



# Should the Church Get Involved in Politics

Kent Sparks

Theologian Carl F. Henry warned his post-WW II contemporaries that historic Christianity risked losing cultural influence because of the Church's hesitancy to apply the gospel to the pressing world problems. He argued that instead of withdrawing, Christians must engage the public square by applying the fundamentals of their Faith to the full range of issues which the gospel speaks, including government and politics. Unfortunately, his warning over a century ago was not heeded, resulting in the rise of secularism and the repudiation of Judeo-Christian values.

***This is why Christians must reenter the public arena in all its facets – so a dying culture can find life in the biblical wisdom and hope of the gospel.***

In its original sense, politics is intimately connected to community and how we relate to other people. It's inextricably linked to the concept of loving one's neighbor. In this sense, Christianity actually requires political engagement. Living for Christ and living out the gospel demands living intentionally in today's culture – sharing our Faith, strengthening families, engaging in government, advocating just laws, and protecting God-given liberties that lead to human flourishing.

## Reflection questions

1. What are some ways the Church's involvement in government has promoted flourishing in our society?
2. Why do you think so many in the Church have pulled away from the political process or bought in to a false dichotomy of Faith and governmental issues?