

CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY

PART III OF A SERIES ON AMBASSADORS AND POLITICS

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

~ 1 Timothy 3:15

1. Separation of Powers

- a. "Render therefore unto Caesar..." - Matt 22:21
- b. God ordained powers and gave them to people, family, government, church – Co 1:16, Ro 13:1
- c. Individuals produce, families provide, governments protect, church's must preach/persuade
- d. Much of the debate exists around the proper function of these powers that be
- e. In a culture that dishonors family and church, how will they view government's function?
- f. What is the function of the church? What is our goal? Do we have a voice? What do we say?

2. Form Follows Function

- a. Families, governments, people failed; then, God made a new creature (the church) – 2Co 5:17
- b. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth – 1 Tim 3:15
- c. A properly functioning church assembly will work to be that – Eph 4:12-15
- d. Our function is not to experience God, replace family/community, retreat, redeem the culture
- e. The church is to do God's will as his ambassadors – 1 Tim 2:4; Eph 4:17, 5:15-17, 6:12-20
- f. 2 Tim 4:1-5 – Timothy is given direction for the church in Paul's absence to *preach the truth!*

3. Our God Given Responsibility

- a. The church is not fulfilling its ministry if it is not involved in evangelism.
- b. A tale of three Bible churches: OT Israel-Acts 7:38, Kingdom Israel-Acts 2:47, BoC- Eph 1:22-23
- c. Israel's National Glory – Deu 4:6-7; Deu 7:2-4; Isa 46:13
 - i. Solomon was God's man and brought glory to the nation – 1Ki 4:1,4:29-34; 5:1-7
 - ii. Israel was a kingdom of priests with the service of God – Isa 60:1-4; 61:6; Rom 9:4
 - iii. The church today should not evangelize a Christian nation – 2 Chron 7:14
- d. Kingdom Blessing – Preaching the kingdom come and its blessings – Matt 3:1-2
 - i. Light of the world – lifestyle evangelism will not fulfill our function today – Matt 5:14-16
 - ii. Forsake all – Matt 19:27-29; Sell all – Luke 12:33, 18:22; have all in common – Ac 4:32
 - iii. Begin at Jerusalem – Mat 10:5-6; Luke 24:46-47
- e. Foolishness of Preaching - the cross of Christ, individual salvation – 1 Cor 1:18, 21; Col 1:28
 - i. We speak, we preach, we minister reconciliation to God through Christ – Ti 2:1, 1 Co 2:2

4. The Church and Politics

- a. People want honesty, truth, justice, hope, a good conscience – 2 Cor 4:2, 4:5
- b. We speak evil of no man, but we do have something to say – Titus 2:7-8, 3:1-5
- c. The church has responsibility to preach these things, we need only open our mouths – Eph 6:19