

AGCC Positions on Political Issues

#1. Why should the church communicate this?

At Amazing Grace we teach that we are not part of a political party; we are part of a Kingdom! Call it the 'Gold Party' if you want.

Bottom line, Jesus accepts people of all faiths and political views into His family. It is there that people's hearts are changed.

Our Biblical knowledge and beliefs are the core of what our worldview is and usually forms the basis of our political views. We should take our Christianity into the public square and the political arena rather than bring our politics into church. Our biblical convictions should form our beliefs in the political arena, not the other way around. Likewise, to say we should preach constitutional civics rather than the bible at church is backwards. So many churches have become extensions of political parties.

America's Constitution and Bill of Rights were inaugurated in 1776—long after Christianity was brought into the world by Jesus Christ. Prior to 1776 there was never a government such as ours with a Judeo-Christian framework of society. America's founders and settlers left Great Britain because the Church was not bible-following; similar to the church in Constantinople. Neither one of these societies were founded on a Judeo-Christian document and agreement. And both distorted biblical beliefs.

To state it plainly, the Church was not formed by the founders of the United States. The United States was organized by men with Christian values. And for a purpose of forming a country where people would live as Christians and the Church would not be led by the government.

This being the case, politics and government should not move into the church in such a manner that it leads the church—either willingly accepted by the church or reluctantly allowed in.

This statement raises a question of how a pastor or the church can have a voice in politics. If their voice is left out, secular and non-Christian politics reign. Firstly, teach and learn the bible. Develop discernment. Apply Kingdom living.

#2 The Issues: (outline followed by discussion)

Clearly Biblical

Abortion / Assisted Suicide
Children / Family / Marriage
Education
Homosexuality etc. / Gender Identity
Law and Order
Paying Taxes
Poverty / Homelessness
Sanctuary Cities
Israel
Church / Church Government
Racism
Liberty
National Security / War
A Christian nation
Slavery
Religious Liberty
Immigration / Refugees / Asylum
Protesting
Welfare / Public Assistance
Under The Table Income
Womens Rights
Universal Basic Income
Borders (wall)
Death Penalty
Gun Control
Global Warming
Separation of Church and State

Issues with Underlying Biblical Principles

Constitution / Bill of Rights
Capitalism
Socialism / Communism / Fascism / Marxism / Globalism
Marijuana Recreational / Medical
Healthcare
Voting / Elections
Political parties

Grace should prevail in differences over politics. Well-meaning Christians can disagree on the issues or how to respond to them. They can allow for growth of understanding on an issue that is in disagreement as well.

There is a line of disagreement where fellowship is broken down and where the Christian's actions depart from Jesus' teaching. We will each stand personally before Jesus to account

for our actions and deeds. If in disagreement, we should allow this fact to hold us back from becoming hateful.

AGCC Positions on:

Clearly Spoken of in the Bible

Abortion / Assisted Suicide - The bible i.e. God and by extension AGCC is clearly against abortion. Period. It is murder. Every life is created by God (not the human parents) and God knows the unborn child. Likewise, assisted suicide is murder. Period. Murder is a sin. Suicide (self-murder) is a sin too.

Children / Family / Marriage - Children are given to the parents by God to nurture and raise for Him. This should be done within a family comprised of a mother and father, one man one woman. Marriage was created by God with a purpose of creating godly offspring and to make each more godly. God hates divorce and it is a sin.

Education - The parents are tasked by God with educating their children. They are to train up the children in the ways of God. If they delegate this to a school, the responsibility does not go away. The parents must teach the children the bible as truth and expose secular teachings as wrong.

Homosexuality etc. / Gender Identity - God created male and female. Gender is an innate state upon conception. Homosexuality in any form is sin. God says there is no room in heaven for those who practice this. Any sex outside of marriage between one man one woman is adultery. It is sin. This includes premarital sex and pornography. At the same time, sinners are invited to the foot of the cross. Let us love one-another.

Law and Order - God desires law and order such that He gave the Mosaic Law to Israel to reveal to humanity what is holy and proper. Jesus exposed the law's true depth by what a person thinks as well as does. Jesus, radical by societal standards, did not espouse anarchy. Jesus drew a sharp contrast between the unsaved world and the saved brethren. The brethren were given demanding standards on how to treat the unsaved peaceably and lovingly.

Paying Taxes - Jesus clearly taught that we are to give the government what is due them. Jesus

didn't specify what is the proper amount of taxation and didn't instruct the government how to spend it. Jesus didn't think highly of government. Ironically, He let them be used corruptly to bring about His death in order that the New Covenant might be put into place.

Poverty / Homelessness - A person who is poor or homeless isn't of less value to Jesus and Jesus never calls it a sin. In fact, He instructs those who have worldly goods to share with them and to help them. Jesus teaches that the rich have a much harder time finding their way to Him. Those who are able are supposed to minister compassion to the poor and homeless. Jesus recognized that we would always have the poor.

Sanctuary Cities - Sanctuary cities were created within the Mosaic Law. They were actually called cities of refuge (They were used as shelter and confinement for those who accidentally, unintentionally murdered someone (manslaughter) could 'run' to and be safe. They were six specific cities for a specific crime—not for the generally lawless or illegal immigrants. The manslayer was given shelter there only until he could be brought to trial. He could not leave the city either. His shelter was as long only until the high priest died. They ceased to be once the Law was fulfilled by Jesus and Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. Numbers 35:6; Deuteronomy 19.

Israel - Israel is God's chosen people. The nation was born out of Abraham's grandson Jacob. God worked through Jacob's son Joseph and later Moses to gather, protect, multiply, then separate unto the land originally given to Abraham. God covenanted with Abraham, son Isaac, grandson Jacob that all nations would be blessed by his descendant Jesus, that He would bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel, that the land given to Abram would always be theirs. This is the land that Jesus came in the flesh as a baby and where He was crucified, buried, raised, and ascended back to heaven. It is the place where He will return to physically. It is where the New Jerusalem will descend and where He will physically reign from. He will protect it to the very end.

Church / Church Government - The church was birthed by Jesus when He spoke to Peter at his restoration. The Church is the bride of Jesus that He will return to gather up. The church is the organization that God has deemed to work through in exposing Jesus and living out His

commands. The church serves as His family on earth. The church is separate from government and is under the headship of Jesus. It is to be respectful of government until they mandate laws that violate God's commands. The church is to be governed and led by elders including a shepherd/pastor. It is an organic assembly of believers and is where they teach/learn of the Apostles teachings, partake in communion and water baptism, bind covenant marriages, remember those in physical death and their home-going. Corporately they regularly gather to worship God, experience Him, and send out into the community and mission field.

Racism - God separated mankind unto their own nations at the Tower of Babel in modern-day Iraq after the worldwide flood. Jesus elaborated on who are neighbor is and how we are to treat them—most notably with the parable of the Good Samaritan. He said that we should not show partiality to anyone (which is racism) and that God doesn't show partiality either. We are told to love our neighbor and to bless them. We are told that there will be people from all nations, tribes, and tongues in heaven. Won't that be glorious!

Liberty - The bible says, 'where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty'. But this is Religious liberty. 'Civil *liberty* is the *liberty* of men in a state of society, or natural *liberty* so far only abridged and restrained, as is necessary and expedient for the safety and interest of the society, state or nation. A restraint of natural *liberty* not necessary or expedient for the public, is tyranny or oppression. civil *liberty* is an exemption from the arbitrary will of others, which exemption is secured by established laws, which restrain every man from injuring or controlling another. Hence the restraints of law are essential to civil *liberty*.' 'Political *liberty* is sometimes used as synonymous with civil *liberty* But it more properly designates the *liberty* of a nation, the freedom of a nation or state from all unjust abridgment of its rights and independence by another nation.' Websters Dictionary 1828

All governments are formed under a religious worldview. The Church (including Israel) was and is to be an example to humans for proper government. God has allowed governments of all kinds to be formed—many without liberty for it's subjects. The United States of America was and is a unique country and one that initially organized as close to the bible as was ever

attempted. Liberty can be, and is, abridged by humans and their governments.

National Security / War - Countries are given the authority to act justly on behalf of it's citizens and to defend them with a military. They are to defend the weak, helpless, widow, and orphan, those who are unjustly persecuted. This power should be exercised with all due diligence and justice. It is not the primary way God desires governments to act. Nevertheless, as we finish up the Last Days, and roll into the End Times after the Rapture, Jesus said there will be wars and rumors of war. Throughout the Tribulation there is war. War is more of a judgement or punishment than a glorifying pursuit. Jesus returns and fights on behalf of Israel as He prepares to set up His Kingdom on earth.

A Christian nation - The United States of America was and is a unique country and one that initially organized as close to the bible as was ever attempted. It recognized that it would only be viable for a religious people because of the freedoms and liberties enshrined in it. That once the people were no longer religious (Christian), it would cease to hold together. We believe the bible that Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.

Immigration / Refugees / Asylum - These topics are largely dealt with in the Old Testament. The bible uses the terms alien or sojourner.

Acts 17:26 (establishment of nations and borders) and Daniel 2 (raising up of leaders and nations)."Without borders, God promise to bless the nation whose God is the Lord could never occur. God's plan of redemption revolves around nations."

Aliens and sojourners were not given the same rights and privileges as the Jew. They were expected to follow the Laws of the Jews. To become a Jew they had to be circumcised. This was the method of assimilating into the culture. Interestingly, the Jews became refugees many times throughout their history. They knew what it felt like. See also Sanctuary Cities for related discussion.

Borders (wall) - Borders are nothing more than boundary lines created by ownership. Public borders are administrated politically and

enforced militarily. Always has been. God created the first border when He told the sea that it could go this far and no further. Later, as He dispersed people at the tower of Babel, tribes and geographic boundaries were created. As time went on, the cities that were built had walls around them for protection. God acknowledges nations and their boundaries throughout the bible. Biblical history abounds of nations crossing borders to engage in warfare or to socialize. The land of Israel was divided up by tribe and Israel was separated from other nations with their borders. The bible does not teach 'open borders' as a form of government or nationhood—it teaches assimilation.

Welfare / Public Assistance / SSDI - These are areas the church was charged with. They were primarily aimed at widows, orphans, and generally the poor. The poor were to gather food by gleaning. We see instances of begging as a regular occurrence and the generosity of Christians towards them. Usually the beggars were crippled in some fashion. Families were charged with caring for each other and later the church was charged with caring for them. Limits were placed on the church's charity for those who didn't work or weren't godly widows or for those who weren't part of the church. In our modern-day the government has taken this role over and administrates it from a secular perspective; purposely distancing the recipient from the church and living a holy life.

Under The Table Income - Generally speaking, accepting income and not paying taxes is illegal and a sin. See Paying Taxes for more discussion.

Womens Rights - Women were to be keepers of the home and helpmeets to their husband. This does not mean they didn't work, it just defines where they worked and for whom. They had the right to salvation just as men. Jesus is the great liberator. In marriage and family the wife and mother's role is laid out. The single woman generally lived with her family not separately with her own career. We associate womens rights with the right to vote, to drive a car, and to work, and abortion, birth control. The bible doesn't talk about voting or driving. Abortion and birth control are discussions revolving out of sexual immorality—which the bible calls sin. The bible does say clearly that women have an equal right to sonship as men.

Marijuana Recreational / Medical - Since early time man has used plants to either heal or mitigate biological illness. He has also used it to

provide an altered state of mind for various purposes. But God wants us to have discerning minds and to be sober. We distance ourselves when we aren't. Living a live engaged or engulfed in marijuana causes the person to have many hours of not being sober-minded, often producing lethargy and poverty even psychosis or paranoia—all leading people into idolatry in dependence and worship of the plant. If it is to be used as a medicine, it should be for a temporary healing period not a life-sustaining medication. It should not be used long-term for mental / emotional problems (nor should prescription medication). It is perfectly acceptable for use by the terminally ill.

Separation of Church and State - This is founding principle of the United States of America but it has become a fluid statement depending on who is spouting it and what their agenda is. When Jesus was presented a coin with Caesar's head on it, He said to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. We see there are two entities—government and kingdom. It has never ended well for the church when a government gets involved in the affairs of the church. And yet, the government should allow the church to give input into it's affairs. Romans 13 and Acts tells us that we are to submit to government and authorities until such time as they cross the line into God's domain of rule. The Constitution clearly and rightly states that our rights come from the Creator—not government.

Global Warming - a belief that mankind will bring about the end of the earth by releasing gases into the atmosphere. This is in direct contradiction to the bible wherein God is not only the Creator but is the one who judges the earth, pours out His wrath on the earth and brings about the end of the present earth as He ushers in the new earth He creates. This principle is the same one behind the fact that God created all things, evolution is false.

Death Penalty - God says that one shall not be put to death without the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses. God mandated punishment by death for violating specific Law. Human government has made laws mandating death as a penalty for violating their laws; often much different laws than God's. The Death Penalty is often a just consequence and an effective deterrent. However, if the government wants to follow the way of Jesus there should be some provision for grace to reign in the presence of repentance and forgiveness.

Universal Basic Income - Throughout the bible we are told to work, to be diligent, and that the sluggard will become poor. The requirement to work arose out of the sin of Adam and when God cursed the ground because of it. God wants us to trust Him not other taxpayers. God wants to grow us through our drive to work. In fact, we are admonished to work so that we have money to give to those in need!

Issues that are not directly spoken of in the bible but are built upon biblical principles

Constitution / Bill of Rights - These are uniquely an American issue. However, they do their best to affirm that our rights come from God not man or government. They are the founding documents of our society and were predicated on principles directly out of the bible — mostly from the Mosaic Law. We believe that they are intended to let a religious people govern themselves and are wholly unfit for a non-Christian people. God has clearly blessed America and used it for immeasurable good around the world.

Capitalism - this is an economic model of government that can and has been a generous vehicle to raise the economic standard of living for billions around the world and has enabled many people to carry the gospel to remote lands. As with everything, it can be used for evil purposes in the hands of evil people as well. The de-jour style of government in the bible is dictatorship, kings, and pharaohs—not capitalism. Jesus spoke primarily to the individual and his/her character.

Socialism / Communism / Fascism / Marxism / Globalism - these are all government and economic models that put power and wealth in the hands of a few and leaves the many under oppression and poverty. Generally speaking, this limits the liberty of the individual. However, more Christians have lived under these government structures than a Republic like America. Christianity may be squelched under these governments but that persecution tends to create more fervent faith.

Voting / Elections - The bible doesn't speak on this directly. In fact, God organized Israel around their priests, then the judges, and finally He relented and gave them a king. Nobody voted for him. In fact, God said He is the one that sets up kings and He is the one who removes them. Voting is your civic duty but not

a religious duty. Even within the church government we are told that the leaders are selected by the Spirit of God. Being able to vote for our leaders is certainly a privilege and we should exercise it. Our vote should reflect our biblical values.

Political parties - The bible doesn't speak on this at all. They are a creation of man. However, we generally become who we hang around with. And God does tell us who we should hang around with and who we shouldn't. I would exercise caution on which political party you align with based upon the platform that they stand on. Jesus did not tell us to be part of the blue party or red party. We are to be part of the gold party—the Kingdom!

Healthcare - Paid for or free healthcare is not a human right. It is a service that is purchased. Throughout history, God's children have first depended upon Him for healing and health. Throughout history, man has been his own worst enemy against personal health through poor life decisions. Our present medical knowledge empowers man to medicate symptoms and prolong life (albeit with health problems) without fixing the root cause.

Gun Control - Obviously the bible does not speak directly to this. However, people in the bible used other weapons to perform the same function as a gun. To hunt and gather food, to defend lives.