



# The Bible and Politics



## Why Be Concerned About Politics?

A mandate for involvement

Creation:

The mandate given: managing people and resources

Fall

The mandate continues: managing sin and degradation

Redemption

Jesus: the two kingdoms

The church: witness and incarnation

Consummation

The mandate fulfilled: “the glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it”

A mandate for thoughtful involvement

# Questions for Homegroups

1. Read Matthew 22:15-22. Explain what Jesus is saying about our respective responsibilities to God and government. What other passages should inform our attitude to politics?
2. Do churches have a responsibility to speak out on political matters or should it be left to individuals? What are the dangers? How should we hold in balance evangelism and citizenship?
3. What is your experience of involvement in political matters? Do you think you should be more or less engaged with politics?
4. In Revelation 21:26 “the glory and honour of the nations” is brought into the New Jerusalem. What do you think this means about the significance of “non-spiritual” things done in our present world?
5. What do you need to do this week in order to prepare to vote later this year?

## Christian Organisations and Websites

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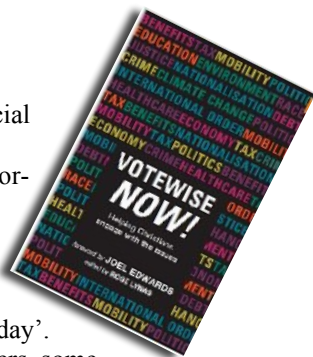
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**The Jubilee Centre**  
[www.jubilee-centre.org](http://www.jubilee-centre.org)

The Jubilee Centre is a Christian social reform organisation. It has done ground-breaking work on various moral and political issues in the UK and beyond.

It has also produced a number of books including *Votewise NOW!* An aid to help Christians engage with ‘the ten most important issues of the day’. It also publishes *The Cambridge Papers* a series of papers, some of them on political topics, designed to stimulate thinking and debate.



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## CARE

[www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)

Christian Action Research and Education - CARE - is an excellent organisation concerned with a variety of ethical and political issues in the UK. It provides information, support for individuals, and is involved in various campaigns.



## Theos

[www.theosthinktank.co.uk](http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk)

Theos is a public theology think tank which exists to undertake research and provide commentary on social and political arrangements.

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## Christian Concern for Our Nation

[www.ccfon.org](http://www.ccfon.org)

This organisation is committed “to enable Christians to stand up publicly against a tide of unchristian legal and political changes in the United Kingdom.”

It has been involved in several high profile campaigns with positive results. It also produces useful information. *It is however an organisation about which I have some theological reservations. These will be explained in the second sermon.*



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## The Christian Institute

[www.christian.org.uk](http://www.christian.org.uk)

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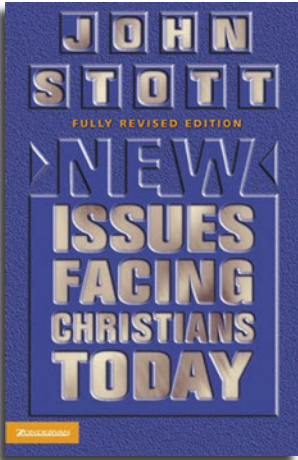
The Christian Institute is an active and high profile campaigning organisation on various issues.

Whilst it has been involved in many good things, *I have theological reservations about the basis of some of its work. As above these will be explained in the second sermon.*

# Recommended Books

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## **New Issues Facing Christians Today** **John Stott (IVP)**

When John Stott's book *Issues Facing Christians Today* first came out in the 1980s it became essential reading for evangelical Christians. This new and revised edition is an essential starting point for any Christian who wants to think clearly about 21st century ethical issues.

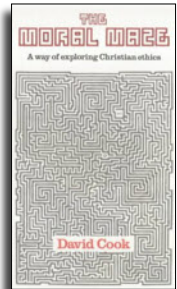
THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AT A SPECIAL PRICE OF £10.00.

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## **The Moral Maze** **David Cook (SPCK)**

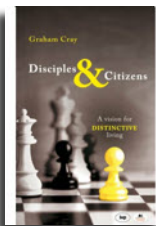
David Cook seeks to help the Christian reader to formulate their own opinions on ethical issues. It serves as an introduction to moral philosophy.



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## **Disciples and Citizens** **Graham Cray (IVP)**



How should we live as dual citizens: citizens both of the kingdom of God and of our nation? How much should we involve ourselves in society and public life?

Graham Cray shows that there are profound gospel reasons for taking seriously both our national life and our call to be Christian citizens. A nation's social health is a matter of Christian action and concern because it matters to God.

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