew 22:21**

It seems to me that what Jesus says in the passage is that there is a place for the government. It has a rightful task and a duty it should fulfill. But even bringing God into consideration introduces a new dimension. So if we are to engage the 1st thing we must defend is:

We Must Foster a Culture of Free Dialogue.

If you are easily offended, you are the problem. The Bible condemns it and so do people who seek to solve a nation's problems.

*"Good sense makes one slow to anger, and **it is his glory to overlook an offense**." – Proverbs 19:11*

*Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so **you also must forgive**." – Colossians 3:13*

*"Know this, my beloved brothers**: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger**; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." – James 1:19-20*

*"Great peace have those who love your law; **nothing can offend them**." – Psalm 119:165*

Responding with Love

Don't expect everyone to respond to you dismantling their world-view with love and grace. When we feel offended, responding with love can reshape the situation entirely. Instead of letting anger and frustration take over, we can choose to love those who upset us. By doing this, we reflect God's grace in our lives. We also on occasion may earn the benefit of the doubt from the other side. Win souls not arguments. Our relationships can flourish when we respond to offenses with kindness and compassion. It warms our hearts and builds bridges instead of walls. In moments where conflict arises, remembering Jesus' love can guide us to act more like Him, fostering peace among us. Embracing forgiveness allows us to heal and open up to deeper connections with others. You don't need the win in public, or right in that moment. Allow people to digest the message.

"With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." – Ephesians 4:2

"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." – Romans 12:17-21

"Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing." – 1 Peter 3:9

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus." – Romans 15:5-6

Part Three

Know What You're Talking About.

Let's look at the Main Arguments. Here are some basic definitions and accepted boundaries in the current national dialogue:

Conservative apologetics draws on a variety of core tenets, including:

- **Individual liberty and limited government:** This theme emphasizes God-given individual rights and argues that a smaller government is less corrupt and more effective at protecting these liberties.
- **Traditional institutions:** Apologists defend institutions like the traditional family, modesty, lawful behavior and sobriety, arguing they are essential for a stable society.

- **Free markets:** They advocate for free-market capitalism, which they believe promotes innovation, economic growth, merit-based rewards and individual prosperity rather than government intervention or the nanny state.

- **Fiscal responsibility:** Apologists argue that government overspending is a moral and constitutional failing that jeopardizes future generations. A lack of self-control at any level hurts at every level.

- **Peace through strength:** This principle holds that a strong national defense is necessary to deter foreign aggression and secure national interests. Peace through strength, peace through power.

- **Christian-infused morality:** We as conservative apologists argue that the moral and social order must be based on Christian principles, viewing a decline in these values as a source of societal decay. This decay hurts both the secular and Christian alike.

- **For the Details on the issues find the positional papers on Abortion, Woke, Crt, and Cancel Culture among others on the RUSH Bible Study web site.**

Conservative Arguments Against the Liberal, Progressive Left:

- **Infringement on liberty:** Economists argue that private property and market exchange are natural or moral rights that are central to human freedom. From this perspective, public ownership of the means of production and centralized economic planning under socialism are infringements upon liberty. **I started the business, I took the risks, I put in my time, my money, my sacrifice, the Government has no right to take it away and give the benefits to those who didn't.**

    - **Forced coercion:** Some critics contend that socialism's defining feature is state coercion, rather than voluntary participation or generosity. While most societies require some degree of taxation, opponents of socialism worry about the state's readiness to use coercive force to enforce its economic will. **Not only that, but also it's historic infringements on religious freedom, freedom of thought, speech and the right to keep and bear arms. Mob rule is never justified, and "group think" is usually ill-vetted and intolerant.**

- **Erosion of individual liberty:** Philosophers have critiqued the aims of socialism, suggesting that an enforced equality of outcomes could erode individual diversity and require a strong degree of coercion to implement. This is distinct from equality of opportunity, which some argue is more consistent with an entrepreneurial spirit. **The main reason the left employs cancel culture and shouting down the opposition is birthed in communism, atheism, and critical theory. In order for them to take power we all must be policed in thought and speech. And historically that means you have to kill the best and brightest first. China did it, Korea, the U.S.S.R./Russia, Venezuela, the list is endless.**

- **Confusion of means and ends:** Some critics argue that socialism often confuses its noble-sounding solutions with the most effective way to help the poor. In practice, this can lead to unexpected harm and reduced prosperity for the very people it intends to help. **Once you've starved someone to death, they can't complain. However there is one accomplishment they do have. They typically are very well practiced in how to phrase the problem eloquently. This gives the listener the false belief that the person who can phrase the problem the best, should have the best solution. That is a lie.**

- **Government overreach:** Some philosophical arguments suggest that socialism elevates the state to a godlike status by granting it excessive power over economic and social life, removing the transcendent moral reference point required for individuals to assess their own actions. **If you feel this way, go to the DMV. That'll cure you.**

Economic and historical arguments

- **Distorted or absent price signals:** Austrian School economists and others argue that socialist economic planning is unfeasible because it lacks the price signals necessary for rational economic calculation. In a free-market system, prices provide essential information about supply and demand, which is lost in centrally planned economies. **Whatever you tax you will get less of. The more you tax goods, the less goods you will sell, the less you sell, the less you produce, the less you produce, the fewer you employ. The fewer the employed, the lower the tax base. The fewer paying taxes, the higher taxes become, or, the fewer basics in infrastructure you can support. Third World Economies in a nutshell.**

- **Reduced incentives:** Critics claim that socialist systems can lead to reduced individual motivation and entrepreneurial opportunity because the rewards for hard work are diminished. This can result in slow or stagnant technological and economic advancement. **What's the point of working harder than everyone else if we are all getting the same wage? It's stupid to die young so the lazy can relax. It's smarter to produce less under socialism so my wife and kids have me longer. If you're going to die broke either way, the goal then becomes die broke last.**

- **Historical record of failure:** Opponents point to historical examples of socialist and communist regimes to argue that these systems have led to economic hardship, misery, and vast shortages. While some socialists counter that these were not true implementations of socialism, critics view the **mass killings and economic failures as an indictment of the system itself.**

- **Incompatibility with a complex world:** Critics argue that socialism overlooks the complexities of the world by offering overly simple, centralized solutions that fail to account for the distributed intelligence of a free market. **One size fits all.**

Arguments from a Christian worldview

- **Voluntary versus coercive charity:** Arguments from a Christian perspective distinguish the voluntary charity described in Acts 4:32, where early believers shared their possessions freely, from the state-enforced, coercive nature of socialism. In this view, socialism replaces voluntary acts of love with state compulsion. **We are better off doing it ourselves.**

- **Right to private property:** Some Christian apologetics maintain that the Bible supports the right to private property, as indicated by prohibitions against theft and passages honoring ownership. This stands in opposition to socialist principles of collective or state ownership. **Israel went to Egypt to buy grain, 400 years of slavery was the final result of Pharaoh owning all the land.**

- **Work and industry:** Apologetics emphasize biblical themes of hard work, thrift, and investment, which they see as being undermined by socialist systems. They argue that socialism can disincentivize initiative and industriousness. **Even when communism gets some things right, they just stole the ideas and methods from the west. The U.S.A. in particular. Google China's violation s of American patents.**

- **False "redemptive story":** Some Christian apologists, such as David Koyzis, argue that socialism offers an alternative, secular narrative for human redemption that bypasses Jesus Christ. In this view, socialism promises to deliver prosperity on its own terms, rather than through faith. **The Pilgrims came to America seeking a place to worship God freely and found gold. The Spaniards came to Mexico looking for gold and found poverty. Motives matter.**

The More Technical Terminology for the Brainiacs in The R.U.S.H. Bible Study

1. The Autonomy Paradox

Socialism claims to empower workers but strips them of genuine autonomy by shifting ownership from individuals to abstract entities like the state or collective. This centralization transforms the worker from a self-directing agent into a subject of distant authority, undermining the very empowerment it promises.

2. The Delegation Dilemma

By prioritizing collective or bureaucratic decision-making "on behalf" of workers, socialism inherently distrusts individuals to act in their own best interest. This undermines the ethical foundation of self-determination and replaces moral agency with technocratic paternalism.

3. The Innovation Suppression Argument

If the goal is equity in outcome—not just opportunity—then any deviation in success is penalized to maintain equality. This flattens human incentive: why strive, create, or innovate if reward is decoupled from effort? Philosophically, this collapses the value of merit and purpose, replacing it with stagnation.

4. Ideological Capture and Dogmatism

Socialism often demands allegiance to a guiding ideology. But ideologies, once institutionalized, tend toward rigidity. Dissent is punished not for being wrong, but for being nonconforming—echoing the authoritarian structures of Nazism, Stalinism, and Maoism, where ideology justified oppression.

5. The Moral Hazard of the Collective

When "everyone" owns the means of production, no one is ultimately responsible. The individual loses both the burden and the pride of ownership. This creates a moral hazard: without skin in the game, accountability dissolves, and so does motivation.

6. The Coercion Principle

Socialist systems often rely on legal or cultural coercion to ensure compliance. If individuals cannot opt out of collective ownership or state-run systems, then socialism violates the ethical principle of voluntary association—making its structure morally suspect.

7. The Problem of Knowledge (Hayekian Critique)

Centralized or collective planning presumes that authorities can access all the information necessary to make efficient economic decisions. In reality, knowledge is decentralized—held in millions of individual minds. Socialism ignores this epistemological fact, resulting in inefficiency and resource waste.

8. Equality vs. Liberty Tension

The pursuit of perfect equality often requires infringing on personal liberty—especially economic freedom. Socialism's philosophical error is to treat equality not as a moral baseline for justice, but as the end goal itself, regardless of cost to individual rights.

9. The Historic Empiricism Argument

From the USSR to Maoist China to Venezuela, attempts to implement socialism have led to authoritarianism, economic collapse, and mass suffering. These aren't anomalies—they're the natural outcomes of flawed philosophical premises that ignore human nature and incentive structures.

10. The Myth of Representation

Socialism assumes a collective will exists that can be acted upon. But "the working class" is not monolithic; it contains divergent values, desires, and goals. State or community ownership presumes a false unity and erases the individual's moral and practical distinctiveness.

Mass Killings Under Socialism/Communism.

Mass killings have been documented under numerous communist and socialist regimes, though the number of people killed is a subject of intense debate among scholars. Estimates vary widely based on definitions, sources, and methodologies, with significant disputes over whether deaths from famines, civil wars, and forced labor should be attributed directly to ideology or specific government policies.

Estimates and methodologies

Academic estimates for the number of people killed under communist regimes in the 20th century range from 50 to 148 million. Major factors influencing these figures include:

- **Contested data**: Many estimates rely on figures from the Cold War era or on dissident accounts, which some historians caution may be unreliable.
- **Differing definitions**: Some calculations for communist regimes incorporate all deaths during their tenure, including those from civil wars and famines, while others focus only on direct political purges and executions.
- **Inclusion of famines**: Over half of the deaths attributed to communist regimes are often from famines, particularly in China and the Soviet Union. However, scholars debate whether these famines resulted from deliberate policy choices or were unintentional consequences of misguided policies.
- **Attribution of blame**: Scholars also argue over whether mass killings should be blamed on the political system itself or on the specific authoritarian leaders who oversaw them, such as Stalin and Mao.

Major communist regimes linked to mass killings

Several communist states are cited in research for mass killings, with figures that vary significantly depending on the source and its methodology:

- **China (Mao Zedong)**: Mao's rule is associated with a death toll that includes the Great Chinese Famine (1958–1962), a period during the Great Leap Forward. Estimates of deaths from this famine and other political purges range from **15 to 45 million**. The controversial *Black Book of Communism* estimated **65 million** deaths in China alone.
- **Soviet Union (Joseph Stalin)**: During Stalin's rule, mass killings included the Gulag system of forced labor camps, the Great Purge, and the Holodomor—the 1932–1933 famine in Ukraine. The number of deaths is debated, with modern scholarly consensus suggesting a range of **6 to 9 million** from intentional actions, though higher figures were once widely cited.

- **Cambodia (Khmer Rouge)**: Pol Pot's regime from 1975 to 1979 led to a genocide in the "Killing Fields," where approximately **2 million** people were killed by execution, starvation, exhaustion, or lack of medical care.

- **North Korea**: Estimates for deaths under the long-standing Kim dynasty range from **1.5 to 2 million**, stemming from executions, forced labor, and famines.

Debate on capitalism and other regimes doing the same thing.

The discussion about deaths under communist regimes is often part of a larger debate comparing atrocities across various political and economic systems. Some scholars argue that there is a disproportionate focus on communism while neglecting mass deaths under other systems like capitalism and colonialism.

- **Capitalism and Colonialism**: Some studies highlight "excess deaths" under colonial rule, attributing them to economic policies and exploitation. For example, analyses of British colonialism in India suggest a large number of excess deaths.

- **Anti-communist violence**: Critics also point to mass killings that resulted from anti-communist actions during the Cold War, sometimes supported by Western powers.

Key takeaways

- Determining the exact number of deaths caused by communist and socialist regimes is controversial due to methodological differences, disputed sources, and the ideological nature of the debate.

- Significant death tolls from mass killings, purges, and famines are associated with communist states such as China, the Soviet Union, and Cambodia.

- Debate continues regarding the extent to which these deaths are the result of specific leaders, flawed policies, or the ideology itself.

- Comparative analyses show that mass atrocities have occurred under various political systems, including capitalism and fascism, and these comparisons are also debated.

The main political arguments between the left and right typically center on the role of government, economic policy, social issues, and the environment. While the specific issues and political priorities can change over time, the fundamental philosophical differences between left-wing and right-wing ideologies remain largely consistent.

Role of government

- **Left-wing:** Generally favors a larger, more active government role in addressing social and economic problems through regulation, social safety nets, and public services. For the left, government intervention is often seen as a necessary tool to correct inequality and ensure the welfare of citizens.

- **Right-wing:** Supports a smaller government with limited intervention in the economy and the lives of individuals. The right's focus is on individual rights, liberty, and free markets, with the belief that societal well-being is best achieved through private enterprise and less government control.

Economic policy

- **Left-wing:** Advocates for higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy, with increased government spending on social programs, infrastructure, and redistribution of wealth. They often support government regulation to prevent corporate abuses and address income inequality.

- **Right-wing:** Promotes lower taxes, reduced regulation, and free-market capitalism, arguing that these policies stimulate economic growth and benefit society as a whole. They tend to view government spending on social programs as less efficient than private solutions.

Social issues

- **Left-wing:** Generally supports progressive social policies that seek to advance equality, civil liberties, and the rights of marginalized groups. This includes strong support for LGBTQ+ rights, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and abortion rights.

- **Right-wing:** Tends toward socially conservative views, emphasizing traditional institutions, order, and authority. Recent examples of right-wing priorities include rolling back LGBTQ+ protections, restricting abortion access, and ending DEI programs, as outlined in Project 2025 proposals.

Environmental policy

- **Left-wing:** Prioritizes addressing climate change and protecting the environment through government regulation, investments in green energy, and conservation efforts. Many on the left view climate action as an urgent economic, public health, and moral imperative.

- **Right-wing:** Often emphasizes reduced environmental regulations to favor fossil fuels and protect business interests. While some on the right acknowledge environmental concerns, they often prioritize economic growth over strict environmental rules, with some denying or downplaying the severity of climate change.

The Left. Those Dirty Commies.

Economy and the role of government

- **Government spending and welfare**: The left generally supports higher taxes on the wealthy to fund social welfare programs, such as subsidized healthcare and education, with the goal of reducing economic inequality. **The right, in contrast, favors lower taxes and less government spending, arguing that this promotes economic growth and individual freedom.**

- **Government regulation**: The left is typically in favor of government regulation of businesses to protect the public interest, workers' rights, and the environment. **The right often argues that excessive regulation stifles business and harms the economy.**

- **Market intervention**: In economic downturns, the left is more likely to favor government intervention to prevent recession**. The right tends to be more skeptical of such interventions and places more faith in free-market mechanisms.**

Social and cultural issues

- **Tradition vs. change**: The left generally supports political and social change, advocating for the rights of minorities and non-traditional lifestyles. **The right, on the other hand, prioritizes the preservation of tradition and existing institutions.**

- **Individual vs. collective rights**: The left often emphasizes collective responsibility and social justice, believing that government should ensure equitable outcomes for all members of society. **The right tends to emphasize individual liberty and meritocracy, arguing that personal achievement and property rights should be prioritized.**

- **Morality and social behavior**: Social conservatives on the right believe the government should uphold traditional morality, and some seek to regulate certain personal behaviors, such as abortion and same-sex marriage. Liberals on the left generally believe that the government should not regulate private social behaviors, and that individuals have the right to make their own choices.

Environmental issues

- **Approach to policy**: The left is typically more concerned about environmental issues and is more likely to support policies like carbon taxes, emissions restrictions, and international agreements to combat climate change. **The right often expresses skepticism about the severity of environmental problems and the effectiveness of government regulation, preferring market-based solutions.**

- **Scientific consensus**: There is a significant partisan divide on the credibility of climate science, with liberal Democrats far more likely than conservative Republicans to trust climate scientists and accept their findings. **Both sides cherry-pick. As for me, I listen to the science, not the scientists so much.**

Shifting positions and nuance

The political landscape is not absolute, and positions can shift over time and vary by country.

- **Internal disagreements**: Both the left and the right have internal disagreements. For example, some right-leaning libertarians support using free-market mechanisms to address environmental concerns, while traditional conservatives may value resource conservation for moral reasons. Similarly, divisions exist within left-leaning groups regarding the prioritization of certain social or economic issues.

- **International differences**: The political debates in one country may differ from those in another, particularly regarding the environment. For example, in less developed nations, environmentalism may be tied to the protection of rural communities, a cause that could appeal to some conservatives.

How have economic policy differences between

Republican policies and national debt

- Historically, Republican presidents, on average, have added slightly more debt per four-year term than Democratic presidents. **Both sides under-perform in my opinion.**

- Republican policies often involve tax cuts and increased spending in certain areas, potentially leading to larger deficits and debt increases. For example, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017 contributed to a significant increase in the national debt. **Mostly due to the dilapidated state of the military under Biden/Harris.**

- Proposed future tax cuts, such as extending the TCJA and eliminating taxes on Social Security benefits and overtime pay, could further increase deficits if not offset by spending cuts. Both sides use the same argument, **"our policies will spur the economy."**

Democratic policies and national debt

- While Democratic presidents have added more overall debt since 1913 (partly due to longer periods in office), some have significantly reduced the federal deficit during their terms. **With Republican help.**

- Democratic policies often involve increased spending on social programs and economic stimuli. Legislation increasing spending on areas like Social Security, healthcare, and defense, especially when outpacing revenue, can increase the deficit. **Most of the increases could be eliminated by efficiency maneuvers.**

- The COVID-19 pandemic saw increased government spending under both administrations, with Democrats supporting measures like the American Rescue Plan. **Exercise in stupidity.**

Factors beyond party control

- **Economic Conditions:** Recessions, like the 2008 Great Recession, and global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have triggered large spikes in spending and debt growth under both administrations.

- **Mandatory Spending:** Increasing costs for programs like Social Security and Medicare, driven by an aging population and rising healthcare expenses, are significant drivers of long-term debt growth regardless of the party in power.

- **Interest Rates:** Rising interest rates increase the cost of servicing the national debt, contributing to deficits. The Federal Reserve's actions to combat inflation in **2022** led to higher interest rates, which impacted the cost of borrowing for the U.S.

In conclusion, both Republican and Democratic economic policies have influenced the national debt, with different approaches to taxation and spending contributing to its growth. However, external factors like economic crises and the rising costs of entitlement programs and foreign aid also play a substantial role.

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Part Four

It's The Economy Stupid

Republican and Democratic economic policies have influenced the national debt, with different approaches to taxation and spending contributing to its growth. However, external factors like economic crises and the rising costs of entitlement programs also play a substantial role. How the economy works, and why it matters so much.

Higher interest rates

- As the government borrows more to finance debt, it competes with the private sector for available funds, potentially driving up interest rates.

- Higher interest rates increase the cost of government borrowing (debt servicing costs) and also make it more expensive for businesses to invest and for individuals to borrow (e.g., for mortgages), which can slow economic activity.

- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that each percentage point increase in the debt-to-GDP ratio boosts real interest rates by **0.02** percentage points.

Crowding out private investment

- When the government issues debt, investors buy these securities instead of investing in private businesses.
- This "crowding out" effect can lead to less capital available for private sector investment, potentially hindering economic growth, innovation, and wage growth.
- The CBO estimates that for every dollar the federal deficit increases, private investment would fall by **33** cents.

Slower economic growth

- High debt levels can reduce business investment and potentially slow down long-term economic growth.
- Studies suggest that public debt-to-GDP ratios exceeding **77%** for prolonged periods can significantly slow economic growth. The US has had a debt-to-GDP ratio above **77%** since **Q1 2009**.
- The Mercatus Center estimates that economic growth in the US in **2025** is roughly **0.27** percentage points lower due to the debt drag.

Reduced flexibility in crises

- High levels of debt limit a government's ability to respond to unexpected economic downturns or crises using fiscal policy, as it may already be heavily burdened by existing debt obligations.

Potential impact on the dollar

- A growing national debt, combined with concerns about a government's ability to manage its finances, can undermine investor confidence, which may weaken the value of the US dollar in global markets.
- A weaker dollar can make imports more expensive, potentially contributing to inflation.
- Fitch Ratings downgraded the US credit rating in **2023**, citing rising debt and growing budget brinkmanship.

Fiscal sustainability concerns

- A nation with a high debt-to-GDP ratio faces a higher risk of default, which could trigger financial panic.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged the US to address its fiscal burden, predicting the debt-to-GDP ratio could reach **140%** by **2032**.
- The CBO projects the US government will run trillion-dollar deficits over the next decade, with cumulative deficits of **$21.8 trillion** between **2026** and **2035**.

Part Five

Social and cultural issues

The left generally supports progressive, evolving social norms, while the right tends to value tradition and established institutions.

- **Left-wing:** Emphasizes social equality, civil liberties, and the rights of marginalized groups. Examples of policy advocacy include:
    - **LGBTQ+ rights:** Including legal protections against discrimination, including castration for minors.
    - **Gender equality:** Including abortion rights and workplace accommodations.
    - **Criminal justice reform:** Addressing supposed systemic biases and mass incarceration.
- **Right-wing:** Emphasizes notions of authority, order, and tradition. Social policy may include:
    - **Traditional values:** Favoring established institutions and social hierarchies that work everywhere they are encouraged and are uniformly required for a healthy prosperous country.
    - **Stricter immigration policies:** Increased enforcement and restricted pathways to entry based on a meritocracy.
    - **Curbs on reproductive rights:** Such as restrictions on abortion access.
    - **Preservation of religious liberty:** Which often involves expanding the role of religion in public life. That is why the 1st and 2nd amendments are the 1st and 2nd amendments.

Environment and climate change
The differing views on environmental policy reflect broader differences in the perceived role of government and the relationship between economic activity and environmental protection.

- **Left-wing:** Prioritizes climate action and environmental protection, viewing it as a public health issue and an economic and national security imperative. Policy preferences include:
    - **Government regulation:** Setting strict emissions limits and pollution controls.
    - **Promotion of green energy:** Investing in renewable energy sources and electric vehicles.
    - **International cooperation:** Working with other nations on climate targets.

- **Right-wing:** Often more skeptical of the severity of climate change and resistant to government-mandated environmental policies. Policy preferences include:
    - **Deregulation:** Rolling back environmental protections to prioritize economic growth and favor fossil fuel industries.
    - **Limited government role:** Arguing that the free market is the most efficient way to address environmental concerns.
    - **Opposing international accords:** Skepticism of international climate agreements that may impact domestic industry.
    - **Environmental Concerns:** The USA should not be held holding the bill for the so-called climate crisis with only 6% of the global population. China and India are the worlds largest contributors to pollution, and should pay for the clean-up proportionately. We as a nation must stop making economic policy on scientific theory. Show us the proof, tell us the cost, and let the people decide after a vote.

The changing landscape in 2025

Recent trends have complicated the traditional left-right split.

- **Rise of populism:** In some countries, the political split is increasingly defined as "elites" (often associated with the left) versus "populists" (associated with the right), especially on issues of globalization and national identity.
- **New Right focus on workers:** While traditionally associated with free markets, some "New Right" movements are emphasizing the interests of workers, particularly those in manufacturing, as a response to neoliberalism.
- **Ideological realignment:** Some populist movements on the right have shown a surprising willingness to embrace traditionally left-leaning positions, such as supporting labor unions, signaling a potential realignment of political priorities, while the left has careened to la la land. What is a woman? Idiots.

The terms "left-wing" and "right-wing" describe opposing political ideologies that originated during the French Revolution. Today, the left is generally associated with progressive ideas and social equality, while the right emphasizes conservative values, tradition, and individual liberty. In the United States, these terms are most commonly applied to the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively.

Allow me to address the argument concerning the seperation of church and state.

The United States' founders were committed to a government not overly entangled with religion.

In 1644, Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island and of the first Baptist church in America, called for a "wall or hedge of separation" between the secular world and sacred church. He believed that mixing the two would cause both to become corrupt. Williams created a colony where the freedom to worship was a right for all. This influenced American thinking for centuries to come.

Though they didn't use the phrase "separation of church and state," the framers of the Constitution debated the extent to which the government should support religion. Some argued that it was fine to mandate participation in religious services, if a person could choose which ones they would attend. More commonly, many of the founders, including Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, argued that government compulsion of religion violated a person's natural right to shape their own life according to their convictions.

Jefferson immortalized the phrase in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association. Concerned about their status as a religious minority, the Baptist community penned a letter to the president expressing fear about religious persecution. Jefferson responded, emphasizing that the First Amendment's free exercise and establishment clauses together built "a wall of separation between church and state." This came to be known as **the "exemptions clause".**

For many people coming to America religious discrimination by governments was a part of daily life. Both the founders' own experiences with religious persecution, and the reality that the United States is a country with people who have a wide variety of beliefs and backgrounds, made it essential to protect *all* Americans deeply held beliefs.

In addition to the First Amendment, each state has separated religion from government, providing protections for religious liberty in their state constitutions. The U.S. Supreme Court has also said that states must uphold this religious freedom principle. Today, the establishment clause prohibits all levels of government from either advancing or inhibiting religion.

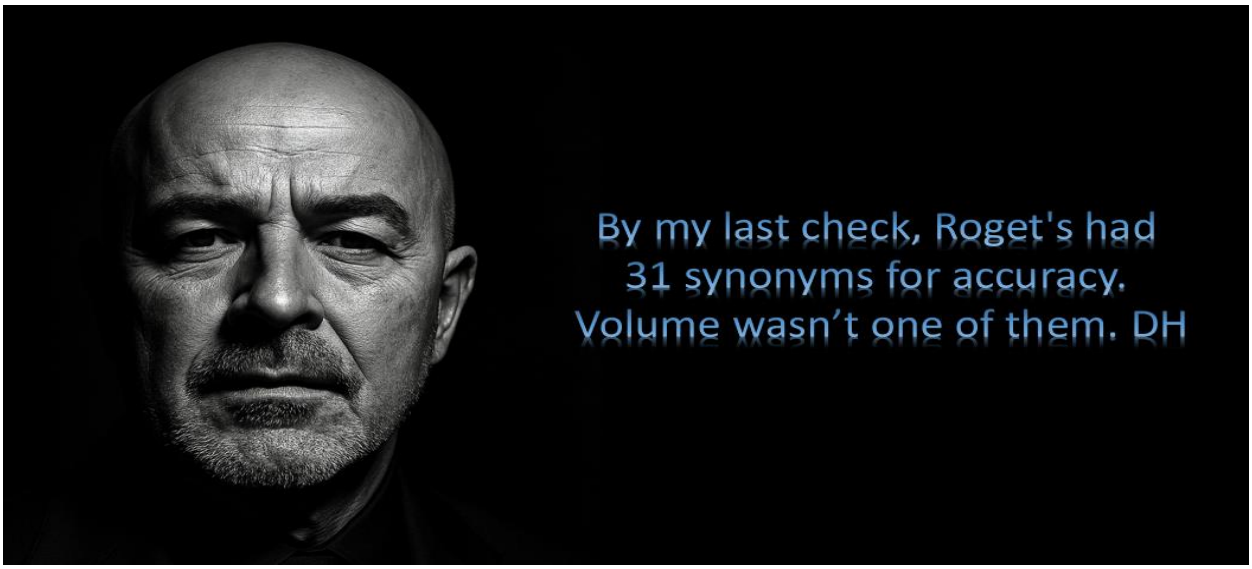
"The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state," which "must be kept high and impregnable." – Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, Everson v. Board of Education (1947)

Without separating church from state, true religious freedom is impossible. Critically, the establishment clause separates church from state but not religion from politics or public life. People are free to bring their religious convictions into the public square precisely because the government must treat all faiths equally.

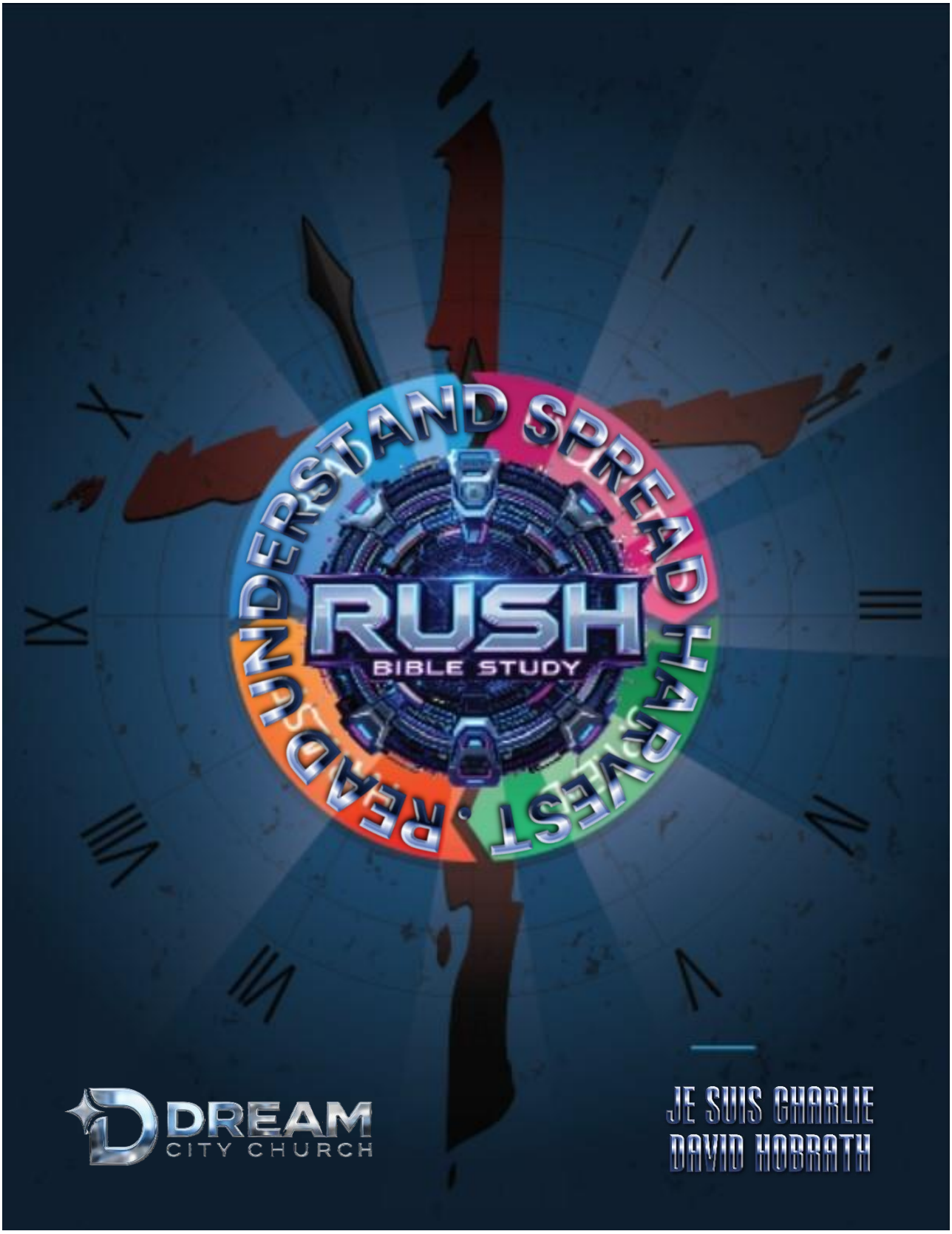
This includes politicians who are free to express their religious beliefs — but not to sponsor legislation based solely on religious convictions. The establishment clause protects the majority from undue influence from the government and encourages lesser-known religious traditions to petition the government for equal rights.

By removing the government's ability to give preferential treatment to one religion (or religion in general), the separation of church and state promotes religious pluralism and allows all Americans to practice their deeply held beliefs in private and public.

In Conclusion: All the problems in this regard originate when the Supreme Court attempts to apply the establishment clause to the American citizenry, instead of to congress. The Devil lies in that detail.



God Bless you, and these, the United States of America. **DH**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