

How Should Christians Engage In Politics?

How To Navigate Politics As A Monarchist

James 3:13-4:3

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / August 18, 2024

James 3:13-4:3 “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord. Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. Christians are “monarchists” before anything else.

A. Jesus has His own set of politics. He’s a King!

Isaiah 9:7 “Of the increase of His **government** and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his **kingdom**, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the **kingdom** of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 28:18 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All **authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to Me...”

Revelation 1:5 “...and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and **the ruler** of kings on earth...”

Your allegiance to Jesus is the most important thing about you.

7 Commitments For Christian Monarchists Navigating An Election Year

1. Our awareness won’t lead to alarmism, and our concerns won’t lead to catastrophizing (Phil. 4:6-7).
2. We know there are no life circumstances in which we can’t trust God (Heb. 10:36; 12:2).
3. We won’t think Satan might gain an upper hand as a result of who wins an election (Matt. 16:18).
4. We know the changes we need don’t come through politics, but supernaturally through Christ (Eph. 2:1-10).

5. We won't allow our politics to become our passions that divide us (James 4:1-3).
6. We set our minds on things above to rightly understand things down here (Col. 3:2; James 3:17).
7. We will remember God's mercy towards us in order to be "full of mercy" towards others, even and especially when they are not merciful to us (James 3:17).

II. Since Christians are "monarchists," we'll never fit nicely into a democracy, and that's OK.

Philippians 3:18-21 "For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰**But our citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."

Ephesians 2:19 "...but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints and **members of the household of God...**"

Hebrews 11:13 "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, **and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**"

Hebrews 13:14 "For here we have no lasting city, **but we seek the city that is to come.**"

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. What was the first election you voted in? Who won? Who lost?
2. Why is it difficult for us to embrace the fact that Christians are, first and foremost, monarchists?
3. Pastor Peter said, "Your allegiance to Christ is the most important thing about you." Why do you agree or disagree with that statement?
4. Pastor Peter used the term "politically homeless" and referred to not "fitting in" to a democracy. Why did/didn't those terms resonate with you?
5. Which of the "7 Commitments For Christian Monarchists Navigating An Election Year" were helpful reminders? Which of them were particularly "good news"?