

OUR POLITICAL MESSAGE SHOULD FIRST AND FOREMOST BE THE GOSPEL AND ITS BIBLICAL IMPLICATIONS

What is the emphasis of most political campaigns today? And once elected, which issues do politicians focus most upon? Is it not economic issues, perhaps followed by foreign policy concerns? But if the Bible is to be believed, what should be the foremost political issue, and what should be the most important political message?

God's word says: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). This is telling us what is most politically important: a nation and its political sub-divisions must recognize the Trinitarian God of the Bible and follow Him in accordance with Biblical principles. And since that is so, our political message should first and foremost be the gospel and its Biblical implications. The people considered corporately as well as individually should be led and encouraged to embrace the gospel, and then to govern their corporate and individual lives in accordance with that gospel revealed in scripture. Consequently, the historic reformed confessions aver: "the preservation and purification of religion is particularly the duty of kings, princes, rulers, and magistrates. They are not only appointed for civil government but also to maintain true religion and to suppress all idolatry and superstition. This may be seen in David, Jehosaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah, and others highly commended for their zeal in that cause." (Scots Confession of 1560)

The gospel and its principal Biblical implications are spelled out in our reformed confessions and catechisms, such as the Heidelberg Catechism. The gospel and its fruits are rightly outlined there in this way:

- Man's sin and misery as fallen creatures in Adam
- The way of deliverance in Christ Jesus by grace alone through faith alone
- The life of gratitude of those graciously saved, seeking to live in conformity to the moral law summarized in the Ten Commandments

Not only is it an imperative for each man to embrace these gospel truths, but it is also a duty for each people and society to do so as well. Thus, people and their government should "kiss the Son" and seek to honor Him by submitting to Biblical principles not only in their individual lives but also in their corporate life.

Why do many politicians today reject this as their foremost message? The reasons no doubt vary. Some are under the mistaken belief that religion and politics should not be mixed, as if it were even possible to divorce religious philosophy from principles of governance. Others see it as an impediment to their election, and they are more interested in getting elected than submitting to Jesus Christ. Others see it as impractical in our current setting. Others are afraid how such a message will be received by the people. Despite these and other fallacious reasons, the Bible is clear as to the moral duty of civil magistrates and those who seek such office. "We ought to obey God!"

This tract is published and distributed by the Reformation Party (www.reformationparty.org) to encourage explicitly reformed Christian politics so that civil governments "kiss the Son" by upholding God's moral law summarized in the Ten Commandments. Such Reformation Party Tracts are available for free print out and distribution from www.reformationparty.org/rp/tracts.php.