

New Vision Baptist Church Small Group Training
Daniel Darling - The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission
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Why should we engage in politics and in the culture?

1. We should engage cultural issues as a matter of Christian stewardship.

Our freedom as Americans, our opportunity to vote, shape policy, to influence the public debate—this is a gift and a stewardship from God. To disengage is an abdication of this stewardship.

2. We should engage cultural issues because we love our neighbors.

Can we adequately and fully love our neighbor, the people around us, by ignoring the opportunity to shape the social structures that affect him and the government that will rule over him?

3. We should engage cultural issues because we seek the welfare of our cities.

By living on mission in the cities where we have been placed we are working to establish pockets of hope in a world of brokenness. When we do this, we show, in some small part, a glimpse of the kingdom to come.

4. We should engage the public square, and culture because we speak to consciences.

When we use our freedom to speak up for the vulnerable, to point to a kingdom ethic, to work for good government and good leadership, we are speaking to consciences still being formed by the Spirit of God.

How do we engage? (Part 1)

1. Be informed by the Word.

What does Scripture have to say, not only about our positioning, but about the way in which we should engage?

2. Be Led by the Spirit.

There are times when it is better to simply listen and learn to another brother or sisters viewpoints, without interjecting.

3. Recast the Story.

The gospel isn't just something we tack on to the end of our messages, it's the radical new paradigm that brings hope the world.

4. Mind the Mission of the Church.

The Church's mission involves both the conversion and discipleship of lost sinners *and* the flourishing of local communities, the care for every creature made in the image of God.

5. Equip for Engagement.

To equip saints for cultural engagement is more than simply mobilizing the church for activism, but helping the church think through every cultural issue with a gospel lens.

How leaders engage? (Part 2)

- 1. Lay gospel foundations.**

- 2. Don't skip hard issues.**

- 3. Make specific, real-world application.**

- 4. Promote good resources from organizations that have a Biblical worldview.**

- 5. Stay equipped as a leader.**