

## STAND UP. SPEAK OUT

### Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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The "separation of church and state" is the principle of keeping the government from interfering with religious institutions and vice versa. However, this should not be interpreted as having little to no interest or participation in the government (political) scenario.



God's love for us should be the foundation to exercise our moral responsibility, to care for others and the world, to participate in God's plan and to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth (Eph. 1:10). Through the works of Christ, we can separate Christianity from our political life.

#### 1. Jesus came to proclaim and establish God's Kingdom.

Jesus taught us about the Kingdom of God—a reality established here on earth and a hope with the ultimate fulfillment in heaven. The Kingdom of God is wherever He reigns, and His will is done; It about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17).

**1.1 Righteousness** (Obedience) is the right acceptable relationship with God.

**1.2 Peace** is the right relationship with others and the world – loving and harmonious.

**1.3 Joy** is the fruit of righteousness and peace.

Therefore, God and the Church call us to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth by living in right relationship with God, others, and the world, in our religious and political lives—a preparation for the fullness of God's Kingdom in Heaven.

#### 2. Jesus came to bring salvation (eternal life).

**2.1 Salvation is often viewed as a future event**, but it is a reality that involves living a life that pleases God here on earth and experiencing its fullness in the life to come.

**2.2 Jesus reconciled God and humanity**, breaking down the separation caused by sin. He reconciled people and the world. The mission is to gather all things together under His headship—the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21:1).

**2.3 Christ's salvation does not prevent (us) Christians from participating in politics.** Instead, it provides insight into the purpose and motivation behind such participation. It is Christians' moral obligation to shape the society in ways that reflect Christian values, thereby bringing about positive change in the world as part of God's plan.

#### Conclusion:

As Christians, we have a moral obligation to participate in politics as a means of living out our faith by establishing God's kingdom through right relationships with God, others, and the world and shaping our society in ways that reflect Christian values.

#### Reflection:

1. How do you view political issues in your Christian life?
2. How do you stand up and speak out about Christian values when faced with political conflicts?

#### SCRIBES Ministry

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#Peace#Joy#Salvation

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