

## **FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE REFORMED POLITICAL PARTY (SGP)**

We are encouraged in scripture to follow the godly examples which have preceded us: "...seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..." (Hebrews 12:1) In the realm of politics and civil government, this surely calls us to consider the historic Reformed Political Party (SGP) in the Netherlands and how we might have something similar in our nation.

### **History and Description of the Reformed Political Party (SGP)**

The SGP is an explicitly reformed Christian political party founded in 1918 under the leadership of Rev. G.H. Kersten. It has been dedicated to governance according to Biblical principles, such as formulated in Article 36 of the Belgic Confession quoted below:

"We believe that our gracious God, because of the depravity of mankind, has appointed kings, princes and magistrates, willing that the world should be governed by certain laws and policies; to the end that the dissoluteness of men might be restrained and all things carried on among them with good order and decency. For this purpose he has invested the magistracy with the sword, for the punishment of evildoers, and for the protection of them that do well. And their office is, not only to have regard unto, and watch for the welfare of the civil state; but also that they protect the sacred ministry; and thus may remove and prevent all idolatry and false worship; that the kingdom of Antichrist may be thus destroyed and the kingdom of Christ promoted. They must therefore countenance the preaching of the Word of the gospel everywhere, that God may be honored and worshipped by every one, as he commands in his Word. Moreover, it is the bounden duty of every one, of what state, quality, or condition soever he may be, to subject himself to the magistrates; to pay tribute, to show due honor and respect to them, and to obey them in all things which are not repugnant to the Word of God; to supplicate for them in their prayers, that God may rule and guide them in all their ways, and that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

This Article 36 has historically been incorporated in the basic principles of the SGP. Also in accordance with Biblical principles, at its inception the SGP party refused to enter into political alliance with the Romish Antichrist, and it abjured female suffrage. It has been a voice for Jesus Christ by seeking to maintain Christian anti-blasphemy laws, upholding laws that maintain the Christian Sabbath observance, stemming the tide of sexual immorality, and encouraging state support of Christian education.

While more of a "testimony party" in the federal Dutch parliament due to its relatively smaller numbers, at the local and provincial levels it has exercised more political authority, even having a number of SGP mayors and exercising majority rule in a number of villages. But even in the federal parliament it has exercised amazing leverage at various times in history.

The SGP has drawn most of its support from more conservative Dutch reformed churches, such as the Gereformeerde Gemeenten and the Oud-Gereformeerde Kerk. Reformed Christians in these churches understand their Biblical duty to support a reformed Christian political party, and not to ally with infidels and heretics in their political party affiliation.

## **Biblical Rationale**

Civil government at every level – local, state, and federal - should “kiss the Son” and uphold God’s moral law summarized in the Ten Commandments. These and many other verses testify to this truth:

“Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD...” – Psalm 33:12

“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.” – Psalm 2:10-12

“Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in *their* arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with *their* face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.” – Isaiah 49:22-23

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.” – Romans 13:3-4

“The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” – Revelation 11:15

## **Its Lesson for Those in Other Nations**

One of the first actions of the Reformation Party when its first Council of Officers was elected and installed was to send a letter to the SGP thanking it for its historical example. It is important not only in the Netherlands, but in all nations of the world, for people to recognize that our first duty is to God, and that our fundamental problem is spiritual and moral, not economic. Since this is the case, it ill behooves us to enter into political alliances with infidels and heretics. Rather, as a matter of principle we ought to pray to God for His mercy and grace, that we might remain faithful to Him, including in our political activity. While at the federal and state levels such reformed Christian politics may at the current time be more a matter of testimony than rule, yet at the local level there may be opportunities for rule. In any case, we ought to follow God’s ways, and leave the numbers to Him, with respect to civil government, even as with ecclesiastical government. Is any other course reasonable than following that of the Lord Jesus Christ: “Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”

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This tract is published and distributed by the Reformation Party ( [www.reformationparty.org](http://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](http://www.reformationparty.org/rp/tracts.php).