

THE CASE FOR CHRISTIAN ACTIVISM

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Many Christians have been taught they should avoid politics and the moral issues of our day. Some believe Christians should keep their faith private and stay out of public life altogether.

But is that what the Bible teaches? This booklet isn't about political parties or personalities. It's about what God commands His people to do. As always, our authority isn't public opinion, church tradition, or personal preference. Our authority is the Bible as the very Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Let's examine what the Bible says.

1. WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ACTIVISM?

Christian activism is faithfully obeying God in every area of life (Col. 3:17).

It's the practical expression of the two greatest commandments. We love God by obeying His commands (Matt. 22:37-38; John 14:15), and we love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:39).

Therefore, Christian activism includes spreading the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20), speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), seeking justice (Isa. 1:17), defending the vulnerable (Prov. 31:8-9), exposing the works of darkness (Eph. 5:11), and doing the good God commands (James 4:17).

Christian activism is simply faith and biblical obedience lived publicly.

2. WHY CHRISTIANS MUST BE ACTIVE

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matt. 22:37-38). He also said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15 ESV). Therefore, loving God requires obedience.

Jesus said the second greatest commandment is, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39 ESV). In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus showed that loving our neighbor requires action, not indifference (Luke 10:25-37).

Jesus called His followers "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world," commanding them to let others see their good works and glorify God (Matt. 5:13-16).

Believers are also commanded to "take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them" (Eph. 5:11 ESV), to "seek justice, correct oppression" (Isa. 1:17 ESV), and to "open your mouth for the mute" and "defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Prov. 31:8-9 ESV).

James writes, "whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin" (James 4:17 ESV).

These commands show that biblical Christianity is active. Christians are called to obey God, love their neighbors, and faithfully do the good God commands.

3. WHAT CHRISTIAN ACTIVISM LOOKS LIKE

Christian activism begins with proclaiming and defending the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 3:15).

It also means speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), helping those in need (1 John 3:17-18), seeking justice and correcting oppression (Isa. 1:17), defending the vulnerable (Prov. 31:8-9), and doing good whenever God gives us the opportunity (Gal. 6:10; James 4:17).

Christians should apply God's truth to every area of life. Paul wrote, "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17 ESV).

For Christians living in the United States, this also includes faithfully using the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Paul lawfully used his Roman citizenship to defend himself and advance his ministry (Acts 16:37–39; 22:25–29; 25:11). Christian Americans may likewise vote, speak, petition, serve in office, and work for righteous laws while seeking the good of the communities where God has placed them (Jer. 29:7).

4. WHAT ABOUT "CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM"?

The phrase "Christian nationalism" doesn't appear anywhere in the Bible, and people often use it to mean different things. Instead of debating labels, Christians should ask, "What does the Bible teach?"

The Bible doesn't require one particular form of government. Instead, it commands Christians to obey God, honor lawful authority (Rom. 13:1–7; 1 Pet. 2:13–17), and **obey God rather than men** whenever the two conflict (Acts 5:29).

Americans live in a constitutional republic where citizens lawfully participate in government. Christians therefore have the same right and responsibility as every other citizen to vote, speak, petition, serve in public office, and influence society according to biblical convictions.

There is no religiously neutral public square. Every law reflects moral values, and moral values are shaped by a worldview. Christians shouldn't be ashamed to let their biblical convictions influence how they live, vote, speak, and serve, while always treating others with love, respect, and truth (Matt. 5:13–16; Eph. 4:15).

5. THINGS CHRISTIAN AMERICANS CAN DO

The Bible calls Christians to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22 ESV). Here are some things Christian Americans can do:

- Pray for all who are in authority and for those who oppose you (1 Tim. 2:1–2; Matt. 5:44).
- Learn God's Word, proclaim the gospel, defend the faith, and never be ashamed of Christ (Matt. 28:19–20; Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 3:15; Acts 17:11).
- Speak the truth in love, defend the vulnerable, seek justice, and do good whenever you have the opportunity (Eph. 4:15; Isa. 1:17; Prov. 31:8–9; Gal. 6:10; James 4:17).
- Vote for the candidates that most closely reflect biblical principles, recognizing that no political party or candidate will be perfect. Pray for wisdom when voting (James 1:5).
- Pray for both major political parties and encourage them to nominate candidates and adopt policies that reflect biblical truth.
- Remember that voting for a civil ruler isn't the same as choosing a pastor. Civil government and the church have different God-given roles (Rom. 13:1–4; 1 Tim. 3:1–7).
- Respectfully contact elected officials, attend public meetings, sign petitions, and participate in peaceful demonstrations when appropriate.
- Support what is good, refuse to support what is evil, and consider boycotting companies that promote or participate in unbiblical practices (Eph. 5:11; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- If God gives you the opportunity and ability, consider serving in public office or another position of civic leadership.

6. ANSWERING COMMON OBJECTIONS

“Jesus wasn’t political.” Jesus is the eternal God the Son and has always been active as a Person of the Trinity (John 1:1–3; Col. 1:15–17). We shouldn’t think of Jesus as absent from the Old Testament or believe the New Testament cancelled the Old Testament’s moral teachings. Jesus affirmed the Old Testament (Matt. 5:17–19; John 10:35), which repeatedly addresses how God’s people should seek justice, expose evil, defend the vulnerable, and rebuke rulers (Isa. 1:17; Prov. 31:8–9; Matt. 14:3–4).

“Our citizenship is in heaven.” Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20), but God has also made us His ambassadors, salt and light, and servants who do good (2 Cor. 5:20; Matt. 5:13–16; Gal. 6:10). Heavenly citizenship doesn’t cancel earthly faithfulness.

“Romans 13 says we should submit to the government.” Romans 13 commands submission to governing authorities, but Scripture also says, “We must obey God rather than men” when government conflicts with God’s commands (Rom. 13:1–7; Acts 5:29). Christians must remain faithful to Christ above all.

“The end times are here, so there’s no point in influencing society.” Jesus said no one knows the day or hour of His return (Matt. 24:36), and Paul said it will come “like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2 ESV). Even if you believe the end times are here, that doesn’t excuse disobedience. Until Christ returns, Christians must make disciples, be salt and light, and abound in the Lord’s work (Matt. 28:19–20; 5:13–16; 1 Cor. 15:58).

7. CONCLUSION

The Bible doesn’t call Christians to withdraw from the world. It commands us to love God through obedience, love our neighbors, be salt and light, expose darkness, seek justice, defend the vulnerable, and do good (John 14:15; Matt. 22:39; 5:13–16; Eph. 5:11; Isa. 1:17; Prov. 31:8–9; James 4:17).

Whether we’re proclaiming the gospel, helping others, voting, praying for leaders, or speaking truth in love, we’re seeking to obey Christ in every area of life (Col. 3:17).

May we never be ashamed of the gospel or grow weary of doing good, remembering that each of us will give an account to God (Rom. 1:16; Gal. 6:9; Rom. 14:12). May we be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).