



Philosophy of Ministry: Cultural Mandate of Master's Bible Church

Introduction

This document articulates the foundational philosophy of ministry for Cultural Mandate, a Master's Bible Church ministry dedicated to engaging the public square and shaping politics and public policy. Rooted in the unwavering truth of God's Word, we believe that all spheres of human endeavor, including government and law, are under the benevolent sovereignty of Jesus Christ and are to be conformed to His revealed will for the flourishing of humanity and the glory of God.

I. Core Conviction: The Cultural Mandate and the Lordship of Christ

Our ministry is built upon the biblical doctrine of the Cultural Mandate, as given to humanity in Genesis 1:28: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth." This command was not revoked after the Fall but rather reaffirmed and amplified through Christ's redemptive work. We believe:

- **God's Sovereignty Over All Creation:** All of creation—including social structures, institutions, and governing authorities—belongs to God and is intended to operate according to His design (Psalm 24:1; Romans 13:1).
- **Humanity's Role as Stewards:** As image-bearers of God, we are called to be faithful stewards of creation, which includes cultivating society, developing culture, and promoting justice and order in all its facets (Micah 6:8).
- **The Transformative Power of the Gospel:** The gospel of Jesus Christ is not merely for individual salvation but has profound implications for every dimension of life. Christ's redemptive work aims to reconcile all things to Himself, making possible the transformation of individuals and, through them, societies (Colossians 1:19-20; Matthew 28:18-20).
- **The Lordship of Christ:** Jesus Christ is Lord over *all* things (Matt 28:18-20). Therefore, His followers are called to apply His truth and principles to every area of life, seeking to honor Him in public discourse and policy formation.

II. The Biblical Worldview as the Foundation for Policy

We contend that a robust, comprehensive biblical worldview is the only reliable foundation for wise and just public policy. This worldview is characterized by:

- **Scriptural Authority:** The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, providing the ultimate standard for truth, morality, and justice.

- **Understanding Human Nature:** A biblical anthropology acknowledges humanity as created in God's image, inherently valuable yet fully fallen, requiring both dignity and moral restraint.
- **Divine Design for Institutions:** God has ordained key institutions—family, church, and government—each with distinct roles, responsibilities, and spheres of authority that should be respected and upheld.
- **Principles of Justice and Righteousness:** God's character reveals principles of justice, righteousness, mercy, and compassion that must guide laws and policies, ensuring equitable treatment, protection of the vulnerable, and the promotion of human flourishing.
- **Stewardship and Responsibility:** We are called to be good stewards of all of God's creation, including natural resources, economic systems, and civil government.

Our aim is to articulate and advocate for policies that reflect these truths, rather than merely reflecting temporal trends or having our light hidden beneath the basket of the local church building.

III. Strategic Engagement with Politics and Public Policy

Our ministry's engagement with the political and public policy spheres will be characterized by:

- **Prayer as the Primary Strategy:** We recognize that effective cultural and political transformation begins and is sustained by fervent prayer for leaders, for wisdom, and for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- **Education and Equipping:** We will educate and equip believers to understand biblical principles related to governance, economics, justice, and human dignity, empowering them to think critically about public issues from a biblical perspective and to engage as salt and light in their communities.
- **Principled Advocacy:** We will engage policymakers and the public with reasoned, well-researched arguments rooted in biblical principles, advocating for specific policies that align with God's design for human flourishing. This includes legislative advocacy, public commentary, and strategic communications.
- **Cultivating Christian Statesmanship:** We aim to foster a new generation of Christian leaders in public service who are grounded in a biblical worldview, committed to ethical governance, and courageous enough to stand firm when demonic attacks and temptations inevitably come.

- **Collaborative Partnerships:** We will seek to partner with other like-minded individuals, ministries, organizations, and churches who share a commitment to biblical truth and cultural transformation, recognizing that collective effort amplifies impact.
- **Focus on Institutional Change:** While valuing individual transformation, love for zeitgeist that have been taken over by evil forces. We will retake lost ground for Christ, influencing the laws, regulations, and narratives that shape public life.

IV. Desired Outcomes and the Glory of Christ

Our ultimate desire is not merely to win political battles but to see society increasingly reflect the wisdom and justice of God, thereby bringing glory to Christ. Specific outcomes we pursue include:

- **Policies that Uphold the Sanctity of Life:** From conception to natural death.
- **Policies that Strengthen the Family:** As the foundational unit of society, based on God's design.
- **Policies that Protect & Encourage Christian Liberty:** Ensuring the right of individual Christians and institutions to serve Christ freely, without threat.
- **Policies that Promote Justice and Human Dignity:** Particularly for the poor, oppressed, and powerless (as defined by scripture, not popular culture).
- **Policies that Foster Economic Flourishing and Responsible Stewardship:** Creating environments where individuals and communities can thrive by obeying God, living quiet and peaceable lives.

We understand that the full realization of God's kingdom will only occur upon Christ's return. However, we are called to be faithful agents of His redemptive purposes in the here and now, striving to bring "on earth as it is in heaven" as much as possible through transformed lives and reformed societies. Every effort, every conversation, and every policy advocated is ultimately a humble offering back to the One who is Lord of all, to His glory.

Conclusion

This ministry is fundamentally an act of worship, driven by a deep love for God and for our neighbors. By faithfully applying God's Word to the critical sphere of politics and public policy, we endeavor to be instruments of His grace and truth, sowing seeds of righteousness that, by His Spirit, may yield a harvest of justice, human flourishing, and ultimately, a world that more brightly reflects the incomparable glory of Jesus Christ.