



# Political Disciple: Perspectives on Service

# Politics – defined:

- Πολιτικά, *Politiká*
- affairs of the cities
- **Decision-making matters that affect the entire realm as governed by the state institutions**

## Disciple – defined:

- a student or follower of Jesus Christ
- **One who gathers with those who identify as followers of Jesus Christ to proclaim His good news.**

# How Shall We Then Engage?

Christians have disagreed on the level of engagement.

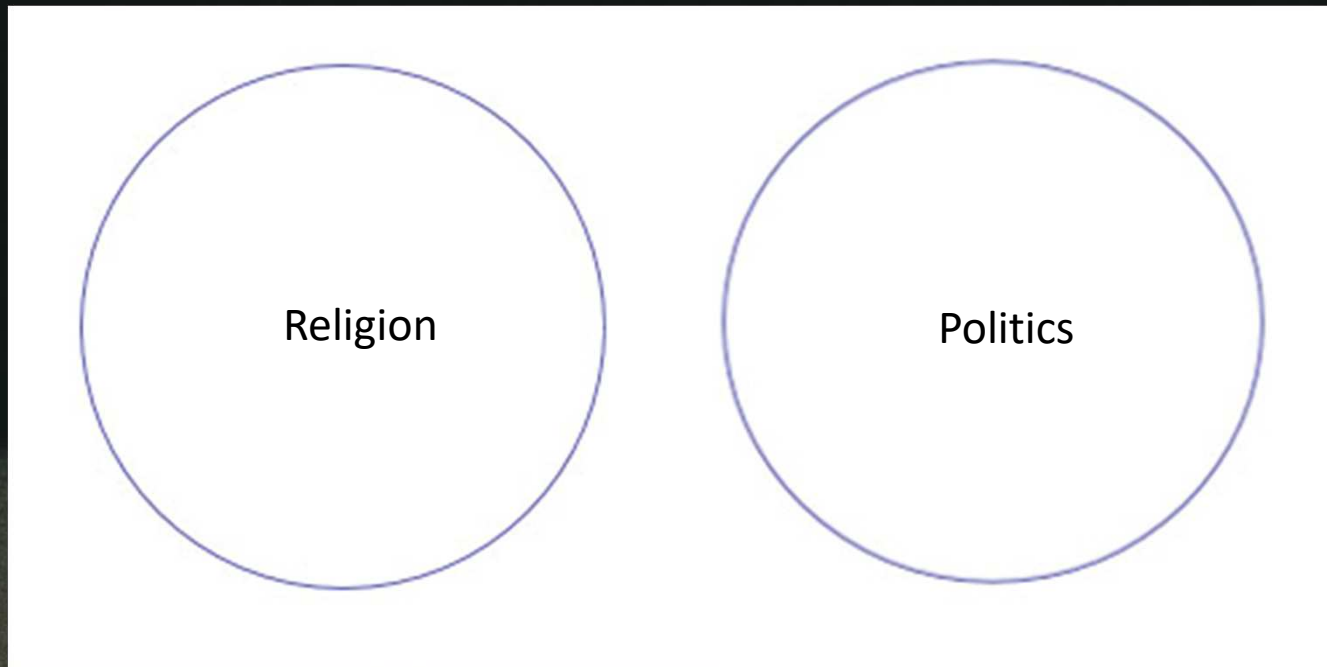


# The Spectrum of Service

Seperationism  Fusionism

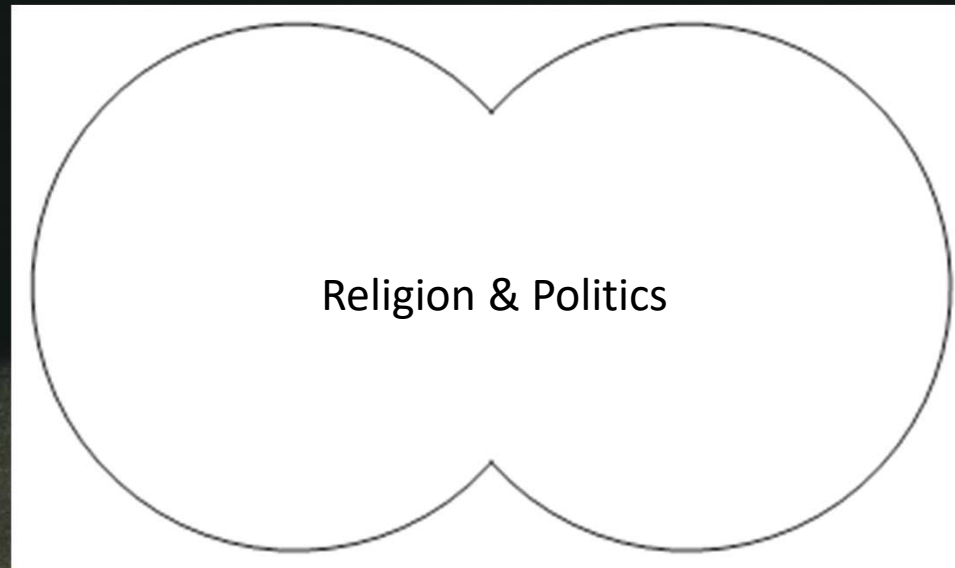
# Separationism

- Keep politics free from the dangers of religion
- Keep religion free from the dangers of politics



# Fusionism

- Political Use of Religion
- Fusion of Religious & Ethnic/National Identity
- Intentional Fusion
- Unintentional Fusion

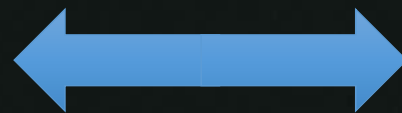


# The Spectrum of Service

Seperationism

Anabaptist  
(Separatist)

Lutheran  
(Two Kingdom/Paradoxical)



Fusionism

Reformed  
(Transformationalist)

Catholic  
(Synthetic)



# Be separate from the world...

2 Cor. 6:17

## Separatists:

- most limited political involvement
- historically: resisted fusionists; faced intense persecution
- non-violence, pacifism
- government is not the source of change; but the church should be the alternative community embodying the truth of the Gospel

# Render to Caesar...render to God...

Luke 20:25

## Two Kingdom:

- the earthly kingdom/kingdom of creation is ruled by God through universal principles and laws by government
- the kingdom of redemption comes through the Church's spiritual mission
- the state exists to restrain evil, protect citizens, and seek justice (by use of force)
- Justification by faith alone means that human effort cannot redeem human hearts. Good works are a response to God's love in Christ.

# Fill the earth & subdue it...

Gen 1:28

## Transformationalists:

- creation is good; all things are under God's sovereign rule; humans are scarred by the fall
- Common grace; Government is a good gift
- Institutions can do good & be agents of transformation
- Christians are to engage all the world, bringing the gospel to every area of life while trusting in the power of the gospel.

# Make them one...

John 17:22

## Synergists:

- Unity of mission; emphasis on incarnation
- Sacramental theology – you are physically connected with Christ and provided with rhythms of shaping perspective around Christ & Church

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# How should we serve?

**“For a Christian, the political life must begin inside the church – in our new creation life together as local congregations.”**

**– Jonathan Leeman, “How the Nations Rage” p. 64.**

# How should we serve?

- **Begin Local**
- **Recognize that the public square is a religiously contested space**
  - **Common ground approaches**
  - **Prophetic approaches**

# Jeremiah 29:4-7

<sup>4</sup> “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. <sup>6</sup> Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> **But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.**