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THE BIBLE AND VOTING
Part 15



Dr. Andy Woods

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Introductory Remarks

- A stewardship issue (1 Cor. 4:2)
- A biblical issue (2 Tim. 3:16)
- Biblical principles rather than partisanship

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The Bible and Voting


1. Economic Issues
2. Social Issues
3. Foreign affairs



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The Bible and Voting

1. Economic Issues
2. Social issues
3. Foreign affairs



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Economic Issues

1. Ownership of private property? (Deut. 19:15)
2. Pursuit of economic self interest? (Gen. 8:21)
3. Proper definition of compassion? (2 Thess. 3:10)
4. Who provides charity? (1 Tim. 5:3-8)
5. Family is the building block of society? (Deut. 6:6-7)
6. Wealth retained within the family? (Prov. 13:22)
7. The earth experiences cyclical patterns? (Gen. 8:22)
8. Environmental stewardship rather than earth worship? (Rom. 1:22-23)
9. Opposition to runaway debt? (Prov. 22:7)
10. Limitations upon the government? (Acts 5:29)

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The Bible and Voting

1. Economic Issues
2. Social Issues
3. Foreign affairs



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Social Issues

1. Legal protection for the unborn? (Gen. 25:23)
2. Legal protection for the elderly? (Lev. 19:32)
3. Hetero-sexual monogamous marriage as the standard for society? (Gen. 2:18-25)
4. Advocacy capital punishment? (Gen. 9:6)
5. The right to restrict alcohol, pornography, & gambling? (Lev. 10:9; Matt. 5:27-28; Prov. 13:11)
6. Parental authority over children? (Eph. 6:4)
7. Public expressions of Christianity? (Mark 16:15)
8. Right to keep and bear arms? (Luke 22:36)

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The Bible and Voting

1. Economic issues
2. Social issues
3. Foreign affairs



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Foreign Affairs

1. Favor national sovereignty above global governance? (Gen. 11:1-9)
2. Favor the reality and enforceability of our national borders? (Acts 17:26)
3. Support for the nation of Israel? (Gen. 12:3)
4. Pursuit of peace though strength? (Jer. 17:9)

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Foreign Affairs

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Overview

- I. Terrorism's false causes 
- II. Terrorism's true causes
- III. Ineffective deterrents of terrorism
- IV. Effective deterrents to terrorism
- V. Going too far in deterring terrorism
- VI. Legitimate methods in deterring terrorism

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I. Terrorism's False Causes


- A. Poverty
- B. Lack of education
- C. American imperialism



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II. Terrorism's True Causes


- A. Depravity (Mark 7:20-23)
- B. Radical ideology



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III. Terrorism's Ineffective Deterrents

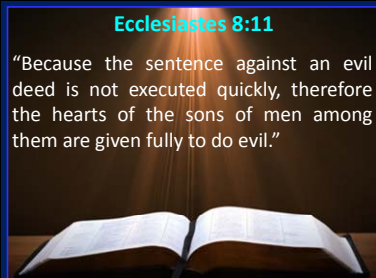
- A. Military reduction
- B. Appeasement
- C. Dialogue
- D. Treaties
- E. Subsidies
- F. Apology tours



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Ecclesiastes 8:11

“Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.”




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Robert Charles Winthrop


"All societies of men must be governed in some way or other. The less they may have of stringent State Government, the more they must have of individual self-government. The less they rely on public law or physical force, the more they must rely on private moral restraint. **Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled, either by a power within them, or by a power without them; either by the Word of God, or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible, or by the bayonet.** It may do for other countries and other governments to talk about the State supporting religion. Here, under our own free institutions, it is Religion which must support the State."

Robert Winthrop, Addresses and Speeches on Various Occasions (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 1852), 172. Speech to the Massachusetts Bible Society (1849-05-28).

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Genesis 6:11


"Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with **violence.**"



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Romans 13:3-5


“For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.”



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1 Peter 2:13-14


“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.”



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Deuteronomy 13:10-11


“So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you.”



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Answering Pacifism's Arguments

- A. Violence begets violence?
- B. Trust God?
- C. World court resolution?
- D. Love your neighbor (Matt. 22:39)
- E. Turn the other cheek (Matt. 5:39)
- F. Thou shalt not kill? (Exod. 20:13)




Wayne Grudem, *Politics According to the Bible*, 390-94

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**V. Going Too Far in Deterring Terrorism?
Just War Principles**

- A. Just cause (Rev. 19:11)
- B. Competent authority (Art. 1, sect. 8; Art II, sect. 2)
- C. Comparative justice (Rom. 13:3)
- D. Right intention (Prov. 21:2)
- E. Last resort (Rom. 12:18)
- F. Probability of success (Luke 14:31)
- G. Proportionality of projected results (Rom. 12:21)
- H. Right spirit (Ps. 68:30)




"War" in *ESV Study Bible*, 355

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Romans 13:3-5

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V. Going Too Far in Deterring Terrorism?
How to Fight a Just War

- A. Proportionality in the use of force (Deut. 20:10-12)
- B. Discrimination between combatants & non-combatants (Deut. 20:13-14)
- C. Avoidance of evil means
- D. Good faith (Ps. 34:14)




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VI. What Legitimate Methods Can the Government Employ in Deterring Terrorism?


- A. Proper label
- B. Deterrence (Deut. 13:10-11)
- C. Missile defense
- D. Pre-emption
- E. Invading other nations (Obadiah 11)
- F. Holding nations accountable harboring terrorists
- G. Spying (Josh. 2:1)
- H. Enhanced interrogations (Prov. 13:24)



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Deuteronomy 13:10-11


“So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you.”



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Obadiah 11


“On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem—You too were as one of them.”



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- H. Enhanced interrogations (Prov. 13:24)



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- C. Missile defense
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- H. **Enhanced interrogations (Prov. 13:24)**



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Enhanced Interrogation Limitations

- A. Immorality
- B. Denial of medical treatment
- C. Sadistic humiliation
- D. Violation of religious convictions
- E. Causing lasting physical damage



Wayne Grudem, *Politics According to the Bible*, 429

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Wayne Grudem, Politics According to the Bible, 429

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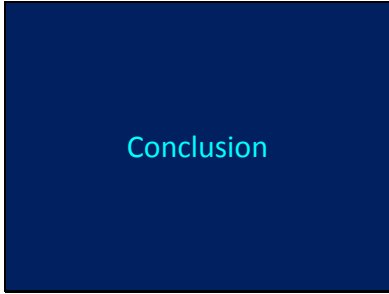
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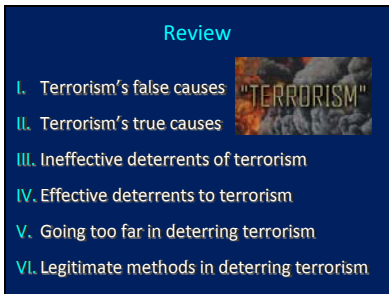


Wayne Grudem, Politics According to the Bible, 429

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3. What does not deter terrorism?

Eccles 8:11-Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

4. What effectively deters terrorism?

Rom. 13:3-4- For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

1 Pet. 2:13-14-Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

Deut 13:10-11-So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹¹ Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you.

5. Can the government go too far in deterring terrorism?

Rev. 19:11-And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness** He judges and **wages war**.

Art I sec. 8-Congress shall have the power...To declare war

Art. 11 sec. 8-The President shall be the commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States

Rom. 13:3-For rulers are not a cause of fear for ^[d]good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same.

Prov. 21:2-Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

Rom. 12:18-If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Luke 14:31-Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand *men* to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

Rom. 12:21-Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ps. 68:30-Rebuke the beasts in the reeds, The herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples, Trampling under foot the pieces of silver; **He has scattered the peoples who delight in war.**

Deut. 20:10-12-¹⁰ “When you approach a city to fight against it, you shall offer it terms of peace. ¹¹ If it agrees to make peace with you and opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall become your forced labor and shall serve you.

¹² However, if it does not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

Deut. 20:13-14-¹³ When the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall strike all the men in it with the edge of the sword. ¹⁴ Only the women and the children and the animals and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as booty for yourself; and you shall use the spoil of your enemies which the LORD your God has given you.

6. What legitimate methods can the government employ in deterring terrorism?

Obadiah 11-On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem—You too were as one of them.

Josh. 2:1-Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as **spies** secretly...saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there.

Prov. 13:24-He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Conclusion

Num. 6:24-26-The LORD bless you, and keep you;²⁵ The LORD
make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;²⁶ The
LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.