***Christ and Culture-Engaging in the Midst of Politics***

-Based on Focus on Family Truth Project with teachings from Christian Theologian Dr. Wayne Grudem and Michael Wear

4 Week Class

Facilitator Suggested Questions

*Note to Facilitator: You will probably not be able to get through all the questions-- just pick the ones that you believe are most relevant for your group.*

**Week One:**

*Dr. Wayne Grudem, Five Wrong Views of Political Involvement*

* #1 -*Why is it wrong that Government Should Compel Religion?* ( Answer: Matt 11:28-genuine faith cannot be forced; Jesus distinguished the realms of God and Caesar (Matt 22:18)
* # 2- *Why is it wrong that Government should exclude Religion*?(Answer: 1) It changes freedom of religion into freedom FROM religion. First amendment of US Constitution declares, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion….).2) Separation of church and states is NOT in the constitution be first seen in a letter from Thomas Jefferson in 1802 which he assured the Baptists in Connecticut that the govt would never interfere with the affairs of their church. 3)The “exclude religion” view was never adopted by the American people through any democratic process but is imposed on our nation thru the judicial branch 4)It removes government from God’s teaching about good and evil (Rom 13:4)
* #*3-Why is it wrong that some people say that all Government is Evil and Demonic*? (Answer: God has given us govt to do good -Dan 4:17; Rom 13:1-6, 1 Pet 2:14)
* #4-*Should we just evangelize and not worry about what our government is doing?* (Answer No-God calls Christians to do good works Eph 2:10; Govt is a way to love our neighbors (Matt 22:30); Good govt and bad govt makes a huge difference in people’s lives and in the church (difference between North Korea and South Korea) 1 Tim 2:2)
* *#5-Should we just do politics and not worry about evangelism?(*Answer: N0-Good laws along will not solve a nation’s problems or bring about God’s righteousness-only Christ can do that.)
* *Why should Christians seek to have influence on Government*? (Answer: Old Testament is full of examples-Dan:4:27; Jer 29:7; Gen 41:37-45;Esther, Isaiah 13-23, etc. New Testament-Matt 14:3-4, Luke 3:18-20; Mark 6:21-29.
* *Without Christian influence, the government will have no moral compass*

Michael Wear,

* What does Michael say about politics? What should we rise above? (Answer: Rise above partisanship and let God be our God….not politics)
* Where is our hope? In partisanship? In who is President?
* What did you think when Michael said, “ It is time Christians to stop looking toward politics as hope. It is time for Christians to start carrying kingdom hope into politics out of the love of God and for the love of their neighbors. “