



Sermon Discussion Questions

For small group leaders or for a whole small group to use

The Christian Responsibility to Influence Every Aspect of Society (Proverbs 24)

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Sermon Overview

Main Idea

One thing all Americans can agree on is that there is much to be concerned with in today's society. Things are not the way they are supposed to be in virtually every sphere of society, including the family, the military, the government, the legal system, various oppressions of the vulnerable. Amid all these concerns, a critical question stands—what are we as Christians supposed to do? God answers this question through Proverbs 24: Christians are to influence every area of society—and we need God's wisdom to do it well.

Sermon Outline

Our Responsibility to Influence Society

Sphere 1: The Family (v. 3–4)

Sphere 2: The Military (v. 5–6)

Sphere 3: The Government (v. 7)

Sphere 4: The Frontlines of Oppression (vv. 10–12)

Sphere 5: The Courtroom (vv. 23–29)

Quotation(s)

Bruce Waltke wrote what is perhaps the greatest commentary on Proverbs, which includes his salient reflection on Proverbs and government today: "If God established the State to restrain evil and promote good, should not Christians, and especially their leaders, actively influence the government to pass laws that both restrain evil as defined by God and enable us to live peacefully and quietly in all godliness and holiness?" And, "Christians are called upon through faith to clean up the political mess. In fact, would our country be in such a disastrous state if Christians had been responsibly involved in its government?." (*Bruce Waltke, Proverbs and Politics: The Biblical Foundation for Righteous Governing (Bruce Waltke, 2015)*).

The 1800s pastor JC Ryle stated: "The man who is content to sit ignorantly by his own fireside, wrapped up in his own private affairs, and has no public eye for what is going on in the Church and the world, is a miserable patriot, and a poor style of Christian. Next to our Bibles and our own hearts, our Lord would have us study our own times." (*J.C. Ryle, Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*).

Francis Schaeffer briefly laid out the Christian responsibility to engage, which fits perfectly with the vision of Proverbs 24: "As Christians we are not only to know the right world view, the world view that tells us the truth of what is, but consciously to act upon that world view so as to influence society in all its parts and facets across the whole spectrum of life, as much as we can to the extent of our individual and collective ability." (*Francis Schaeffer, How Then Shall We Live, (Wheaton: Crossway, 1976)*).

Discussion Questions

Read the Scripture Text (if the text is shorter, consider reading it together several times).



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Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on? (See above to review the main point)
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why? (Encourage several people to share)

Deeper Reflection on the Meaning and Implications

- When considering how Christians are to respond to the problems in our society and culture, Pastor Drew argued there are at least three WRONG responses: (1) disengage from society, (2) get enraged and force the gospel onto people and (3) influence society according to your own subjective/personal views on things. How are you most inclined to react to the problems of our day? What does Proverbs 24 teach us is the proper way for Christians to respond?
- Proverbs 24:3 teaches us “by wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.” Pastor Drew said, like building a house, building a family is a craft that requires skill. What are some steps that we can take to develop the skills needed to “build” our families by wisdom? If you are single, what might it look like for you to start “building” your house by wisdom today? If your children are grown, how can the craft that you developed over many years be used for your “house” in this season of life?
- The third sphere of influence seen in Proverbs 24 is government, which is a God-ordained institution that needs to be led by wise leaders, not fools. Rather than complaining about the lack of good leadership in our local, state and federal government, what are some practical things we can do to help raise up and advocate for the promotion of wise leaders? Have you felt God call you to run for any sort of elected office and, if so, what is a next step you can take to respond to that calling?
- Through Proverbs 24:10-12, Pastor Drew invited us to consider the frontlines of oppression in our society and he called us to “rescue those who are being taken away to death.” Some of the “frontlines of oppression” that he identified were: (1) abortion, (2) unborn children frozen in vitro, (3) domestic abuse and (4) sex trafficking. How were you most challenged by this part of the sermon? Do you agree these are image bearers needing “rescued”? If so, what obligations do we have to act?

Final Response

- Pastor Drew ended by listing out a number of real “steps” we could consider taking in response to this sermon. Do any of them resonate with you? What are some other “steps” the Lord brought to your mind?
 - Serve on the frontlines by starting a pregnancy help center.
 - Adopting, or helping fund an adoption.
 - Teaching your children and grandchildren the value of life.
 - Working to form wise and just immigration policy.
 - Serving in the military and leading with wisdom.
 - Serving on a schoolboard.
 - Becoming a missionary to another culture—sharing the gospel and seeking to influence culture there.
 - Influence by the way we use our vote—keeping in mind the person, the platform, the people they appoint, and the policies they will make. We use our vote to seek to restrain the most evil and promote the most good.