

### **WHY WERE THE APOSTLES NON-POLITICAL? (Part-nine of a ten-part study)**

The core issue underlying the current behavior of American Evangelicals is this. They have conflated political conservatism with Biblical Christianity. They are NOT the same. But once the conflation occurs, the confusion ensues; resulting in a susceptibility for being deceived and going astray. Paul rebuked the Galatians for embracing legalism by calling them “foolish” and asking who had “bewitched” them (3:1a). I know exactly who has bewitched and brainwashed my generation into becoming political activists, although I won’t name names. The initial Evangelical entrance into the political realm was motivated by the naïve notion that Christians would change politics for the better. They haven’t. Politics has changed Christians for the worse. How? Motivated by expedience, they have abandoned Biblical morality in favor of corrupt strategies, by making unethical compromises with men who are not Christians, espousing conspiracy theories which have no basis in factual truth, and even advocating for violence when it becomes necessary to achieve their political goals. The tragic end-result? It has irreparably damaged their testimony for Christ to the unsaved world. Unbelievers aren’t stupid. They can see right through the double standard hypocrisy being employed by people who should know better.

Ironically, my generation has never had a problem with properly applying Paul’s principle of being “unequally yoked,” found in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, in regard to marriage and business. But they seem to be in possession of a massive blind-spot when it comes to the arena of politics. Perhaps they have deceived themselves into thinking that Romans 13:1-4, which affirms human government as ordained of God, is also an endorsement for engaging in political activism. It is just the opposite! Those authorities have been ordained of God for the secular purpose of maintaining some semblance of law of order for a human race that is lost and fallen in sin, and on a downward spiral toward hell. Submitting to their authority keeps the Christian at a safe and non-offensive distance, away from any unwanted entanglements with them, just as Jesus taught us in Matthew 17:24-27. And if you don’t know this yet, know it now. Government is ordained of God. Politics, with its corrupting influence upon human government (Deuteronomy 16:18-20), is an invention of man; lost, fallen, sinful man. Paul would have considered political activism to be a weapon of the flesh; completely unnecessary for and irrelevant to, the spiritual warfare with which he was occupied, for furthering the cause of Christ in our world (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

The 2,000-year-old example of the apostles’ stance in remaining non-political during the course of their earthly lives and in their ministries, is speaking to us loudly and clearly. They rendered to the Caesars of this world, the things that rightly belong to their respective realms of authority, in order to remain as non-offensive as possible. But they never compromised their responsibility to render what was required of them by their ultimate authority, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 18:36), in the preaching of His eternal gospel. Their example is just as relevant now as it was back then. And it’s not too late for Evangelical Christians in America to begin following it.

I have given a great deal of thought to a closing remark, directed to my generation of Christians who have fallen prey to the enticements of the “political gospel.” It is an admonition that is in harmony with the teachings of our Lord and His apostles, but which would also directly address the critical and pressing need that exists for my generation right now. It is simply this.

**The job of Evangelical Christians in America, is not saving America, by means of political activism. The job of Evangelical Christians in America, is saving Americans, through the proclamation of the eternal gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**