

A Positional Statement on the Church's Involvement in Politics

Salvation, Freedom, and the Limits of Social Power

We believe it is the purpose of the Church to influence society, though we acknowledge that what constitutes faithful Christian influence has long been debated. Scripture consistently teaches that the people of God are to be salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:13–16), by wooing the individual and shaping culture through truth, love, and holy presence.

At the center of this calling stands God's desire to have a loving relationship with humans, created in the image of God and endowed with moral agency. We see how God prioritized this agency and therefore we do too.

“So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him.” (Genesis 1:27, ESV)

The Risk God Embraced for Genuine Love.

We affirm that one of the most sacred gifts God has given humanity is the freedom to choose, particularly the freedom to respond to Him in love, trust, and obedience. From the very beginning, God honored this freedom even though it carried profound risk.

The presence of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden testifies that God prioritized freely chosen love over forced righteousness. The risk was real and so was the freedom. This is precisely what made the potential for genuine love real.

“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...” (Genesis 2:16–17, ESV)

God could have created a world without choice, without risk, without rebellion. Instead, He created a world where obedience was meaningful precisely because disobedience was possible. Love that is coerced is not love at all. We acknowledge the importance of order, but do not turn a blind eye to the priority of the genuine choice to love.

As C. S. Lewis observed, “God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go wrong or right... If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad.”¹

Salvation Is Always Personal

We therefore affirm that real salvation is born out of a genuine heart that desires it. Therefore, it cannot be imposed by society, culture, or political structure. It is always the result of an individual response to God's grace.

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9, ESV)

“Choose this day whom you will serve.” (Joshua 24:15, ESV)

Scripture repeatedly locates belief, repentance, and faith in the heart of the individual, not in the success of social systems. Even the most just laws and righteous societies cannot produce a transformed heart.

A holy social system is the sum of transformed hearts through personal salvation. Man made social systems cannot make a holy heart.

“Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7, ESV)

“You must be born again.” (John 3:7, ESV)

A society may restrain evil, promote justice, and protect the vulnerable and these are good and necessary aims, but it cannot regenerate the soul. Only the Holy Spirit can do that (John 6:63; Titus 3:5).

The Limits and Necessity of Social Influence

“My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36, ESV)

We therefore reject the idea that political power can usher in the kingdom of God. Jesus Himself made clear that His kingdom does not advance by force and when force is necessary it is not for salvation but to protect the individual’s freedom to choose partnership with God and to protect the world God created.

Therefore, we also reject the opposite error, that the Church should be silent when social forces remove the freedom necessary for individuals to seek God. When injustice, tyranny, or oppression crushes human agency, the Church must speak and act.

“Open your mouth for the mute,
for the rights of all who are destitute.” (Proverbs 31:8, ESV)

This is not an attempt to manufacture righteousness, but to protect the space where real repentance and faith remain possible.

The Individual Before the Institution

We believe the most eternally valuable reality in any society is the individual human soul, not the institutions that surround it.

This conviction explains why we seek to be bold from the pulpit and compassionate toward the individual. When the Church speaks with moral clarity, it does so not to coerce belief, but to preserve access, to ensure that every person has the freedom to encounter the family of God and decide, before Him, what they will love and whom they will serve.

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” (Mark 8:36, ESV)

Living Between the Kingdoms

Finally, we confess that a day is coming when Christ will return as King, and the season of choosing will come to its close.

“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” (Philippians 2:10–11, ESV)

Until that day, the Church’s calling is to defend the dignity of the human heart, honoring the God-given freedom to wrestle, to repent, to believe, or to refuse. We engage society not as saviors, but as witnesses, trusting that truth spoken in love remains God’s chosen means of transformation.

References (Chicago Style)

1. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: HarperOne, 2001), 52.
2. Timothy Keller, *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012), 221.