

## **Political Involvement, the Believer, and the Church**

1. The Christian's Duty: We believe that believers should be salt and light in their world (Matthew 5:13-16). This involves sharing the gospel (Luke 24:47; Colossians 4:2-6), living a holy life (1 Peter 1:15,16), and exposing (through word and deed) the unrighteous deeds of the world (Ephesians 5:8-12).
  
2. The Church's Mandate: We believe that the church (i.e. the body of Christ) is called to have a moral and spiritual influence in the world.
  - a. We believe that the church should preach and teach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), including teaching on moral and ethical issues that are taught in Scripture.
  - b. We believe that the church's mission is not to effect political change but to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). We believe that we are not called to make Christian nations nor set up Christian governments, but that we are to make disciples of all nations. We believe that it is the gospel that affects life change (2 Cor. 5:17), not government or political action.
  - c. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, believers certainly lived during times of immoral political leadership, yet the apostle Paul did not exhort believers to promote a political cause, or even overthrow the emperor. Instead, Paul commanded that they submit to their authorities (1 Timothy 2:1-6), pray for them, and maintain a focus on bringing change through the preaching of the gospel.
  
3. The Christian's Response: We believe that individual believers should get involved politically (e.g. vote, run for office, contribute financially etc.) as the Lord leads them. Believers will be allowed to share their convictions on these subjects with others at Mountain View. However, we will not promote any political cause or position (e.g. candidates to vote for, signing of petitions, picketing) from the pulpit or through Community Groups at Mountain View. Political literature (e.g. voter guides) will be permitted to be placed on a table in the back of the church, but literature is not to be handed out to attendees in the same way as bulletins are handed out.

The Elders of Mountain View Community Church,  
September 12, 2002