

## **GOD AND POLITICS**

FLOOD, 2 November 2008 at 6 pm

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### INTRODUCTION: THE NATURE OF POLITICS

1. Definition
2. Politics Matters
3. Qualities of Leaders<sup>1</sup>
4. The Integrity of the Political Process

### A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANS AND POLITICS

1. An Apolitical Jesus  
“My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36).
2. The Persecuted Early Church
3. When Christians Came into Earthly Power
  - a. The Kingdom of God
  - b. The Crown Rights of the Redeemer
  - c. Government as a Gift
4. Christendom
  - a. Christians Remain Flawed and Sinful
  - b. Power Was Abused and Misused

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<sup>1</sup> See Mark McCloskey, “How to Pick a President,” on the character issue, at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/june/17.22.html>

## THE SEARCH FOR A BETTER WAY

1. Democracy
2. Separation of Church and State

## THE AMERICAN TWO-PARTY SYSTEM<sup>2</sup>

## DECLINING CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE

## THE CURRENT SITUATION

## SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

So now we are about to come full circle, and ask once again the very practical question: What should we do on Election Day? Here we conclude with a number of important observations.

1. Let the Church Stick to Being the Church<sup>3</sup>
2. Civility: What Christians Can Contribute to the Process<sup>4</sup>
3. Unselfish Choice-Making: Beyond Mere Self-Interest and Nationalism
4. Care for the Powerless and Disadvantaged
5. Advocates of Freedom
6. Awareness of the Limits of Earthly Governments, and the Need for a Different Kind of Kingdom
7. Modeling the Virtues of Frugality and Contentment
8. Love and Responsibility for Those Who Will Follow Us (Future Generations)

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<sup>2</sup> See Jim Wallis, *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong, and the Left Doesn't Get It* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005); compare Roger Olson, *How to Be an Evangelical without Being Conservative* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Gregory Boyd, *The Myth of a Christian Nation: How the Quest for Political Power Is Destroying the Church* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).

<sup>4</sup> Richard Mouw, *Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1992).