

Faith in Action: Public Life and Politics
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour Indiana
Pastor Blumenberg
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Overview: This class will study issues that are being debated in our nation that are worth every Christian's time to understand. We will seek to apply God's Word to current issues and make good decisions about them. We will also examine how Christians can provide leadership in what takes place in public life, rather than merely reacting to events and trends.

1. Last Week: Politics, public life, and the place of religious convictions

Read Matthew 5:13-16 (1029)

How is faith seen?

What is the ultimate result of living out our faith?

*The Christian faith is **personal** in that each person believes for himself/herself and faith makes our personal identity to be a known, beloved child of God. However, it is more than a **private** opinion or conviction. The Christian faith engages all of our life and gives us a perspective on **public life and politics** that will otherwise not be represented.*

2. Two Kingdoms, one King

Is America a Christian nation? Well, that depends on what you mean.

Founders
Principles
Purpose

However we answer the question, the Bible says there are two "kingdoms" or spheres by which the same God does different things. These are referred to as His left-hand Kingdom and His right-hand kingdom – but both are His.

A. Read Romans 13:1-7 (1206)

By "Kingdom of the Left," we mean:

Earthly _____ in which God _____ His _____
to curb _____ and _____.

How did we become citizens of the Kingdom of the Left?

What is the origin of government?

What are the God-given purposes of government?

What means does the left-hand kingdom use to do its work?

To whom is government accountable, and how?

B. Read John 18:36 (1151)

Read John 19:10-11 (1152)

Read Colossians 1:13-14 (1251)

By “Kingdom of the Right,” we mean:

Christian _____ in which God _____ His _____
to _____ and make _____ of God through
_____ in _____.

How did we become citizens of the Kingdom of the Right?

What are the God-given purposes of the Church?

What means does the Church use to do its work?

To whom is the Church accountable, and how?

3. Sorting out Our Citizenship
Read 1 Peter 2:9-17 (1294-1295)

Where is our primary citizenship?

What is our primary calling?

How does earthly government assist this calling?

4. “Separation of Church and State.” Bill of Rights:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

What did the founders mean, and why did they state this?

What did the founders not mean?

What about posting 10 commandments in courthouses or displaying nativity scenes?

How about the used of “God” in the Pledge and on our coins?

Should religious organizations be excluded from applying for grants?

Next Week: Culture, politics, and religion: who is influencing who?