

An Appeal to Caesar - Acts 25:6-12

I. Paul's Grasp of Government

A. The _____ of Government

1. Government has a _____.
2. Government is _____ for your good. (Romans 13:4)
3. Trust that _____ of all governing authorities.

B. The _____ of Government

1. Government is not a direct agent of _____.
2. Government never produces _____.
3. Government needs our _____! (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

II. Paul's Use of Citizenship

- A. Citizen of _____. (Acts 21:39)
- B. Citizen of _____. (Acts 22:35)
- C. An Appeal to _____. (Acts 25:6-12)

So What?

- We have an obligation to _____ for government.
- We have an obligation to _____ government.
- We have an obligation to _____ in government.
- We can exercise our rights as _____.
- We can hold _____.

Questions

1. If our primary citizenship is in heaven, how does that reality guide our emphasis and activity (time, energy, and resources) in our political involvement? (Philippians 3:17-21).
2. In a polarized society, how can a follower of Jesus demonstrate the "quiet life in all godliness and sincerity" that Paul mentions in 1 Timothy 2:1-3?
3. Looking at Paul's life, what does it mean to be a "model citizen" in a culture that may fundamentally oppose the values of the Kingdom of God?
4. How can a Christian maintain a "biblically informed view" of political involvement without becoming either totally consumed by or completely detached from the political process?
5. List and discuss 3-5 ways you see a lack of trusting God as in control of all governing authorities. What attitude or thinking can you "put on" in place of that lack of trust? (Job 41:1-2; Gen 50:19-21; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Psalm 37, Acts 4:27-29)
6. In what ways might political activism actually distract from the church's core mission of gospel proclamation, as implied by Paul's priorities? (1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2)