

Wretched Worldview

**Politics:
The Christian's Response**

**Study Guide
Answer Key**

Study Guide Answer Key

These answers are not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline. We encourage the student to give more detailed responses. Answers for each chapter can be found in the DVD. Some of the Going Deeper questions may require the use of additional resources.

All Scripture references are from the NASB.

CHAPTER ONE: The Gospel vs. Politics

1. List the 10 reasons why Christians should focus more on the gospel than politics, according to Greg Stier. Include the Scripture references given.
 10. **Politics Change. The gospel doesn't. Matt. 24:35**
 9. **The gospel will transform our politics, not vice versa. Romans 12:1-2**
 8. **It's what Jesus calls us to do. Acts. 1:6-8**
 7. **We are citizens of a different kingdom. Phil. 3:20**
 6. **It's what the early church focused on. Acts. 4:23-31**
 5. **It attacks the root of evil and not just the fruit of it. Romans 1:16**
 4. **Politics can divide the body of Christ while the gospel can unite us. Phil. 1:27**
 3. **The gospel calls us to pray for politicians we disagree with, not hate them. I Tim 2:1-4.**
 2. **The gospel brings political action soaked in love and humility, not pride and arrogance. Romans 13:1-8**
 1. **Politics are a reflection of the moral compass of a society. The gospel gives society a new compass that is accurate. Titus 3:1-5**
2. Does this mean that Christians cannot or should not be involved in politics?
No, but Christians should not be known *primarily* for their political action. They should be known for their gospel proclamation.
3. Do you think the Evangelical church in America is known more for its political affiliation than its gospel proclamation? Give specific examples to support your answer.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Read through all of the Scripture references that were given in the list above (under question one), then fill out the chart below regarding the Christian's responsibilities to God, to the church and to society. (Not all of the Scripture references will apply and some can be put in more than one place on the chart.)

The Christian's Responsibility

To God	To Fellow Believers (The Church)	To Unbelievers (Society)
Rom. 12:1-2: Present your bodies as a living sacrifice; do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.	Phil. 1:27: To conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel – standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the gospel	Acts 4:23-31: Speak the word of God with boldness in the power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:6-8: Be Christ's witnesses throughout the world	Rom 13:8: Love our neighbor.	I Tim. 2:1-4 & Titus 3:1: Make entreaties, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings on behalf of all men, for kings and those in authority.
Phil. 3:20: Eagerly wait for our Savior	Titus 3:2-5: Not to malign anyone; to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.	Rom. 13:1-8: Be in subjection to governmental authorities; pay taxes; love our neighbor.
		Titus 3:2-5: Not to malign anyone; to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

2. Look through the list and prayerfully consider how you are doing in fulfilling your responsibilities in each of these areas. Write down your thoughts and then spend some time praying about what you have written. Be honest in your writing and in your praying.

CHAPTER TWO: It's Not Our Job!- Part 1

1. What was the question Todd asked at the beginning of this segment? And what was his answer?
Question: Is it the job of the Christian to make the world a better place?
Answer: No.
2. How were the books of Romans and 1 & 2 Corinthians used to support this answer?
The cities of Rome and Corinth were terribly corrupt and immoral, yet Paul never instructs the Believers in those cities to go out and clean them up
3. What two commandments in Scripture define a Christian's job or responsibility in the world, according to Todd?
 - 1) **The Great Commandment**
 - 2) **Love God and love our neighbor**
4. What is the conjunction that many evangelicals use with the gospel that often ends up compromising it?
The conjunction is *and*, as in: "Preach the gospel *and* save society."
5. List the four ways Christians often attempt to change culture.
 - 1) **By doing evangelism.**
 - 2) **By doing acts of mercy.**
 - 3) **By protesting.**
 - 4) **Through politics.**
6. What is the danger for Christians using politics to change culture?
People will start hearing and seeing us more as politicians than Christians.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Do you agree that it is not the job of Christians to make the world a better place? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your answer.

2. This chapter mentioned "ecumenism". Look up the word in a dictionary and write down its definition.

The definition of ecumenism is: The aim of unity among all Christian churches throughout the world. (Dictionary.com)

- a. What is the danger of ecumenism as stated in this chapter?

People will see Christians protesting alongside people of other faiths and will conclude that there are no differences between the faiths, or that the differences are not important.

- b. Do you agree that there is a danger in Christians partnering with people of other faith to accomplish political ends? Why or why not? Give Scripture to support your answer.

CHAPTER THREE: It's Not Our Job! – Part 2

1. What is the danger of Christian activism?
When our goal is to change society, the gospel can so easily get watered down either in the message itself or the impression we give to the world in terms of how important it is.
2. What is the “grand prize” or the “pearl” of theology? Give as detailed an answer as you can.
The pearl is the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is this: Jesus Christ, the God/man, came to die for sinners and those who repent and put their trust in Him will be forgiven and granted everlasting life.
3. How can Christians keep the gospel from getting watered down when participating in causes or ministries, and where does it start according to Todd?
It starts at the water cooler with how we talk about political issues/causes with non-Believers. That is, we talk about issues through the lens of the gospel, not through a political lens.
4. Summarize the examples that Todd gave in how Christians can keep a gospel-focus when discussing political issues or causes.
Abortion: Instead of using the typical pro-life conservative arguments, reference Scripture. Explain how each person is God's handiwork, created in His image and how it offends Him when His special creation is destroyed.
Politics: Instead of discussing the pros and cons of certain politicians, steer the conversation to the role of government as designed by God. Explain that, according to the Bible, a nation is better off with a leader who submits to biblical principles.
The sex trade: Instead of sounding off about the evils of the sex trade, explain the biblical purpose of sex and marriage, how they were created by God to show the relationship between Christ and the Church, and when people discard God's purpose and design for sex, it's greatly offensive to Him. So, yes, it is evil. But it's so much more than that. And the answer is, ultimately, the gospel of Jesus Christ.
5. This segment ends with an important statement about the supremacy of the gospel and protecting it from being distorted or watered down. Summarize what was said.
Protecting and proclaiming the gospel is more important than any “cause” that Christians may engage in; including the sex trade, abortion, and even saving America.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Find the verse that tells us that the gospel is a stumbling block and write it here.
I Corinthians 1:23, "But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness."
2. Read I Corinthians 1:18-31 and answer the following questions about the gospel:

According to verse 18, what is the gospel to those being saved? What is it to those who are perishing?

To the saved it is the power of God. To the perishing, it is foolishness – verse 18.

Verse 19 is a quote from the Old Testament. What verse is Paul quoting from?

Isaiah 29:14.

Foolish and *foolishness* are repeated words in this text. (Some versions may also use *folly*.) Write down everything you learn about these words. For example, who or what is foolish?

The cross is foolishness to those who are perishing – vs. 18

God has made foolish the wisdom of the world – vs. 20

God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe – vs. 21

The message of Christ crucified is foolishness to the gentiles – vs. 23

The foolishness of God is wiser than men – vs. 25

God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the things that are strong – vs. 27

Why is the message of the cross considered foolishness to those who are perishing?

Answer should be similar to: The message of the cross (the gospel) is that man is sinful and cannot save himself. Thus, God had to rescue sinful humanity by sending His Son to die in their place. That sinners cannot save themselves by doing good works is an affront to people's self-righteousness and pride. That God Himself would come in human form and die for sinful humanity is an absurd message that requires supernatural intervention by the Holy Spirit in order to be believed.

What is Christ, to those who believe?

He is the power of God and the wisdom of God (vs 25) and our righteousness, sanctification and redemption (vs. 30).

Why has God called those who are not (necessarily) wise or mighty or noble according to the world, and chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise (vs. 26 & 27)?

In order that no one may boast before God (vs. 29). Anyone who boasts should boast only in the Lord (vs. 31).

CHAPTER FOUR: Why Small Government is Biblical

1. Before coming to a conclusion that small government is better than big government (the position that most Christians assume), we must first lose our presuppositions. What does this mean?

We must lose our preconceived ideas about what is right based upon our political perspectives or what we have learned from political commentators, and focus solely on what the Bible teaches

2. Explain how the Trinity helps us understand the realms of authority that God has set in place for society.

The Trinity, while co-equal in authority and power, have distinct roles. And there is order within those roles that allow the Godhead to operate.

Describe the four realms of authority according to the Bible

- 1) **The Government: God has given it authority to protect and punish. Narrow authority over large group of people. Very limited influence.**
 - 2) **The Economy. God doesn't tell people how to engage in business, except to be fair in treatment of employees, wages, etc. Thus a little authority over a large sector of society.**
 - 3) **The Church: Given authority to teach and exercise discipline over a fair amount of people. The depth of influence over people is much greater than the government's influence.**
 - 4) **The Family: Large authority over very small group of people. Depth of influence is the greatest of all four realms of authority.**
3. Why is it important that each realm of authority operate within their God given boundaries? **Because otherwise things become a mess.**
 4. List the examples given of issues in our society and whose realm each falls under.
War – Falls under the responsibility of government to protect its citizens and punish bad people.
Crime – Responsibility of government to punish the evil doer.
Wages – Employers decide based upon supply and demand what the correct wage is, keeping in mind the commands in Scripture to be fair and honest with their employees.
Prices – Ideally prices should be based upon supply and demand, not based upon the burdens imposed by high taxes from the government.
Education – Falls under the responsibility of the family to educate children.

GOING DEEPER:

1. In this chapter, it was mentioned that the Trinity operates under the principle of “economic subordination.” The term “economic subordination” refers to the efficiency of differing roles within a relationship.

In order to better understand this important principle, read the following verses and then summarize the role that is being described and list it under the proper member of the Godhead in the chart below. As an example, John 6:44 has been done for you. (Some verses describe the role of more than one member of the Godhead, so they will be listed more than once in the chart.)

John 3:16	I Corinthians 12:11
John 6:38	Galatians 5:22-23
John 6:44	Ephesians 1:7
John 14:26	I Peter 1:1-2
John 15:26	I John 4:14

The Role of God the Father:

Sent the Son – John 6:44; I John 4:14

Gave the Son – John 3:16

To send the Holy Spirit – John 14:26; 15:26

To choose according to His foreknowledge – I Peter 1:1-2

The Role of God the Son:

Came to earth to do the Father's will – John 6:38

To send the Holy Spirit – John 15:26

To provide redemption and forgiveness through His blood – Eph. 1:7

Savior of the world – I John 4:14

To shed his blood – I Peter 1:1-2

The Role of God the Holy Spirit:

To teach all things and bring to remembrance what Jesus said – John 14:26

The helper, to testify about Jesus – John 15:26

Proceeds from the Father – John 15:26

To give gifts to believers for the edification of the church – I Cor. 12:11

To produce fruit in the lives of believers – Galatians 5:22-23

Sanctifies believers – I Peter 1:1-2

2. Summarize in one sentence the role that each member of the Trinity plays in accomplishing salvation.

Answers should be similar to:

The Father chose according to His foreknowledge and sent His Son.

The Son came to earth to do His Father's will which was to shed His blood to provide redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

The Holy Spirit was given as the helper to sanctify believers in the Truth.

3. Look over the list above and write the order as to Who sent Whom to accomplish their respective roles?

The Father sent the Son; both the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit.

What you spelled out in the two questions above, is a description of the economic subordination of the Trinity. The three members of the Godhead voluntarily submit to each other in order to accomplish the work of salvation. There is a distinction of order and roles, but not in nature. All Three Persons of the Trinity are co-equal in nature and attributes, power and authority. It's important to remember this essential truth!

CHAPTER FIVE: Less Conscience...More Cops

1. Todd quoted from an article that stated our country was in a "soft collapse." What does this mean?

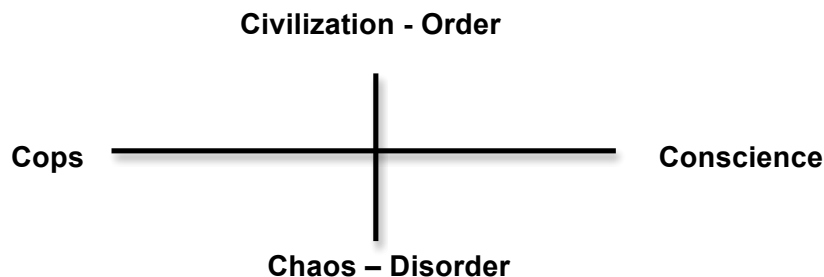
While our society is functioning and productive, and doesn't appear to be collapsing, it nonetheless is crumbling from within.

2. In your own words, explain this quote from James Madison: "The duties and rights of conscience are prior to civil society and government. They come before it."

Answer should be similar to: In order for this society to operate with a light hand of government, the conscience must be informed. People must know how to govern themselves internally in order to live without the heavy hand of government upon them.

3. Explain Chuck Colson's 4 C's of Culture, including the diagram that Todd drew on the chalkboard.

There are two ways to keep a civilization from descending into chaos. Either individuals control themselves internally based upon their consciences informing them of right and wrong, or they must be controlled by external forces imposing values upon them. When a society's conscience becomes dulled, or when it changes its values of right and wrong, then more external force must be used to maintain order. This can be done through kings, dictators, or increased law enforcement.



4. Historically, what informed Americans' consciences?

The church and Christianity.

5. What is happening to the American conscience today?

Christianity is being pushed aside, which is undermining its influence on the conscience. Thus, there is a newly informed conscience on the rise.

6. What are the questions that arise because of this?

Will the newly informed conscience help to promote civilization, or cause us to descend into chaos?

If it does cause us to descend into chaos, what will that look like?

What can we do about it?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Read Romans 13:1-7, and list what you learn about governing authorities from this passage.

Answer should include:

God gives and establishes authority.

Every person should be in subjection to authority.

Resisting authority is rebellion against God.

The purpose of government is to punish evil and encourage good behavior.

Citizens are to pay taxes to government.

Government authorities are servants of God.

Therefore, citizens should render what is due them: taxes, custom, fear and honor.

2. Chapter 4 discussed the four realms of authority we are under. According to the Bible, what are our responsibilities or obligations to these authorities? Fill in the chart below by reading the Scripture passages and writing down everything you learn about what God requires of those under each appointed authority. (Verses that pertain to masters and servants can be applied to employer and employee relationships.)

<p align="center">Government: Romans 13:1-7</p> <p>Be in subjection to it. Obedience to it is obedience to God. Do what is good and you should receive praise. Fear its God given responsibility to punish wrongdoing. Pay taxes, and give it fear and honor.</p>
<p align="center">Economics/Employment: Ephesians 6:1-9</p> <p>Employees are to be obedient to their employers, with sincerity of heart, as a slave of Christ. With good will, they are to render service to God from their heart.</p>
<p align="center">Church: I Thessalonians 5:12-13</p> <p>Appreciate church leaders. Esteem them very highly in love. Live in peace with the rest of the body.</p>

Family: Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

**Children are to honor and obey their parents in all things.
This is well-pleasing to the Lord.**

3. Take a few moments to think about how you respond to the authority in your life. In the space below, summarize how you're doing in each area. Think about your attitude, behavior, interactions, etc. Also, write about what you find most challenging in each realm; and what, if any, changes you need to make to live at peace with the various authorities God has placed over you.

CHAPTER SIX: More Cops.... Less Freedom

1. What was the reason the Founding Fathers kept churches exempt from taxation?
Taxing the church would impose the government's authority over the church, and the Founding Fathers wanted to keep the church and state separate.
2. In his "Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments", what does James Madison say about the conscience and government?
One's conscience, informed by religion, not only comes before government, but is more important than government.
3. How does this line up with Chuck Colson's 4 C's of Culture?
It fits Colson's analysis perfectly. In order for people to be free, they must have their consciences informed by religion. If this does not happen, civilization will descend into chaos; thereby requiring more cops to enforce values and behaviors. More cops mean less freedom.
4. Summarize what Madison meant in this quote: Every person who "becomes a member of a particular society must do it . . . with a saving of his allegiance to the Universal Sovereign."
For a culture to be run without a king or a dictator, but by the people themselves, they must submit to God. If they are giving Him their allegiance, then they can govern themselves in freedom and will need little external governing.
5. Why did our Founding Fathers stress that religion must inform culture?
Because without it, someone will need to step in and control the people.
6. In modern America, what religion is replacing Christianity as that which informs people's consciences? What are its beliefs?
Secular humanism is replacing Christianity. It teaches no God, no submission to a universal authority, and places man as the ultimate authority.
7. What are some of the things being endorsed by secular humanism and what is the effect on our culture?
Pornography, the anti-life movement (abortion, doctor assisted suicide, violent video games), unrestrained sexual activity and redefined sexuality, to name but a few things. The effect on our culture is obvious: death via disease; increased murder rate; increased out of wedlock births, to name a few.

GOING DEEPER:

1. To gain a better understanding of Secular Humanism, read the article at christiananswers.net/q-sum/sum-r002.html and answer the following questions.

How is secular humanism defined in this article? Why do they use this definition?
The article defines it as a religious worldview. It's religious because both of the Humanist Manifestos (1 & 2) call humanism a religious point of view and a "living and growing faith". It is also a worldview, in that it "is a set of beliefs through which one interprets all of reality".

According to this article, its basic beliefs are atheism, naturalism, evolution, and ethical relativism. Using a dictionary, define each of these terms.

Atheism – a disbelief in the existence of deity; the doctrine that there is no deity

Naturalism - a theory denying that an event or object has a supernatural significance; *specifically*: the doctrine that scientific laws are adequate to account for all phenomena.

Evolution - a theory that the differences between modern plants and animals are because of changes that happened by a natural process over a very long time.

Ethical relativism - the belief that different things are true, right, etc., for different people or at different times.

(Definitions are from merriam-webster.com.)

2. How do you see secular humanism replacing Christianity in America?

Possible answers include: Public schools are based on the secular humanist worldview teaching of evolution and its resulting belief in ethical relativism; atheism is becoming more popular in America; popular culture is unrestrained in its promotion of immorality because there are no moral absolutes anymore, people do what is right in their own eyes and do not believe in an absolute authority; etc.

3. What is the danger to a society of believing that there is no God, and therefore no submission to a universal authority? Who then becomes the final authority?

Answer should be similar to: The danger in a society believing there is no God, and therefore no submission to a universal authority, is that man becomes the sole authority and final determiner of right and wrong. This places the whole of society at the mercy of the few in authority who believe they have no one, or nothing, to hold them accountable for their actions. The history of societies that fail to recognize God and His ultimate authority is not pretty.

CHAPTER SEVEN: Less Christianity...More Secular Humanism

1. Why has Secular Humanism taken the place of Christianity in informing our collective conscience?
Because the church has abdicated its role.
2. List the five suggestions Kevin DeYoung gives for how Christians should live in a hyper-sexualized society (one evidence that our society is descending into chaos). Then explain each point in your own words.
 - 1) **Do not be shrill – Take care how we talk to people. Use proper words and tone.**
 - 2) **Do not be silent – Don't be afraid to speak up!**
 - 3) **Do not neglect singles – While there is a great need for the church to stress the Biblical role of marriage and sexuality, it can't forget about meeting the needs of the single people in her midst.**
 - 4) **Do not outsmart yourself – Don't think you need to get all complicated in your discussions on these topics. The most important thing to communicate is the gospel!**
 - 5) **Do not be scared – God is with us and will help us be faithful in our ever changing culture.**
3. Beyond these suggestions, what is one of the most practical things we can do to address our cultural descent into chaos?
Help to strengthen the church!

(You can also buy Todd's book, Judge Not, available at wretched.tv. We know, shameless plug!)

GOING DEEPER:

1. Using Bible commentaries or online resources, find out what you can about the ancient city of Corinth. Read enough resources to write a thorough summary of the city in terms of its geography, demographics, cultural and spiritual influences and practices, and anything else you find of interest. Write your summary below.
Answer should include (at least) the following the information:
 - **It was located in southern Greece on a large isthmus about fifty miles west of Athens.**
 - **It was on a major trade route making it an economically prosperous and culturally diverse city.**
 - **It also hosted the Isthmian games, bringing even more people into the already bustling city.**
 - **On its acropolis ("high city") was the temple to Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. One thousand temple prostitutes worked there.**

- It was one of the most wicked cities in the ancient world, infamous for its moral depravity and debauchery. To “corinthianize” became a term used to describe extreme sexual immorality.

2. In I Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul lists the sins for which Corinth was known for. Read the passage and write down the sins listed there.

Paul lists fornication, idolatry, adultery, sexual immorality, homosexuality, theft, covetousness, drunkenness, reviling, and embezzlement.

What does Paul say about those who practice (continue in) these sins?

They will not inherit the kingdom of God.

3. Does ancient Corinth sound anything like America today? Write your thoughts below.

Answer should be similar to: America has a great deal in common with ancient Corinth. It is economically prosperous and very diverse in terms of cultures and ethnicities. It is also full of sexual immorality. Adultery and fornication are rampant, and homosexuality is on the rise. It is now celebrated in popular culture and homosexual marriage has been given legal status. Other sexual deviancies are on the rise as well and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight.

4. List the commands Paul gives the Corinthian Christians at the end of his first letter to them in 16:13.

He tells them to be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

5. How can, or should, I Corinthians 16:13 be applied to Christians living in contemporary America with its emphasis on secular humanism and the resulting cultural descent into chaos?

Answer should be well thought out with Scripture used to support it.

CHAPTER EIGHT: Christian Conundrums – Part 1

1. At the beginning of this chapter, Todd mentions four tough issues facing our country today, about which Christians must think carefully and biblically. What are they? Can you think of any others?
Eugenics, beginning of life, end of life, technology.
Other issues include: gay marriage, sexual identity, racial/ethnic tensions, immigration reform, etc.
2. What is one possible reason why today's issues are so complicated, according to Todd?
Government involvement.
3. What is Libertarianism?
Belief in very minimal government involvement. Typically, libertarians are conservative on economic issues, but very "hands off" on moral issues. They don't like government intrusion into personal lives, except for when someone is intruding on another person's rights.
4. What are the two views that most Christians hold in regards to smoking marijuana? How does each view regard the legalization of marijuana?
 - 1) **It's not wise, but also not a sin; therefore, it's OK to make it legal.**
 - 2) **It's both unwise and a sin; therefore, it should stay illegal.**

GOING DEEPER:

1. We're going to spend some time considering what the Bible says about wisdom from Proverbs 2. Read the chapter two times slowly before answering the following questions. Be sure to cite the appropriate verses in your answers.

Where does wisdom come from?
From God – verse 6.

The writer of Proverbs describes how one should seek for wisdom. To what does he compare the search? What does that tell you about wisdom?
He says one should seek for wisdom as for silver and for hidden treasures – verse 4. This would indicate that wisdom is valuable and priceless.

What do verses 2-3 tell you about the process of acquiring wisdom and what is involved in seeking for it?

Answer should be similar to: Acquiring wisdom doesn't happen by accident, it must be intentionally sought after. It involves the whole being, not just the mind. Specifically, the ear should be attentive to it, the heart inclined to understanding, and the voice should cry for discernment and understanding.

What will you discern (or understand) when you receive wisdom?

The fear of the Lord – verse 5

Righteousness

Justice

Equity

Every good course



verse 9

What will you discover (or find) when you receive wisdom?

The knowledge of God – verse 5

What does the Lord promise to do for those to whom He gives wisdom?

He stores up sound wisdom for the upright and

He is a shield to those who walk in integrity – verse 7

He guards the paths of justice and

He preserves the way of His godly ones – verse 8

How will discretion and understanding help you?

Discretion will guard you – verse 11

Understanding will watch over you – verse 11

What does understanding (or wisdom, in some translations) deliver you from?

The way of evil and

The man who speaks perverse things – verse 12

Those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness – verse 13

Those who delight in doing evil and rejoice in the perversity of evil – verse 14

Those who are devious in their ways – verse 15

The strange woman and the adulteress – verse 16

How are the wise described at the end of the chapter?

Walking in the way of good men and

Keeping to the paths of the righteous – verse 20

Upright (living in the land) and

Blameless (remaining in it) – verse 21

2. Are you wise? Do you possess godly wisdom? Think about what you just read in Proverbs 2 and write down your thoughts below.

CHAPTER NINE: Christian Conundrums – Part 2

1. Summarize the view of Christian Libertarians regarding the legalization of marijuana.
While many, if not most, are personally against the smoking of marijuana, they don't believe the government should make laws against it and punish people for smoking it.

2. What are the three realms of authority God has set in place?
(Please note: in Chapter 4 Todd includes a fourth realm, economics, to include the relationship of employee to employer.)
 - 1) Church
 - 2) State/Government
 - 3) Family

3. Explain which realm of authority each of the following issues falls under.

Naughty Child: **Falls under the family, first and foremost, although the church may get involved, depending upon circumstances. If the child breaks the law, then it falls under the realm of government.**

Adultery: **Falls under both family and church authority.**

Murder: **Falls under governmental authority.**

Rape: **Falls under governmental authority.**

Alcohol (the overconsumption of it): **If it results in criminal behavior, it falls under the government. Otherwise, it falls under church and family.**

4. What is the difference between crime and vice? What example was given of each behavior?
Crime involves intent (to hurt someone). The example given was murder.
Vice is behavior that is sinful and stupid. The example given was getting drunk at home.

5. Under which realms of authority does the Libertarian view crime and and vice?
Crime falls under the realm of government authority. Vice falls under church and family authority.

6. How do most Libertarians view the smoking of pot?
It's a vice, not a crime. Therefore, it falls under the authority of either church or family (or both), but not under the government.

7. What are two other important considerations Christians should take into account when considering this issue? Explain how each can be applied.
We should apply wisdom and love to this issue.
Wisdom tells us that marijuana is harmful to individuals and to society.
Love tells us to treat our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, it is loving to have government keep people from hurting themselves and hurting society at large.

GOING DEEPER:

1. In the last chapter's Going Deeper section, we looked at what the Bible says about wisdom from Proverbs 2. You were then asked if you possessed godly wisdom. Maybe you struggled to answer that question. How can you know if you're wise? How can you know if you possess godly wisdom? Read James 3:13-18 for some answers.

According to James, there are two kinds of wisdom. One could be called "wisdom from below" and the other James called "wisdom from above".

How does he describe the wisdom from below?

It is earthly, natural and demonic – verse 15.

How does James describe the person whose wisdom is from below?

Their heart has bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. They are arrogant and lie against the truth – verse 14.

What is the result of this kind of wisdom?

Disorder and every evil thing – verse 16.

How does James describe the wisdom from above?

It is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy – verse 17.

How does one display their wisdom and understanding?

By his good behavior - deeds done in the gentleness of wisdom – verse 13.

2. Does your life show that you possess godly wisdom? Is your attitude, the words you speak, the life you live marked by purity, peace, gentleness, reasonableness, mercy and good fruits? Are you known to be someone who is unwavering and without hypocrisy? Of course you're still a sinner, but is your life overall marked by these things? Do you desire righteousness? Do you pursue the knowledge of God? Take some time to prayerfully consider these questions and then write down your prayer to the Lord. Be as honest with Him as possible. If you lack godly wisdom, read James 1:5-8 and write out your prayer to the Lord asking Him for His wisdom to mark your thinking and your life.

CHAPTER TEN: Christian Conundrums – Part 3

1. What is hermeneutics and how is it done?
Hermeneutics is the art and science of biblical interpretation. As applied to the Old Testament, hermeneutics helps us discover the principles within the historical narrative, so that we can apply them to our lives.

2. What is the “principlizing bridge” in hermeneutics? How does it work, as explained regarding the Old Testament?
It’s a tool we use to help us discover the principles in Scripture (in this case, the Old Testament, specifically) that we can apply to our lives. It bridges the distance between when the Old Testament was written and today (we live in the New Covenant era), by taking into account important factors such as which covenant (or testament) the text was written under, when it was written, and the language and culture from which the text was written.

3. What types of literature are Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy?
They are considered law books, as they detail the laws that God established for Israel.

4. What must we consider when we read these particular books of the Bible?
They were written thousands of years ago to the nation of Israel who was under the Mosaic (Old) Covenant. Neither the church, nor America today, is Israel; therefore, we must use the principlizing bridge to determine what principles from these books we should apply to our lives.

5. What overarching principle does Todd glean from Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy that applies to us today?
Government laws are good for people.

6. Summarize Todd’s conclusion of the Libertarian’s view of marijuana based upon this principle from the Old Testament, as well as the arguments given in Chapters 8 and 9.
Smoking marijuana is not only unwise, but it’s sinful. It’s not loving to let people hurt themselves, (and in this case, they’re scrambling their brains). It requires church discipline to address the problem and should be labeled as a crime by the government.

GOING DEEPER:

What is your view on legalizing the smoking of marijuana? Review the arguments for and against it from chapters 8-10, with careful consideration as to how you apply godly wisdom and love to this topic. Write your position below. Be as detailed as possible and be sure to support your answer with Scripture!

CHAPTER ELEVEN: How The Church Should Speak to Government – Part 1

1. List the two reasons why the letter from Rev. Daniel Hyde of Oceanside United Reformed Church is so spot on in its response to the government's legalizing of homosexual marriage.
 - 1) **It recognizes the different realms of authority given by God to both the church and the government, and stays within its realm.**
 - 2) **It's loaded with biblical language as opposed to political references.**
2. What is the significance of how the letter began?
By beginning, "In name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit", the church established its realm of authority as representing the "Lord of lords and King of kings". It wasn't appealing to government on the basis of politics or the Constitution, but upon its God-given role as representatives of Jesus Christ.
3. What should be the message of the church to those who are sinning, even those in government?
We should call them to repent!

GOING DEEPER:

To explore more deeply the issue of how Christians should engage with the government, let's look at how Paul interacted with the authorities of his day. While Paul's circumstances aren't analogous to the circumstances which caused Rev. Daniel Hyde's to write his letter, Paul's interactions with authorities are instructive for us nonetheless.

In Acts 21, Paul is arrested in the Temple in Jerusalem by the Jews on false charges of preaching against Jewish custom and Law. When a plot to assassinate Paul by the Jews comes to light, a Roman commander named Lysias makes arrangements for Paul to leave Jerusalem under heavy protection. He is taken to the Roman governor, Felix, in Caesarea.

1. Read Acts 23:26-35.

What caused Lysias to rescue Paul from the plot to assassinate him?
He was a Roman citizen – verse 27.

What did Lysias make of the accusations by the Jews?
He did not feel they were deserving of death or imprisonment – verse 29.

Who else was to come before Felix for Paul's hearing?
His accusers – verse 35.

2. Read Paul's defense before Felix in Acts 24:10-22.

What did Paul admit to?

In verses 14-15, He admitted that according to the Way (the early name for Christianity), he served the God of his Jewish fathers, and believed in everything in everything in accordance with the Law and Prophets, including having a hope in God that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

How does Paul's beliefs affect his actions? What does he tell Felix about his conscience?

Paul said he does his best to always maintain a blameless conscience before both God and men.

Why do you think Paul included the reference to his conscience?

Paul wanted Felix to know that he's not lying.

Why does Paul say he is on trial?

For claiming there is a resurrection of the dead.

3. In a Bible commentary or online resource, find information on Drusilla, (mentioned in Acts 24: 24), and her marriage to Felix. Write a short summary below.

Answer should include the following: She was Jewish, the daughter of Herod Agrippa I and sister of King Agrippa (before whom Paul will appear in chapter 25). Her marriage to Felix was her second marriage. While married to Azizus, king of Emesa, Felix lured her away with the help of a magician. During the events of Acts 24, she was probably only 20 years old.

4. Given what you learned about Drusilla, why might she have been interested in hearing Paul speak about his faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer could include: Possibly because she was Jewish, she knew of Paul prior to his conversion; or maybe she was interested in Paul's conversion, having been such a prominent Pharisee; or maybe she was interested in Christianity; or maybe all of the above!

5. What does Paul discuss with them? What is Felix's reaction and why do you think he reacted the way he did?

According to verse 25, Paul discussed righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come. Felix became frightened and sent Paul away. He was most likely frightened because he was under conviction!

6. Why do you think Paul chose to preach on the subjects he did?

Probably because they addressed Felix and Drusilla's scandalous marital situation, which was unrighteous, showed lack of self-control, and for which they would stand before God to give an account.

7. What similarities do you see between how Paul interacted with authorities in this instance and the letter from Oceanside United Reformed Church?

Answers can include: Paul's focus was more on sharing biblical truth and defending himself based upon those truths than focusing on his rights as a Roman citizen. Likewise, the letter from Oceanside United Reformed Church clearly focuses on biblical truth more than political arguments. Also, Paul was chiefly concerned about his hearers hearing the gospel and repenting for their sins. This seems to be the chief objective of the letter as well. In addition, Paul didn't cower before the authorities, but boldly proclaimed to them biblical truth despite the fact they were pagans and wayward Jews. He recognized their authority came from God and that they would give an account to Him on Judgment Day. The letter from Oceanside recognizes the same thing and boldly proclaims biblical truth despite the fact that the government authorities most likely don't recognize the Bible as authoritative, nor God as their ultimate authority.

CHAPTER TWELVE: How The Church Should Speak to Government – Part 2

1. The church is not just another special interest group. When she speaks to government, or about government issues, how is it different than when other groups speak?
The church has a different message, with different authority and different content.
2. Why did the letter include the reference to the church being called to offer “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings” for those in government?
To let the recipients know they were not the church's enemy, but were loved by them - and loved enough to be warned of their sin.
3. Why did the Pastor wait so long to bring up the subject of homosexuality?
He was setting up the realms of authority for government and church, establishing their boundaries and reminding government Who gave them their authority in the first place.
4. How does the letter explain the grievous nature of the sin of homosexuality?
It is an overturning of God's created order by humans who have rejected God and put themselves in His place. Therefore, it is a sign of God's wrath being poured out on a society.
5. According to this letter, homosexuality is a symptom of a larger problem in America. What is it and how does this letter describe it?
Homosexuality is a symptom of the sin of idolatry; and in America, the idol we worship is self.
6. What two Scripture passages are referenced in the letter to describe the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
Exodus 34:6-7 and John 3:16
7. The letter claimed there is no such thing as same-sex “marriage” and to say it exists is “hubris”. Define what hubris is and then give the two reasons stated in the letter for why the government's decision is hubris.
Hubris is arrogance. The letter states that it is arrogance for the government to consider itself wiser than God in reinventing the institution of marriage for the one true God created and revealed it to humanity. It is also arrogance toward all of human history that has regarded marriage as between one man and one woman.

GOING DEEPER:

Let's continue to look at how Paul dealt with the authorities in his day. Here is a brief summary of the events of Acts 25: Paul was held in Caesarea for two years until Felix was succeeded by Festus, before whom Paul appealed his case to Caesar. Before being taken to Rome, King

Agrippa (Herod Agrippa II) came to visit Festus. Festus, being a Roman and unfamiliar with Jewish law and custom, took the opportunity to bring Paul before the Jewish King so that Agrippa might be able to help substantiate a case against Paul before Paul was sent to Caesar.

Read Acts 26 and answer the following questions.

1. What question does Paul ask those listening?
"Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise people from the dead?" – verse 8.
2. What was Paul's main purpose in giving his defense as he did? Cite the verse which explains his motivation.
Paul's main purpose was to share the gospel with his hearers. In verse 29, he makes clear his wishes that the King and all in attendance would "become such as I am", meaning a born-again believer in Jesus Christ.
3. What do you think was Paul's purpose of going into detail of his life before his conversion?
He probably wanted to establish his credentials as a highly respected Jew, being a Pharisee of the strictest sect and zealous for Judaism. Recounting his persecution of Christians may have been to add credibility to his miraculous conversion.
4. Write out each of the verses in which Paul shares the gospel with his hearers.
**Verse 18: "...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."
Verse 20: ...but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."
Verses 22-23: And so, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.**
5. What was Festus' reaction to Paul's testimony and what was Paul's response?
Festus said Paul was out of his mind (verse 24). Paul responded that he was not out of his mind but uttering words of sober truth (verse 25).
6. Read verse 28 in a few different translations and then record King Agrippa's response to Paul's challenge to him in verse 27.
Based upon the different renderings of this verse, the King's response could mean that he needs a bit more time to be persuaded to become a Christian (NASB); or that Paul's testimony and explanation of the gospel was given in too short a time

to expect him to make a decision (ESV); or that Paul has almost persuaded him but has failed (NKJV).

7. What was King Agrippa's determination of the charges against Paul?

They didn't merit death or imprisonment – verse 31.

8. What insights from Paul's testimony before King Agrippa can you glean regarding sharing biblical truth, the gospel and one's own testimony before government officials?

Possible answers include: We shouldn't be frightened to share these things, nor consider them irrelevant just because the officials to whom we are speaking don't believe; sharing of the gospel is more important than defending ourselves or keeping ourselves out of prison; we can be a light no matter where we find ourselves.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: How the Church Should Speak to Government – Part 3

1. How should Christians respond when facing government persecution?
Like this letter, the Christian response is to declare that we are committed to God's truth and will not turn our backs on our Master, no matter what the government does to us.
2. What two persecuted Christians were quoted at the end of the letter?
Polycarp and Pastor Guido Brés.
3. The letter ends with the church making a final statement about where they stand. What do they say at the end?
Their consciences are captive to the Word of God and on it they stand; they can do no other.

GOING DEEPER:

1. List the Scripture used in the last part of the letter (including those used in the quotes), and write out the verses as they appear in the letter.
Like our Lord who "suffered outside the gate", we are willing to "go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured." – Hebrews 13: 12-13

...twisting Scriptures "to their own destruction," – 2 Peter 3:16

...but are ignorant of the fire of the coming judgment and of eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. – 2 Peter 3:7

"But having the fear of God before our eyes..." – Romans 3:18

"...and being in dread of the warning of Jesus Christ, who tells us that He shall forsake us before God and His Father if we deny Him before men..." – Matthew 10:33 (also Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26)

"...for we know that he who would follow Christ must take up his cross and deny himself." – Luke 9:23

"...we will turn the other cheek" – Matthew 5:39 (also Luke 6:29)

"we will count it a blessing to be 'persecuted for righteousness' sake" – 1 Peter 3:14

"so they persecuted the prophets before us" – Matthew 5:12

"we will count it all joy...when we meet trials of various kinds knowing that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness." – James 1:2-3

2. Give your thoughtful analysis of the entire letter (chapters 11-13). Among other things, consider: What was its main goal or chief purpose? Did it meet its goal and desired purpose? Why or why not? Would you have added or deleted anything to the letter? Etc.

Answer should be well thought out and include Scripture for support.