

Government



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We call each government position filled with servant leaders, mature in integrity, and humility.

CHAPTER 5

Engaging the Governmental Gateway

A Time for Action - What Can People Do?

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There are many things people can do to help shape government and effect legislation, but that does not mean everyone should do everything. It is critical that all Christian conservatives clearly know what they personally are called to do and what they are not called to do. Now is the time to take hold of that which we were created to do. As Christian conservatives, we must embrace and focus on the assignment each of us has been given. We must not allow the enemy to distract or delay us from walking out our destiny. Anything which is not a part of that destiny (even if it is a good thing) steals our time and energy and prevents us from being fully effective in that destiny.

We must be strategic and intentional in our decisions and actions. As Christians, we are all called to be involved in the arena of politics and government to some degree, because it is in this arena that man makes laws about how we are to live our lives on this earth, and these laws effect every area of our lives, including our finances, the education of our children and our faith and freedom. We need to constantly ask ourselves: What action am I personally called to take

in order to carry out the calling God has for me in this area? What is my goal/purpose? How am I meeting this goal? In addition to the points below, General Jerry Boykin's lesson, "We Cannot Win without a Strategy," should also be applied to the assignments we've each been given to do (See Chapter 15).

Below are some strategic things that can be done to impact the political realm and society around us. First, you must understand that if God is calling you to do something; He will equip you to do it. God wants you to take action, so focus on the action and don't get stuck in the preparation; if you planned and knew every step beforehand there would be no room for faith or for God to work His plan.

Point to Ponder!

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

- General George Patton

Going to a political or community meeting is a good thing, but if you don't tangibly do something to affect that meeting, what have you accomplished? Ask the Lord and yourself:

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- Why am I going to this meeting and/or why am I part of this group?
- What is my objective?
- What can I do to accomplish and further that objective?

If you want to take ground in a political group or party, you will need to influence the agenda. The way to do that is to attend meetings, but just as importantly, assemble the number of people necessary to impact the meeting. Before attending each meeting, discuss the objective and the course of action necessary to achieve the objective.

Many tea party groups have been very successful in their efforts, because unlike our established political parties, they have not tried to create a new party with a centralized hierarchal leadership structure, but instead have influenced current establishments. Because their leadership is broadly dispersed, they have no “head” and cannot be influenced and manipulated by special interest groups as our established parties are. The body of Christ is structured the same way and we are to be the salt changing and influencing the world around us and not the other way around.

One effective way to accomplish this task, that takes little time and gives you more influence within a political party, is to get elected as a precinct delegate. Precinct delegates are elected to make important party decisions for their area which greatly influence the candidates and issues that go forward in their county, as well as the state. You

are elected precinct delegate by the people in your precinct and you generally need less than 50 to 100 votes to win, as the average precinct includes about 1,000 voters. A few weekends of campaigning in your neighborhood should be enough to get you elected. If you fill the precinct delegate positions with enough people who share your beliefs, then you will have the votes to decide:

- Who sits on the county party’s executive board
- What delegates go to the state convention to vote on party platform issues and select what candidates the party will choose to run in general elections. *(In Michigan and many other states, it is the convention precinct delegates, not the voters, who decide who runs for statewide offices including: MI Supreme Court Justice, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Board of Education and all the other Education and university boards, the party State Chair, the State Committee and all the other party posts).*

The only way to take ground is to come up with an intentional strategy on how to take it, and then to carry it out. Ask the Lord for His strategy to take the land He is calling you to take. Then, once you receive your marching orders, it is yours for the taking. As long as you implement the plan the Lord gives you and you do not back down in the face of adversity and resistance, which I guarantee there will be, then you will take hold of the destiny and the prize God has ordained for you in this arena.

Point to Ponder!

"Better to fight for something than live for nothing."

- General George Patton

Governmental Gateway Solutions

- Seek the wisdom of God in finding out what areas he is calling you to get actively involved. Follow your passion; the issues most important to you.
- Make it a point to become more informed and seek out facts from root sources on issues and candidates. Also make an effort to personally meet and speak with local candidates to discern who the best choice is.
- Go door-to-door for your candidates and support them in any way you can, if they are truly conservative and have a Biblical worldview.
- Join the email lists of groups like: Family Research Council, Act for America, Citizens for Traditional Values, MI Family Forum, Right to Life, NRA, and The Oak Initiative to stay informed and support local efforts.
- Get on email lists such as these, and others, to stay informed:
 - Family Research Council (frc.org);
 - Act for America (actforamerica.org);
 - Citizens for Traditional Values (ctvmichigan.org);
 - MI Family Forum (michiganfamily.org);
 - MI Right to Life (rtl.org);
 - NRA (home.nra.org)
 - The Oak Initiative (theOakinitiative.org);
 - Transformation Michigan (TransformMI.com)
- Get connected to local grassroots leaders via email to learn of upcoming local events and speakers. These groups are usually the first contacted for legislative efforts.
- Call or email your state rep, state senator, US senator and congressman regularly with what is important to you and to voice your opinion on current issues. It is not enough to just vote. A Republic does not work if "We the People" do not inform legislators of how we want to be represented.
- Once or twice a year make a point to visit your state senator or representative. Arrange a small group meeting or approach them at a public event where they are speaking. Make sure you are always cordial, friendly, and have a listening ear. If you gain the respect of your legislator he/she will hear you out. Ask them what he/she believes in regard to family issues, abortion, gay marriage, fiscal responsibility, the threat of Islam, the U.S. Constitution (2nd & 4th Amendments), and educational issues.
- Join a local Oak Initiative chapter, tea party or conservative political

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- action group that shares your Christian values (remember no group is perfect but you have to start somewhere).
- Send a thank you note to political leaders when they vote for Biblical values or pass good legislation. Most of the time all they hear is complaining and anger.
 - Educate yourself on your state constitution and the U.S. Constitution (From time to time, Hillsdale College in Michigan offers a free online course on the US Constitution - hillsdale.edu). When your legislator visits your area and sets up town hall meetings, make sure you attend and/or send representatives to voice concerns and negate points of view that are destructive to our freedom and Biblical worldview.
 - Make sure you are registered to vote and enlist others to do so. Many Christians did not vote in the last election.
 - Attend city Council meetings to become informed of what decisions are being made for your community.
 - Pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Consider a statewide prayer movement for legislators led by Pastor Eric Moore who is building relationships between legislators and the grassroots. - Culture of Honor - (cultureofhonor.org)

