

# Political Issues

Ephesians 6:10-13

Introduction: The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion; or abridging the free exercise thereof...” However, the Supreme Court has been making laws that abridge the free exercise of religion for decades.

1962: Organized school prayer held to be unconstitutional (Engel vs. Vitale).

1963: Organized Bible reading in schools held unconstitutional (Abington School District vs. Schempp).

1968: A law forbidding the teaching of evolution held unconstitutional (Epperson vs. Arkansas).

1971: Abortion held to be constitutional (Roe vs. Wade).

1980: The posting of the Ten Commandments in the classroom held to be unconstitutional.

1984: Tax exemption revoked when rules of religious schools contradict “public policy.”

2015: Gay marriage.

Of course, Congress would argue that these are not laws but rulings of existing laws as interpreted by the Supreme Court. It just happens that these rulings carry the weight of law. In other words, the Supreme Court is not subject to the first amendment. The Supreme Court can abridge the free exercise of religion all it wants.

I. We wrestle against principalities, powers and rulers.

A. *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12; KJV).*

B. Paul understood that a Christian’s struggle in life was not solely with people who disagree with Christ. Our struggle is inherently with all levels of human authority.

II. The godly constantly struggle against politics.

A. John the Baptist stepped into a political issue with Herod (Mark 6:17-19). Who was John to declare what civil government made legal was unlawful?

B. Peter and John argued politics with Israel’s highest court, the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:18-20). We learn from the chief executive officer of Israel (the high priest) why they made that law against their right to preach the gospel (Acts 5:27-29). It was a political issue to the Sanhedrin because they feared the people!

C. Jesus argued political issues throughout his life.

1. Before the chief priest and elders in the temple (Matt. 21:23-27).
2. Before Pilate just before His death (John 19:10-11).

III. What political issues are we wrestling?

A. Abortion: The Lord hates “hands that shed innocent blood” (Prov. 6:17).

1. Human life begins at conception, but our soul began before that (Jer. 1:5). God knows us before we are even formed in the womb!

2. Abortion is murder even if it is legalized by the laws of our land!

B. Euthanasia: If our nation can kill babies because they might inconvenience some woman’s life, how long will it be until we legislate the killing of people who have no perceived usefulness to society?

1. Oregon has already legalized physician assisted suicide!

2. If an Alzheimer’s patient is unwanted by his or her family, is it unreasonable to expect rulings from the courts to end their lives?

C. Homosexuality: God has made it clear that sinners will not go to heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-10). Included in that list are homosexuals. Yet, our nation has already passed “hate crime legislation.” How long will it be before some court rules that speech against homosexuality even from the pulpit will be a crime?

D. Adultery: Also included among the sins in 1 Cor. 6:9-10 is the offense of adultery. Churches are already dancing around this issue among their members for fear of lawsuits. A righteous church has no choice but to remove such people from its membership. If a court rules against such action by a congregation, will the members defend the truth despite the consequences?

E. Legalized drugs and alcohol: Alcohol and cigarettes are already legal for consumption above a certain age. Drugs and alcohol have defiled many Christians and have emboldened them to continue their consumption due to their legal status.

1. The libertarian party wishes to legalize all drugs as well.

2. Will we have to courage to continue to speak the truth against such immoral substances?

IV. Morality is regulated by our governments (Rom. 13:1-5).

A. But what happens when government no longer governs moral issues?

1. Capital punishment will be outlawed because it is too severe.

2. Evolution will be taught as fact.

3. Any signs of religion in schools or government will be removed.

4. Certain promiscuity like pornography and fornication will be overlooked.

5. We won’t even be allowed to pray in certain places!

B. Oh, that has already happened.

Conclusion: Men of God have always preached on moral issues whether or not they become political footballs. Political issues have invaded the church through moral issues that our government was supposed to enforce as ministers of God. Now day's most moral issues are now political issues as well.