

# A Positive and Proper Understanding of Christian Citizenship

Pastor Jim Anderson – Sept. 28, 2019  
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## I. A survey of the group:

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

#1 → Political activism is unwise for Christians because it detracts from our as being faithful to the Great Commission – It is too divisive!

#10 → Political activism is necessary for Christians. It is a central part of our commission to be “Salt and Light” in society.

Where do you fall between these two points?

## II. Issues to Consider

### 1. Where what we call “politics” comes from?

Who created human governments?

*Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors **as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.***      1 Peter 2:13-14 (NASB)

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and **He is the head over all rule and authority;***      Colossians 2:8-10 (NASB)

Politics is downstream from culture. Culture is downstream from Worldview. Worldview is downstream from your understanding of God/your religion.
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*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)

### 2. We are not ignorant of the Enemies’ schemes

#### 2.1 The “Separation of Church and State” Myth

The phrase "wall of separation between the church and the state" was originally coined by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to the Danbury Baptists on January 1, 1802. His purpose in this letter was to assuage the fears of the Danbury, Connecticut Baptists, and so he told them that this wall had been erected to protect them. The metaphor was used exclusively to keep the state out of the church's business, not to keep the church out of the state's business.

## 2.2 Labeling is Powerful:

It has long been the secularist's strategy to say all public questions are "political" rather than moral issues. Abortion, Euthanasia, Marriage, freedom of conscience, transgenderism, etc.

Consider the history of Christ's people's involvement in moral issues where the church challenged the state. (Video from Family Research Council)

## 2.3 Name Calling and other form of Intimidation:

Saul Alinsky's rule # 4 from Rules for Radicals:

"Make the enemy live up to its own book of rules."

Saul Alinsky's rule # 5 from Rules for Radicals:

"Ridicule is man's most potent weapon."

Saul Alinsky's rule # 13 from Rules for Radicals:

"Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it."

## 3. An interesting encouragement from the Apostle Paul

### Commonly translated:

*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ*      Philippians 1:27a (NASB)

### A more literal translation would be:

*"Do citizenship (or live as a citizen) in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ."*

(He uses an unusual verb form of the Greek word for citizen - *politeuomai*)

### Contrast with 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

*You know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.* (NASB)

AND

*We have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects.*      Colossians 1:9b-10a (NASB)

## 4. Action Items:

### 4.1 Vote! A thought:

Failure to vote for the "Lesser of two evils" is essentially a vote for the "greater of two evils.

### 4.2. Become prepared, wise and fearless.

- Educate yourself! Study history, apologetics, current news, logic (anti post modernism)
- Learn methods of avoiding name calling and other ploys

### 4.3 Study Postmodernism and its logical consequence .... Emotism

### 4.4 Involve yourself in public affairs as God directs:

- Attend city council and school board meetings
- Support godly candidates
- Run for office