

Part 1

Political Foundations



Foundation #1 – Defining “Politics”

POLITICS

The art of organizing society, making decisions in groups and living with others



Foundation #1 – Defining “Politics”

Public Square politics



Foundation #1 – Defining “Politics”

Public Square politics

Governmental politics



Foundation #1 – Defining “Politics”

Public Square politics

Governmental politics

Electoral politics



Foundation #1 – Defining “Politics”

Public Square politics

Governmental politics

Electoral politics

Persuasive politics



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

GENESIS 9:1-7 – And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man [...]



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.

⁷ And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth
and multiply in it.”



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

- Render justice that affirms the image of God in man



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

ROMANS 13:1-7 – Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience [...]



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

- Render justice that affirms the image of God in man
- Establish a platform for peace, order and flourishing in a fallen world



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7 – First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.



Foundation #2 – Why God Ordains Government

- Render justice that affirms the image of God in man
- Establish a platform for peace, order and flourishing in a fallen world
- Creates the context for gospel advancement



Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

POLITICS

The art of organizing society, making decisions in groups and living with others



Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

REVELATION 11:15 – Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”



Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

- Jesus rule is political and will result in a new kingdom on earth

Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

MATTHEW 5:14-16 – ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

ACTS 2:42-47 – And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

- Jesus rule is political and will result in a new kingdom on earth
- The church is the present manifestation of Jesus' kingdom

Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

JEREMIAH 31:31-34 – “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah [...] ³³ I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”



Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

- Jesus rule is political and will result in a new kingdom on earth
- The church is the present manifestation of Jesus' kingdom
- They embody a new and better politics



Foundation #3 – The Church as Political

- Jesus rule is political and will result in a new kingdom on earth
- The church is the present manifestation of Jesus' kingdom
- They embody a new and better politics



Pastoral Hopes



Pastoral Hopes

- Teach a biblical framework for applying wisdom to all our political activity



Pastoral Hopes

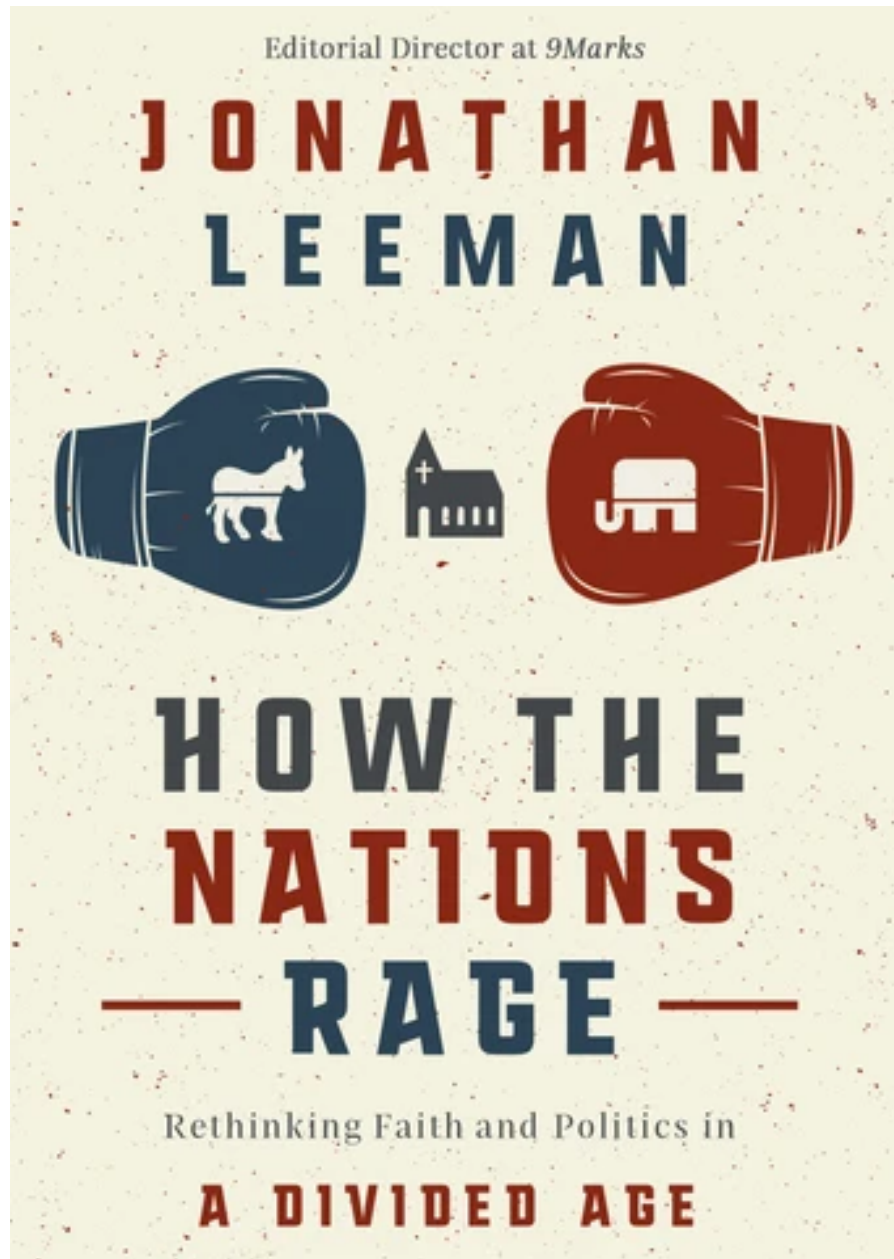
- Teach a biblical framework for applying wisdom to all our political activity
- Preserve the unity of the eternal body politic



Pastoral Hopes

- Teach a biblical framework for applying wisdom to all our political activity
- Preserve the unity of the eternal body politic
- Grow us up in love





*How the Nations Rage: Rethinking
Faith and Politics in a Divided Age*

by Jonathan Leeman



podcast@fellowshipdenver.org

Text: PODCAST to 94000



Where we're going from here...

Part 2 – How to (and not to) apply biblical teaching to public policy

Part 3 – Discussing, debating and voting

Part 4 – Big trends in American history that shape our politics

