

“In Pursuit of Public Fidelity”

**EPC GA Leadership Institute
June 21, 2022**

I. Biblical, theological, and historical background

A. Creational origin of the state

B. Lex Rex

C. Separation of Church and State

D. The necessity of Christianity for good statecraft

E. Universal sin requiring separation of powers

F. Individual rights and freedoms

G. The necessity of an educated citizenry

II. The Christian's Obligations

A. Learn what the Bible says about

1. Christians' obligation to be engaged in civil politics
2. the state's moral responsibility before God
3. Christian's' obligation to submit to governing authorities
4. the Christian's' ultimate heavenly citizenship
5. the specific mission of the institutional church
6. the global scope of the Kingdom

II. The Christian's Obligations

B. Develop solid views on public policy

- Consistent with God's Word (moral law)
- Consistent with historical experience
- Consistent with social sciences and economic theory (natural law)
- Good for the public order and public welfare
- Popular
- Enforceable
- Affordable
- Benefits the poor

II. The Christian's Obligations

C. Speak out

- Adopt whole biblical agenda
- Use “common grace” arguments
- Start with your own party
- Treat opposition fairly
- Communicate with elected officials
- Do not dismiss the failures, weaknesses, and blind spots of your favorite candidate or party

D. Vote for people with:

Character – public, private

- Competence
 - Attracts strong people
 - Makes and implements good decisions
 - Effectively inspires vision
 - Networks well/builds consensus
 - Manages well
 - Has adequate experience
- Solid Policy positions
 - Biblical
 - Based on consistent, solid philosophy
 - Relevant to real needs
 - Realistic

II. The Christian's Obligations

E. Serve

- Volunteer
- Staff
- Elected office

III. The Church's Obligations

A. Pray for government leaders

**B. Teach congregation, promote public service and
civil discussions on politics**

III. The Church's Obligations

C. Speak to the public when:

1. Clear biblical moral issue
2. Current societal evil that needs to be addressed
3. Church is vulnerable to heresy or immorality
4. Church has adequate knowledge and expertise

III. The Church's Obligations

D. Avoid Objectionable partisan politics

1. Endorsing candidates
2. Distributing voter guides
3. Emphasizing one party's agenda