Christians and Politics: Part Two

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I. The Christian's Identity in the World: Pilgrim and Sojourners

A. Unlike _____, Scripture tells us that we are pilgrims and sojourners in the world.

i. "To those who are elect _____ of the dispersion" (1 Pet 1:1).

ii. "Beloved, I urge you as _____ and _____ to abstain from the passions of the flesh" (1 Pet 2:11).

iii. Jesus answered Pilate, "My kingdom is _____" (Jn 18:36).

B. Believers have always been out of place in this world—OT & NT saints alike.

i. "They were _____ and _____ on the earth" (Heb 11:13).

ii. "The world is _____ along with its desires" (1 John 2:17).

iii. And as Paul says in Phil 3:20, "Our citizenship is in _____."

iv. Our _____ citizenship must inform how we interact with the world.

C. Christian Nationalists and Theonomists go astray because they only look at OT Israel.

i. In order to understand how Christians should engage in the world and politics, we need to understand the relationship between the _____ and _____ Covenants.

ii. Hebrews 8:13 is clear: "In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."

iii. Dispensationalism: There is only _____ between Old & New.

iv. Theonomy (& C. Nationalism): There is only _____ between Old & New.

v. Right answer: There is substantial _____ & drastic _____

II. The Biblical Example: Joseph and Daniel

A. Joseph

i. Joseph was born in the land that God promised to Abraham, but as a _____.

ii. In Egypt, Joseph was put in charge of the whole country, second only to Pharoah.

iii. He didn't try to transform the culture of Egypt to be more Hebrew, but he did strive to make Egypt a better place, to provide food during the famine.

iv. But he didn't put his hope in Egypt, his hope was for the _____.

B. Daniel

i. Daniel and his friends were _____, but they held influential political offices too.

ii. They never tried to overthrow the pagan culture/ govn't & make a Jewish nation.

iii. But they weren't at home in Babylon: They practiced _____.

iv. They were faithful servants of God, and faithful servants of their nation.

C. Lessons for Christians today: recognize where you fall in _____.

i. Joseph & Daniel knew that they were pilgrims & sojourners in Egypt & Babylon.

ii. As Christians, we need to remember that we're pilgrims & sojourners in the world

iii. Our hope must never be in politics or nations, but in the _____

iv. As we interact in politics & culture, we need to ask ourselves: how can we be faithful servants of God's Kingdom & our earthly nations?

III. Practical Application: POPLL

A. What the Church as an institution and Christians as individuals may do: P_____.

B. What Christians may do: O_____, P_____, L_____, L_____

C. For more on POPLL, visit heidelblog.net/tag/popll/

John Calvin on John 18:36:

"This defense was made by Christ before Pilate, but the same doctrine is useful to believers to the end of the world; for if the kingdom of Christ were earthly, it would be frail and changeable, because the fashion of this world passes away (1 Cor 7:31) but now, since it is pronounced to be heavenly, this assures us of its perpetuity. Thus, should it happen, that the whole world were overturned, provided that our consciences are always directed to the kingdom of Christ, they will, nevertheless, remain firm, not only amidst shakings and convulsions, but even amidst dreadful ruin and destruction. If we are cruelly treated by wicked men, still our salvation is secured by the kingdom of Christ, which is not subject to the caprice of men. In short, though there are innumerable storms by which the world is continually agitated, the kingdom of Christ, in which we ought to seek tranquility, is separated from the world."