



**REASON #3:
THE CHURCH
IS TOO POLITICAL**

The Problem of Hypocrisy

If we pursue what we believe is a Christ-like objective, but we pursue it in an un-Christ-like way —with pride and insults and self-righteousness — we've contradicted our message. Or, if we passionately support political leaders who pursue a Christ-like objective, but they go about it in an un-Christ-like way, we've contradicted our message. So we might win the battle—we might mobilize enough people to change a law—but we've lost the war. We've lost the hearts, the trust and the respect of the very people we are trying to influence.

The Problem of Idolatry

People go to see their candidate speak. And they're so fired up. They've got the T-shirt; they've got the sign; they're waving the flag; they are delirious in cheering for their hero. They hang on their every word. We shouldn't get too excited about any human leader, they are temporary. It's really simple math: we have the temporary...and the permanent. And we have to decide which one we're going to rest our hope in. When we believe that the kingdom of God will continue forever, we become a little more humble and a little less ethnocentric. We hold a little more loosely to the flag, and a little more tightly to the cross, because we realize that our deepest identity is not being Republican, Democrat, or American...it's being in Christ. And that's a really good thing.

The Privilege of Citizenship

As Christians, we don't have the option of looking at the towns where we live as evil and beyond hope. God told his people living in Babylon to pray for that city and seek shalom. He says, "I have put you there for a reason —to bring my peace to that place." Sink roots; care about what's going on in your town; get to know the people around you; serve the needs there; pray for it; work to make it better. Don't think of it like, 'They're going to contaminate me!'; think of it like, 'I get to bless them!' That was God's word to His people back then, and it's God's word to us. If God has called you to be involved in your community through politics, do it in a way that works for Christ-like goals in a Christ-like way. Because you represent Jesus, and that's an awesome responsibility.

We must pray for our political leaders.

Whether we like them or not.

Whether we voted for them or not.

Because whether our leaders realize it or not, the wisdom they really need comes from God. And when they lead well, the shalom level goes up, and everyone is blessed.

Pastor Dave Gustavsen

Done with Church

TIME TO LEAN IN, LISTEN, & LEARN