

Family Policy Institute
OF WASHINGTON

JUST PREACH THE GOSPEL?
HANDLING 12 OBJECTIONS ABOUT BEING SALT & LIGHT



PASTORS • ELDERS • DEACONS • STAFF

TOGETHER WE WILL

DEFEND & ADVANCE

BIBLICAL VALUES IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

CHURCH
DEFENDER
SERIES

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FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF WASHINGTON (FPIW)

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Family Policy Institute of Washington is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
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This publication is designed to provide general information on biblical worldviews among Christians.
It is not intended to provide legal counsel or other professional advice. If expert assistance is required,
either legal or otherwise, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

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BOOKLET INSTRUCTIONS

This booklet is meant to be coupled with the provided slides. We use an adult method of teaching:

1. Discovery The adults will discover the information.
2. Discussion The adults will discuss what they discovered.
3. Lecture The teacher will come back and teach.



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OBJECTION #1: You are getting too political.

Definitions Matter: An Internet search produces the following definitions –

po-lit-i-cal *adjective* relating to the government or the public affairs of a country.

pol-i-tics *noun* the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power.

gov-ern-ment *noun* the governing body of a nation, state, or community.

Objection could be worded to say:

You are getting too involved with the public affairs, governance, public debate, or party hoping to achieve power in a nation, state or community.

The Pastor, Elder, Deacon, or Leader should ask:

1. Does the Bible speak on being involved in politics?
2. If it does, to what degree or what amount should I be involved?
3. If it does, should I engage in debate hoping that one party achieves power?

Question #1: Does the Bible speak on being involved in politics? Simple answer, "Yes."

What type of nation is blessed? What is a nation?

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!"
(Psalm 33:12, ESV)*

Jesus taught us to pray that the Father's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. How is the Father's will accomplished in Heaven? Is his will accomplished by moral or immoral people? Is his will accomplished in justice or with injustice?

"Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10, ESV)

Question #2: If it does, to what degree or what amount should I be involved?

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7, ESV)

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil 3:20, ESV)

We should seek political involvement for our government to the degree we seek its welfare but ultimately realizing our citizenship is in heaven.

Question #3: If it does, should I engage in debate hoping that one party achieves power?



*"When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan."
(Proverbs 29:2, ESV)*

Question #1: What is the gospel? The gospel is Jesus died for the sinner, and he conquered death through His resurrection transforming the repentant sinner by grace (his presence) to a new creation (zoe, Christ-life).

*"Now I would **remind** you, brothers, of **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was **buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures, and that **he appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve." (1 Cor 15:1–5, ESV)*

Question #2: Where are these "sinners?" Sinners are primarily found in the "public square." "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23, ESV)

"As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God." (Romans 3:10–19, ESV)

Question #3: Does God's word tell us to do anything with "sinners" in the public square? Yes, he says to go and make disciples of all nations.

*"Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19–20, ESV)*

Question #4: Wait, but I am a Christian. I don't know how to make a disciple of a sinner whose throat is an open grave, who is swift to shed blood, whose paths are ruin. Pastors are supposed to equip the Christian to work in the public square of making disciples of all nations. The pastor is not equipping them to be a nursery attendant. Therefore, the pastor will teach them the gospel and how to apply that gospel to the public square.

*"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." (Ephesians 4:11–14, ESV)*

*"So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, '**Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.**'" (Luke 14:21–23, ESV)*



OBJECTION #3: We could lose our non-profit status.

FROM THE IRS WEBSITE: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/exemption-requirements-501c3-organizations>

To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3), and none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual. In addition, it may not be an action organization, i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a **substantial** part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

Organizations described in section 501(c)(3) are commonly referred to as charitable organizations. Organizations described in section 501(c)(3), other than testing for public safety organizations, are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions in accordance with Code section 170.

The organization must not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests, and no part of a section 501(c)(3) organization's net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. If the organization engages in an excess benefit transaction with a person having substantial influence over the organization, an excise tax may be imposed on the person and any organization managers agreeing to the transaction.

Section 501(c)(3) organizations are restricted in **how much political and legislative (lobbying) activities they may conduct**. For a detailed discussion, see Political and Lobbying Activities. For more information about lobbying activities by charities, see the article Lobbying Issues; for more information about political activities of charities, see the FY-2002 CPE topic Election Year Issues.

Biblical references or examples of a Church existing to communicate in a way to maintain its 501(c)(3):

None -
SIDE NOTE - BIBLE REFERENCE THAT THE STATE IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE THE CHURCH A TAX BENEFIT EZRA 7:24

Biblical references or examples of individuals that communicated about public square issues despite threat to their own lives: There are so many in the Bible. Here are only three:

"Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14, ESV)

"Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ... "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."" (Daniel 3:14-18, ESV)

"But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29, ESV)



OBJECTION #4: Isn't there a separation of church and state?

QUESTION #1: Isn't there a separation of church and state? The phrase "separation of church and state" is not in the Constitution of the United States nor the Constitution of Washington State. However, the state is not to control the church.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES: AMENDMENT 1: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSTITUTION SECTION 11 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state.

The Constitution keeps the state out of the church. In other words, we are not to have a state mandated religion, church, or denomination.

QUESTION #2: But shouldn't the Church stay out of influencing the state? The Church is the Salt and Light for the earth and the world. The Church is "the pillar and foundation of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15).

"You are the salt of the **earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the **world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine before others**, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16, ESV)

QUESTION #3: Who is the OTHERS in this verse? The answer is "b".

- a. Others = church members
- b. Others = public square citizens or sinners

QUESTION #4: Why do we want to let our light shine before sinners in the public square? Answer: So that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Light shining in the Public Square is meant to spread the gospel.

Conclusion:

#1: The STATE is to stay out of the church.

#2: The church is to bring moral behavior (SALT & LIGHT) to the STATE.



OBJECTION #5: Why do we care about the government? Pastors should only be concerned about the church. Right?

Question #1: Why do we care about the government?

Before the Fall in Genesis 3, is there any area in the world that we were not originally created to cultivate and keep? True before the Fall it was a relational theocracy.

*"Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it."
(Genesis 2:15, NASB95)*

After the Fall:

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!"
(Psalm 33:12, ESV)*

Argument #1: If a Bible-believing Christian is not involved in government, what god will become a nation's god?

Argument #2: How does a nation have the God who is "the Lord" be their God?

Conclusion: Bible-believing Christians should cultivate and keep the land including government so that the Lord becomes the God of the nation and not false idols.

Question #2: Pastors should only be concerned about the church. Right?

In the Old Testament, the priests would call the King out for his sin.

"Nathan (priest/pastor) then said to David. (Government/king) "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.'" (2 Samuel 12:7, NASB95)

In the New Testament, Paul would reason both in the synagogue and the market place. It was the Holy Spirit who provoked him.

*"Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols. So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, **and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.**"
(Acts 17:16–17, NASB95)*

Conclusion: Pastors should call government leaders to repentance and reason in the public square. They also should equip the saints to be able to reason in the public square. As Abraham Kuyper said, "There is not one single inch of the created world over which Jesus Christ does not say, 'This too is mine!'"



OBJECTION #6: Are you a "Christian Nationalist?" Christians shouldn't love their nation and their God.

"Nationalism is loyalty and devotion to a nation. Most people feel a certain level of loyalty to their homelands or the countries into which they immigrated. It is natural to love one's homeland, and there is nothing wrong with nationalism per se. The Bible gives both good and bad examples of nationalism." See <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-nationalism.html>.

Principle #1: Ultimately, the believer's citizenship is in heaven.

*Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*** (Philippians 3:12–20, ESV)

Some may argue, this verse clearly states that we are not supposed to set our mind on earthly things. Nations are earthly. Government is earthly. Our primary citizenship is in heaven. We must be heavenly focused first and foremost. But does that mean we neglect our nation?

Principle #2: We are called to steward earthly things, including our families and our nation.

"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1, ESV)

"Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds, for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations?" (Proverbs 27:23–24, ESV)

Principle #3: Nations separate power. Mankind is sinful and power must be separated. God has not given you authority over what he has not entrusted to you.

"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Timothy 5:8, ESV)

For example:

- Do you have authority and responsibility over your family? Yes
- Do you have authority and responsibility over your neighbor's family? No
- Are you to love your neighbor and freely give benevolence to your neighbor? Yes

"And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us." (Acts 17:26–27, ESV)

In comparison:

- Do you have authority and responsibility for the nation God has strategically placed you in? Yes
- Do you have authority and responsibility for the nation God did not place you in? No
- Are you to love other nations (your neighbor) and freely give benevolence to them? Yes



OBJECTION #7: I keep “my church life, as my church life” and “my public square life, as my public square life.”

Question #1: Is it biblical for one to keep “one’s church life, as one’s church life” and “one’s public life, as one’s public life”? Simple answer, No.

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**” (Matthew 5:14–16, ESV)*

A Christian is not to have two different lifestyles. Having two lifestyles means you are being a hypocrite. Hypocrites pretend on Sunday morning they are holy but intentionally live contrary the rest of the week.

“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.” (1 Peter 2:16, ESV)

“Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:4–10, ESV)

A Christian who has repented does not make an intentional practice or lifestyle of sin. The child of God is a believer at church, at home, at work, at the ball game, and any place they go.

Question #2: I don’t practice sin. Isn’t it okay just to be silent?

“If anyone sins in that he hears a public adjuration to testify, and though he is a witness, whether he has seen or come to know the matter, yet does not speak, he shall bear his iniquity.” (Leviticus 5:1, ESV)

“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” (James 4:17, ESV)

A Christian that is silent in the face of evil is guilty of the same sin.

Question #3: I don’t practice sin. But what I do is not spiritual or biblical it is my private life. Does that apply?

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23–24, ESV)

No matter what a Christian does, it is to be done unto the Lord. So if your job is asking you to lie, then you cannot continue to do so because you are working for the Lord, not your employer.



OBJECTION #8: My unsaved friends will feel uncomfortable and may not want to come if you are preaching on morals in the public square.

Question #1: Do you want your unsaved friend to go to hell? Then you are not a friend.

Absolutes In the Bible: The Bible is clear that not everyone will go to heaven.

*"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**" (Galatians 5:19–21, ESV)*

*"On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren. Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, **will inherit the kingdom of God.**" (1 Corinthians 6:8–10, NASB95)*

*"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, **their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone**, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:7–8, NASB95)*

"Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying." (Revelation 22:15, NASB95)

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, **YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**" (Matthew 7:21–23, NASB95)*

Last Days in the Bible: The Bible is clear that people will not want to hear the truth.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires." (2 Timothy 4:3, NASB95)

"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these." (2 Timothy 3:1–5, NASB95)

BUT WAIT – These verses are not loving: It also is not loving to lie to people, and then they end up in hell.

"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9, NASB95)



OBJECTION #9: Politics is too messy, too angry, too frustrating, and too worldly – Christians should not be involved in it.

Argument: “Politics is worldly. Christians should not be involved.”

Question #1: Should I love the world or love politics more than God? No - but I am still called to be a steward of it.

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:15–17, ESV)

Of course politics is messy and worldly, that is why Christians should steward it.

Parallel Argument: “The workplace is messy, and so Christians should not be involved in secular work.”

Question #2: Should I love my employer more than God? No - but I am still called to be a steward in my workplace.

“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.” (Ephesians 6:5–9, ESV)

Of course you are supposed to love your employees or employer but you are not to love them more than God. Workplaces are often messy and frustrating, and they can cause anger and be worldly. That is why we need to steward our workplaces.

Parallel Argument: “Family is messy. Christians should not be involved.”

Question #3: Should I love my family, my parents, my spouse, my kids more than God? No - but I am still called to be a steward of my family.

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26, ESV)

Of course you are supposed to love your family, but you are not to love them more than God. Families are often messy and frustrating, and they can be worldly. That is why we need to steward our families.

Parallel Argument: “You are messy.”

Question #3: Should I love myself more than God? No - but I am still called to be a steward of myself.

“For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.” (Romans 7:19–20, ESV)

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37–39, ESV)

CHRISTIANS BEING INVOLVED IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE (GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, ART, ETC.) IS TRULY A SACRIFICIAL LOVE FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, ESV)



OBJECTION #10: My friend supports a certain political party, and I support another political party – so ultimately politics will offend one of us.

Question #1: Should a pastor preach on which party to vote for? No, preach and teach a biblical worldview. Help people to discern the practical application of a biblical worldview in the public square.
“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16, ESV)

Question #2: Should a pastor preach on cultural issues? Yes, preach and teach a biblical worldview.
“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” (Ephesians 2:1–3, ESV)

Question #3: Should a pastor point out when a candidate is not living a godly life? Yes, preach and teach a biblical worldview.
“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” (Romans 1:21–23, ESV)

Question #4: Should a pastor allow referendums and initiatives to be signed at church? Yes, especially when they have a direct impact on the family, the church, gender, sexuality, and moral behavior.
“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.” (Galatians 5:19–22, ESV)

Question #5: Should a pastor’s primary concern be not to offend those who have come to church?
“So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.” (1 Peter 2:7–8, ESV)

Question #6: Should a pastor be politically correct? No, they should be biblically correct.
“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” (Ephesians 4:15, ESV)

Question #7: What if people walk out of church? Don’t worry about it. People walked out on Jesus.
“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 10:21–22, ESV)

Question #8: Should church be a political rally? No - speak the truth.
“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:1–2, ESV)

Here is a small list of God's attributes. Pastors should preach the whole counsel of God's word.

Attribute of God: God is just.

"The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he." (Deuteronomy 32:4, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is holy.

"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is a judge.

"But it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another." (Psalm 75:7, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is love.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:7–8, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is all-knowing.

"Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'" (Isaiah 46:9–10, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is self-sufficient.

"For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself." (John 5:26, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is all-present.

"If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you." (Psalm 139:8–12, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is merciful.

"For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy." (Romans 9:15–16, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is good.

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalm 34:8, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is gracious .

"The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 145:8, ESV)

Attribute of God: God is awesome.

12 *"His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power." (Habakkuk 3:4, ESV)*

Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil." (Proverbs 3:7, ESV)

Love does not delight in evil.

"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." (1 Corinthians 13:6, NIV)

Calling evil good.

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20, ESV)

Evil hates light.

"For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed." (John 3:20, ESV)

Hate evil.

"O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked." (Psalm 97:10, ESV)

Way of the Lord.

"The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers." (Proverbs 10:29, ESV)

Overcome evil with good.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21, ESV)

Turn away from evil – God will relent.

"And if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the LORD, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.' "But they say, 'That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.' "Therefore thus says the LORD: Ask among the nations, Who has heard the like of this? The virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing. Does the snow of Lebanon leave the crags of Sirion? Do the mountain waters run dry, the cold flowing streams? But my people have forgotten me; they make offerings to false gods; they made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient roads, and to walk into side roads, not the highway, making their land a horror, a thing to be hissed at forever. Everyone who passes by it is horrified and shakes his head. Like the east wind I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity." Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words." Hear me, O LORD, and listen to the voice of my adversaries. Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them." (Jeremiah 18:8–20, ESV)

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