



Study Guide for Video Roundtable Discussion: “Legislation Impacting Christians”

Written by Rev. Joel Hoyer

Michigan District, LCMS President Rev. David A. Davis talks with Travis Grulke and Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz. The discussion is a three-part series on legislation in our state and country that might affect how we do ministry in the Michigan District. Travis Grulke is the Michigan District, LCMS Superintendent of Schools. Rev. Dr. Seltz is the Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty and Speaker Emeritus of the Lutheran Hour, one who has/is committed to the mission of our Church even now to protect our public voice so that all can hear about Jesus.

Watch Part I video “Key Legislative Actions that Impact the Church”

How do you feel in general talking about or thinking about “politics”?

Greg mentioned Romans 13 in terms of the government creating “law and order” for its citizens. Read Romans 13:1–7. What is the responsibility of the governing authorities? What is the responsibility of a Christian citizen?

Back up one verse to Romans 12:21. In what ways can that verse be your guide when the governing authorities start making laws against the Law of God?

What “fears” might we have as the State seems more and more to be attacking our biblical values?

Fear tends to get people to fight or flee or freeze. What is a better approach for a follower of Christ (1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 146)?

How aware do you think the average Christian is of the changing legislation and the very meaning of language in the various governmental departments? Why does that need to change?

How important is it to you that all people are treated fairly?

In what ways can a Christian business respond when the governing authorities demand that they only look at marriage or gender in one way?

If you are unfamiliar with Alliance Defending Freedom <https://adflegal.org>, take a moment to peruse their website and talk about their role in all this.

Why do you think “statism” has become so attractive to many people today?

If your pastor was put in jail for preaching/teaching the truth of God’s Word, how would you/should you respond? Do you see that day coming?

Watch Part II video: “Positive Impacts Christians Can Make on Their Government”

Talk about the difference between God’s ultimate work of making disciples, and God’s work of preserving the world. When it comes to Christians impacting the governing authorities, how important is it that we maintain that distinction?

Talk about Greg’s quote: “Good government can’t save you, but bad government can destroy you.” How important is it that we understand that “good government can’t save us”?

“Other people” protected us from bad government in the past. Why is it so important that individual Christians and churches get involved in government today?

Have you ever thought of yourself as a “Caesar” when it comes to government affairs?

Have you ever sent a hand-written letter to your senator or congressperson (federal or state)? What might happen if you did?

Why do you think legislatures are stepping over the boundaries and trying to dictate to our churches and schools? Do you think they are conscious of doing that?

In what ways have Christian people “othered” certain people in our culture or government?

To find out more about how to become a “Champions Church” go to lcrifreedom.org and learn more from Greg Selz and the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.

ABOUT LCRL

The Center provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of life, marriage and religious liberty and seeks to engage in discussions in Washington, D.C., to establish partnerships and resources in our nation’s Capital for the sake of our churches, schools, universities, and seminaries.



Watch Part III video: “The Proper Christian Posture Toward Culture”

Talk about the pros and cons of these four approaches toward culture:

1. Battling against culture
2. Retreating from culture
3. Capitulating to culture
4. Being faithfully present in culture

How do you think you could best cultivate a “non-anxious presence” as you speak publicly for our rights in the culture?

What do you like about the offensive lineman image when it comes to being involved in politics? Where might it fall short?

Discuss again the difference between God’s preserving and saving work.

Discuss why each of the following four topics are so important, and even “Thus saith the Lord” issues:

1. Religious liberty
2. Sanctity of life
3. Marriage
4. Education

Why do you think some people today think that the Church is a “nefarious entity”? How can we best counter that false image?

President Davis has long been known for encouraging Christians to read through the Bible every year. What might happen if we actually took his advice? In what ways might that be more important than ever?

In what ways is this a “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego” moment in time?