

## **Are We Too Political?**

Slaying the Dragons of Deception #6  
Proverbs 14:34; John 18:36

*“Twenty years ago, when I was looking at evangelical Christianity from the inside, it seemed like a movement bursting with energy to spread good news to people. Looking at it from the outside today, this message seems to have been lost in exchange for an aggressive political strategy that demonizes segments of society. I believe that American Christians have become tools of the Republican election machine – at the expense of their own image and message.” - Brandon, age 32*

### **How Are Political Interests Changing?**

*“Young adults are embracing a worldview at odds with Scripture. There are subtle yet powerful worldview shifts taking place all around us. For instance, currently just one third of twentysomethings believe that humans are superior to other living things created by God, which compares to half of those in their thirties and nearly three-fifths of those over the age of forty.”*  
Unchristian, pg. 165

\_\_\_ **Poverty** \_\_\_ **The Environment** \_\_\_ **Abortion**

\_\_\_ **Human Rights** \_\_\_ **Health Care** \_\_\_ **Gay Marriage**

\_\_\_ **AIDS & Genocide** \_\_\_ **National Security**

\_\_\_ **The Economy** \_\_\_ **Religious Freedom**

*“Christians are primarily motivated by a political agenda and promote right-wing politics.”*

Vs.

*“Christians are characterized by respecting people, thinking Biblically, and finding solutions for complex problems.”*

## **Dangers and Cautions Regarding Christian Political Engagement**

**Danger #1:** *To rely too heavily on political influence.*  
Matthew 5:9; 22:21; John 18:36; Jeremiah 5:28

**Caution:** *Don’t place too much emphasis on politics. The needs are greater than “political.”*

**Danger #2:** *To get enamored with politics*  
Matthew 20:20-28; Micah 7:3; Isaiah 5:8

**Caution:** *There’s nothing to gained by winning elections if we lose our soul in the process.*

**Danger #3:** *To drown out and demonize the voices of others.*  
James 3:5-13; Matthew 5:21-22; Ephesians 4:15

**Caution:** *Respect our enemies and be aware of our capacity for myopia (failing to see the whole issue).*

**Danger #4:** *Not respecting leaders whose political viewpoint is different from their own.*  
Matthew 5:43-48; 1 Peter 2:17

**Caution:** *Respect and listen to our leaders and pray for them.*

**Danger #5:** *Being hypocritical when it comes to politics.*  
Matthew 5:13; Mark 9:42-50; Matthew 5:14-16

**Caution:** *Try to solve problems in society, but be vigilant about our own capacity for hypocrisy.*

**Matthew 5:13a** (NIV) *You are the salt of the earth.*

*“We have no liberty to either preserve our holiness by escaping from the world, or, to sacrifice our holiness by conforming to the world. - John Stott*