



# Duel Citizenship

*Can my pastor talk politics?*

## Introduction

1. How do you think someone who is not a Christian would answer this question: Why do Christian churches exist? (In other words, what is their purpose?)
2. How would you answer that question?
3. If there's a difference in answers, what do you think is the cause?

## The Jurisdiction, Purpose, and Tools of the Church

### Luke 17:21

1. With what aspect of our lives is the church concerned?

### Romans 3:20

### Mark 16:15,16

2. What goal is the church trying to achieve with its concern?



**Psalm 19:7**

3. As the church preaches God's law with the goal of leading sinners to repentance, on what will that law be based?

**Hebrews 4:12**

4. As the church carries out its mission of leading sinners to repentance and then leading repentant sinners to their Savior, what tool has God given it?

**The Jurisdiction, Purpose, and Tools of Civil Government**

**1 Peter 2:13,14**

1. With what aspect of our lives is civil government concerned?

**1 Timothy 2:1,2**

2. What goal is civil government trying to achieve with its concern?

**Romans 2:14,15**

3. As government regulates behavior by passing laws, on what will those laws be based?

**Romans 13:3,4**

4. As government regulates behavior by enforcing those laws, what tool has it been given by God?

## The Overlap

As separate and as different as these two institutions are, though both established by God, they inevitably overlap. Most notably this occurs in the life of the individual Christian. He or she is a citizen of both kingdoms. Therefore, pastors rightly speak the Word of God to the people of God to encourage them in their lives as citizens of both. Discuss the wisdom of pastors engaging in each of the following:

1. Telling members of the church whom they should vote for in an election.
2. Telling members of the church to vote.
3. Letting it be widely known whom he will vote for (or where he stands on other political issues).
4. Identifying legislation passed by civil government as contrary to God's law and therefore bad for society.
5. Helping people formulate sound arguments on the basis of reason that they can take into the civic arena to support laws that conform with God's laws.

## **BONUS MATERIAL**

*Recently our nation's Supreme Court passed a decision that made same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states of our country.*

1. Is it possible for a Christian who takes God's Word seriously to be supportive of same-sex marriage? Explain your answer.
  
2. Is it possible for a Christian who takes God's Word seriously to remain against same-sex marriage as a moral issue but accepting of a law that allows it in our society? Explain your answer.
  
3. While we might think of potential negative consequences that this ruling will have for the church, what are some potential blessings that it might lead to?
  - In our mission of proclaiming the gospel.
  
  - In our desire to honor and uphold the beauty of God's design for marriage.
  
  - In the way we interact with people, especially those who disagree with us.