

Sermon Discussion Questions, September 4, 2011

Think Local: Why Changing the World Starts in Your Backyard, Week Three

First Pattern: Involvement in Civic Affairs

Dr. Rod MacIlvaine

Selected Scripture

OLD TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE – God calls His people to faithfully represent Him within structures of power. Genesis 41:41; Daniel 1-6; Jeremiah 29:4-7; Nehemiah 1-2

- 1. Name Old Testament examples of people God used as leaders? Why do you think God called these people and what made them fit for this kind of leadership?**
- 2. Do you think there is a place for Christians in civic/political affairs today? Why or why not? Name modern examples of how God has used Christian leaders?**

NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE – God typically calls people to remain in those structures of power after they come to Christ. Luke 3:12-14, 8:1-3; Romans 16:23; Acts 1:8, 19:22

- 3. Other than the apostles/disciples, how did God typically use Christians? Give examples.**
- 4. Are you a Christian who is an employee or an employee who is a Christian? Explain your answer. How do you use your position of influence in the secular world?**

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF POWER – God calls people to minister inside places of secular power.

- 5. What do you think about this statement: “That’s just the world. We’re to be separate.” How would the world be different if that was the attitude of every Christian? How would Christianity be different if that was the attitude?**
- 6. How should Christians in places of power behave? What are practical ways you could support Christ-followers who are in places of leadership?**

