



GLC Weekly
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Do Pastors Have Authority & Responsibility from God to Speak on Public Matters?

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We need to restore our understanding of the wise application of Biblical truth, and relearn our true national history, to enable us to restore the church, and if possible, our nation. Then we will know that pastors and priests do have authority and responsibility from God to speak on any public matter affecting their congregation, community or nation.

Over 3,200 years ago, when the LORD gave His Law, the 10 Commandments and statutes to Moses, He instructed him to create the priesthood through Aaron and his sons (Exodus 28:1; 29:1). And “when Moses finished writing the words of this Law in a book,” he entrusted it to the priests (Deuteronomy 31:24-26). The priests had the duty to read the Word of God, teach the people, and resolve matters of concern or dispute based on the Law of God. The priests were the spiritual leaders of the synagogues, communities and nation, and spoke for the LORD.

When Jesus and the apostles birthed the Church, their primary focus was imparting the Word of God and building up “the church of the living God (as) the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). And they did so publicly with great courage at the risk of their lives.

Upon this foundation in the American Colonies, the pastors were the most highly respected church and community leaders during the 1600s and 1700s. They were the ones who shaped the thinking of the political founding fathers of the United States, and succeeded in birthing the greatest nation in history because they spoke boldly and publicly.

Rev. Jonathan Mayhew, D.D. (1720-1766) was one of those clergy. In a sermon, titled, *A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers*, he said:

“It is hoped that but few will think the subject of it an improper one to be discoursed on in the pulpit, under a notion that this is *preaching politics*, instead of Christ. However, to remove all prejudices of this sort, I beg it may be remembered that “all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). Why, then, should not those parts of Scripture which relate to *civil government* be examined and explained from the desk, as well as others? Obedience to the civil magistrate is a Christian duty; and if so, why should not the nature, grounds, and extent of it be considered in a Christian assembly? Besides, if it be said that it is out of character for a Christian minister to meddle with such a subject, this censure will at last fall upon the holy apostles. They write upon it in their epistles to Christian

churches; and surely it cannot be deemed either criminal or impertinent to attempt an explanation of their doctrine.”

In 2015, Dr. George Barna issued the results of a national USA survey, titled, “God’s People Want to Know.” He reported: “A majority . . . said it is ‘extremely important’ for their pastors to preach or teach the congregation about the following issues: . . .

“1. **Abortion**: beginning of life, right to life, contraception, adoption, unwed mothers: 91%;

“2. **Religious persecution/liberty**: personal duty, government duty, church response, global conditions: 86%;

“3. **Poverty**: personal duty, government role, church role, homelessness, hunger, dependency: 85%

“4. **Cultural restoration**: appropriate morals, law and order, defensible values and norms, self-government: 83%;

“5. **Sexual identity**: same-sex marriage, transgenderism, marriage, LGBT: 82%;

“6. **Israel**: its role in the world, Christian responsibility to Israel, US foreign policy toward Israel and its enemies: 80%.”

The content prior to the Barna study is mostly from chapter 1 of the newly published ***Fire At The Founding*** book, which documents the influence of the 1700s clergy in their own words.

As evident above, to help you understand from where these pastors got their ideas, this second edition includes a Bible study, questions for contemplation or discussion, and a 3-5 point sermon outline at the end of the chapters.

The book is available through [GLC Publications](#) (highest return to the GLC), the publisher, [WestBow Press](#) (second highest return to GLC), [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), etc. It is currently available in paperback, hardback, eBook and Kindle formats, and the audiobook should be completed by next month.

PRAY that many pastors and Christians will follow in the noble steps of the 1700s clergy by buying, reading, studying, giving sermons and teachings, and leading small study groups to restore the foundations of our faith and our nation.

For the LORD, the sacred gift of life, and remembrance of the babies,

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*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst movement to establish principles and practices in nations that align with the Word of God and respect human life.*



God's People Want to Know

Results of National Surveys

**Research Conducted by
American Culture & Faith Institute
Dr. George Barna, Executive Director
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