

On Politics and Campus Ministry

How should we encourage Chi Alpha students and staff to think about politics?

1. We recognize that no political party anywhere in the world represents God's perfect kingdom on earth. Therefore, our communal allegiance as members of Chi Alpha, and our allegiances as disciples of Jesus should never be bound to any political platform or party. We seek the will of our Father in heaven.

Psalm 20:7, Philippians 3:20, Hebrews 11:13–16

2. We believe that God calls us to speak charitably to others in every setting. Therefore, when we speak about politics, we are responsible before God for the tone and content of our words, social media statements, and all other communications. We are ambassadors of Christ at all times.

Ephesians 4:29–32, Colossians 4:5–6, James 3:1–1

3. We believe that God calls us to transform the culture we live in. Therefore, the role of God's people is to represent his priorities to the world regardless of the political climate we live in. If we choose to engage politically, we will do so as apostles of Christ.

Psalm 82:3–4, Romans 13:5, 1 Timothy 2:1–4

4. For the sake of the gospel, we actively welcome people of every political persuasion into our midst. Therefore, we must voice our political convictions with love and discernment. We will be careful about the ways we use spiritual authority to influence others' political beliefs.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23, Galatians 3:26–28, Colossians 4:5

5. We recognize that God is sovereign over the ultimate course of human affairs. Therefore, we submit to and pray for our leaders. We are free to vote according to the wisdom that God affords us. And if we are persecuted in this world, we commit to love and forgive others, and to honor and glorify God by our actions.

(Matthew 5:44, Acts 17:24–28, 1 Peter 2:13–17)

6. We commit to be gracious with each other when we disagree politically. We are to be prayerful and humble, knowing that our political engagement will not be perfect. As people who are first and foremost citizens of a heavenly kingdom, we choose to love one another and mutually seek God's wisdom for our world.

(John 13:35, James 4:11, 1 Peter 1:13–17)

How can we use this tool in Chi Alpha campus ministry?

- As a discipleship tool with Chi Alpha students.
- As a document of core convictions for Chi Alpha team members.
- As a source for preaching and teaching on politics.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways that devout, Spirit-filled Chi Alpha staff, students, and volunteers can live in harmony and still vote differently from each other?
2. What is at risk in our Christian communities if a spiritual leader endorses one candidate or political platform too rigorously?
3. What are some biblical principles to guide our political conversations? Similarly, how should we talk about politics on social media?
4. How can we make sure that students from different political convictions feel valued and welcome in our Chi Alpha small groups?
5. When do you think it's appropriate for spiritual leaders to influence others to vote for a certain candidate or platform? Why?
6. What comes to mind for you when you hear the term *evangelical*?¹ Do you think Christians should use the term?

¹ Definition — *Historically, evangelicals are Christians who emphasize the centrality of personal conversion, the authority of the Bible, and the urgency of evangelism. In contemporary use, however, the term has been primarily used or co-opted by the media as a political voting label.*