

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Corinthians 5:9-13
Lesson #10
Associations
12/04/2022

Test cases for Bereans

1.
Should a Christian citizen who views **Homosexual acts** as a curse on humanity defend gay civil rights?

2.
Can the president who is **“pro-life”** personally but **“pro-choice”** politically be biblically sound?

1 Corinthians 5

“9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 **I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world**, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then **you would have to go out of the world.**”

11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called (named as a) brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one.

12 For **what have I to do with judging outsiders?** Do you not judge those who are within the church?
13 **But those who are outside, God judges.”**

1 Peter 2:11

“Beloved, I urge you as **aliens and strangers**”

John 18:36
“**my kingdom is not of this world.** If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would be fighting,”

Romans 12:18
“If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men.**”

Matthew 22:21

“Then **render to Caesar** the things that are Caesar’s **and to God** the things that are God’s.”

In this world, we are to be Alien, Ambassador, Associates.

Jesus did not seek to build God’s kingdom through **Caesar or the Roman empire.**

- Jesus promised
- to be **with us** through the storms,
 - **sharing** our burdens
 - not **changing** the weather.

His disciples are called to **walk in his shoes** as the “body of Christ” on earth.

We are to be peacemakers in the state, not kingdom builders through, the state.

We have many Biblical Mandates.

Commission mandate
We are to make disciples.

Character mandate
We bear the image of God.

Creation mandate
We are stewards of the planet.

Church
(Body of Christ)

Charismatic mandate
We have individual roles



State
(all humanity)

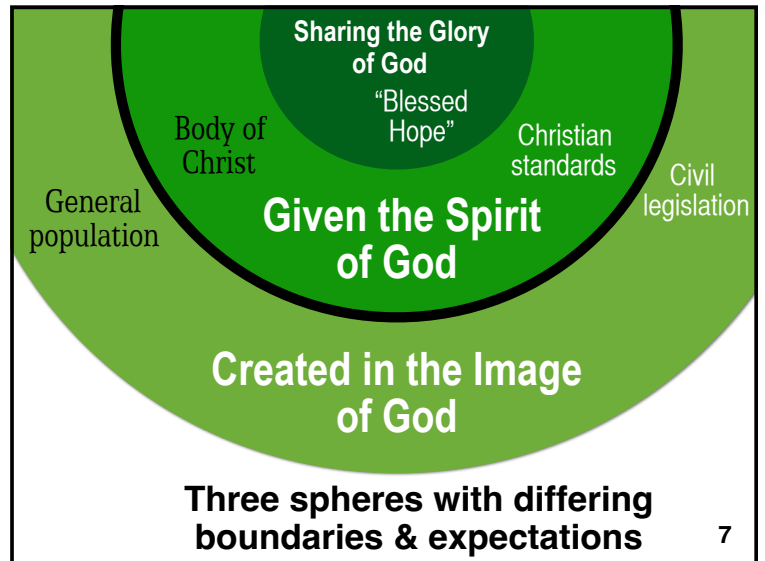
Cultural (civil) mandate
We are our brother’s keeper.

The states’ interest is centered in “Creation, Culture, & Character”

A Berean's lens for reading and applying Scripture to difficult moral issues:

Respect the distinctive contexts of:

- 1. Church & State domains.**
Image of God responsibilities vs. Body of Christ responsibilities.
- 2. New & Old Covenant domains.**
temporal / material expectations vs. eternal / spiritual expectations.



Created in the Image of God

- This a **universal** distinctive of **HUMANITY**.
- The U.S. constitution respects this fact as 1) **"self evident"** and 2) the basis of our republic's social ethic.
 - Our **domestic and foreign policy** is based on this truth.
 - As citizens we are expected to live and legislate this truth as a part of **"the general welfare"**.
 - Christian appeals to the state are **limited** by this boundary.

Public policy is not the same as Christian doctrine



- Does it serve the general welfare?
- Does it tie the state to any one sect?
- Does it properly respect human freedom?
- **Does it reflect common law?**
- **Does it have the consent of the governed?**

The Declaration of Independence

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness:**

This endowment is a natural moral instinct.

That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers **from the Consent of the governed,"**

Its execution is in the hands of Government empowered by the people.

Make disciples IN the state through the church not OF the state through political control.

"Senator, when you took your oath of office, you placed your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. You didn't place your hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible."

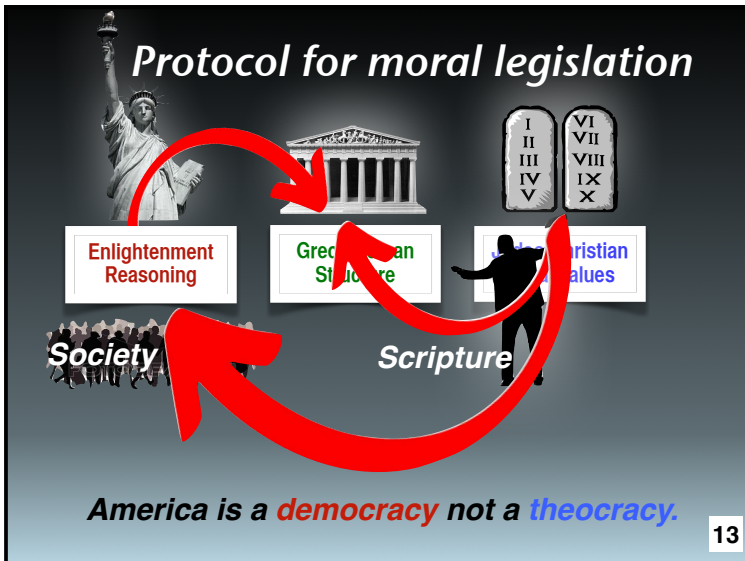


Jamie Raskin
(Law professor, Congressman)

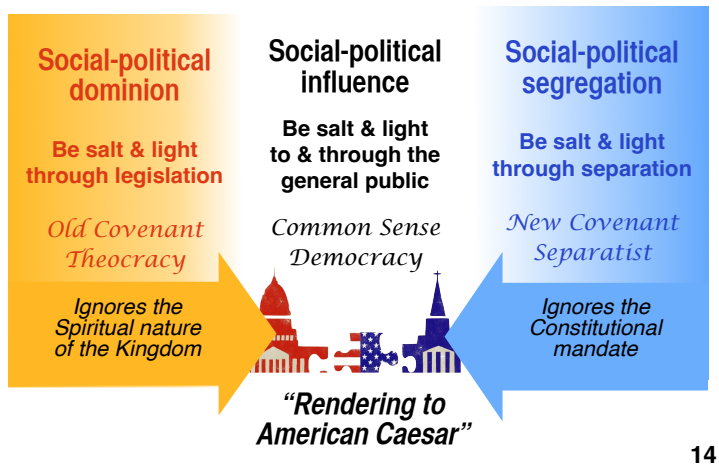
What are the roots of the American system?



Protocol for moral legislation



Three models of the church's relationship with American Caesar and God



Respect the distinctive contexts of:

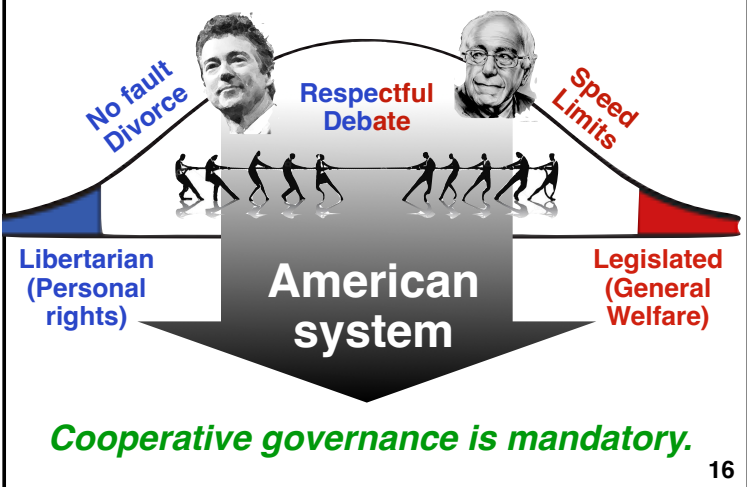
1. Church & State domains.

Image of God responsibilities vs. Body of Christ responsibilities.

We need to respect #1 as we look at rendering to Caesar and God.



Tension is built into the American system.



Tension is built into our system of Government.



Respect the distinctive contexts of:

2. **New & Old Covenant domains.**

temporal / material expectations vs. eternal / spiritual expectations.

Old Covenant

MATERIAL
over spiritual,

Focus on legal
controls

New Covenant

SPIRITUAL
over material,

Focus on free
consensus

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The change of covenants
redefined priorities, hopes, and expectations

The **Cross** made
the way for it.

Pentecost bore
the fruit of it.

The Old Covenant
would end.

A New Covenant
would begin.

The nation Israel



Theocracy



Easter was
the seal of it.

O.T. - Gospels



The Body of Christ

Democracy

Acts - Epistles

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*How should Christians “render”
to American Caesar?*

*In this world, we are to be
Alien, Ambassador, Associates.*

1. Associate as Aliens *like Jesus*
2. Place your hope in the world to come *like Jesus*
3. Make peace not war *like Jesus*
4. Follow the Way of the Cross *like Jesus*

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*Berean's should be peacemakers, salt
shakers, and light spreaders.*

Galatians 6:10

“So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

James 3

“17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in **peace** by those who **make peace**.”

Matthew 5

“13 You are the **salt of the earth**; . . . 14 you are the **light of the world**.”

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A Berean's look at ...

Next week
James 2:8-9

**Civil
Rights**

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