



*How Should Christians Relate to Culture and Society?*  
*Part 1 - Introduction*



# *What is the Role of Church in Society?*

## Church:

- ♦ the body of Christ in the world (Eph. 1:22-23)
- ♦ all those who follow Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)
- ♦ the local expression of the church (i.e., Gal. 1:1-2)
- ♦ Christians acting for Christ's purposes, individually or together, in the name of Christ.

## Society:

- ♦ culture
- ♦ government / politics / laws
- ♦ societal beliefs and norms



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*Is this something that the church should be involved in?*

- ☐ Proclaiming the gospel
- ☐ Caring for the needs of the community
- ☐ Educating people about God and the Bible
- ☐ Interceding in prayer for others locally and globally



# *What is the Role of Church in Society?*

*Is this something that the church should be involved in?*

- ☐ The building of an Islamic Center
- ☐ Efforts to legalize same-sex marriage
- ☐ Inter-faith religious ceremonies



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## ☐ The building of an Islamic Center

“The American Center for Law & Justice (ACLJ) were witnesses for the commission. The ACLJ repeatedly stated that it objects to having a mosque on the site.

“ ‘We're hopeful that the court will nullify the Commission's vote and conclude what most New Yorkers and Americans understand—this site is sacred ground and not the place to build a mosque,’ wrote the ACLJ.”



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## ☐ **Efforts to legalize same-sex marriage**

“Proposition 8 was passed in California with the strong support of the Christian community, including Catholics, evangelicals, and (especially) the African American churches. The decision of Judge Walker could lead to a Supreme Court ruling as charged as *Roe v. Wade*. Christians who thought they would be able to just sleep through this issue will not be allowed to. Marriage is not a "right" to be defended or exploited but rather a union of one man and one woman offering their lives to one another in service to the human community. A gospel response to this judicial decision and the public battles it will generate requires humility, repentance, love, and forbearance. In other words, grace and truth, lots of both.”

*Timothy George, Dean, Beeson Divinity School*



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“I wish Christians would cease using so much money and time to establish our Christian ethic through legal processes. Instead we need to witness by word and deed to an alternative reality in our churches. We need to tell a better story through our families. Whether our laws change or not, we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.”

*Scot McKnight, North Park University*



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It appears many outside observers have been left with a clear sense of what Christians are against, instead of what we're for. Little wonder the world openly questions how the orthodox Christian belief that sexual relations should be confined to a marriage between one man and one woman could possibly benefit everyone. Too often we respond with anger, outrage, or a disillusioned silence instead of pointing out the wonder and fulfillment of the different relational path of gospel.”

*Dale Kuhne, Saint Anselm College*



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“Christians should be concerned about the common good, and this is not for the common good. Social science has shown that children do best in a home with two parents of the opposite sex in a low-conflict marriage, and gay marriages make that impossible for their children and less likely for society generally.”

*Gerald R. McDermott, Roanoke College*



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“In a democracy, Christians can love others best by voting for laws that uphold the truth as revealed by God. When a law lies by saying something forbidden by God is permissible in society, people are set up for long-term hurt. God's universal laws are for the benefit and welfare of all people, not just Christians. It's just as harmful for an unbeliever to be involved in same-sex sin as it is a Christ follower.”

*Sarah Sumner, Dean, A.W. Tozer Theological Seminary*



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## INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

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## THOUGHTFUL



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