

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

2 – Questions from Sunday’s Sermon

- **What does separation of church and state mean?**
- **What distinct institutions has God ordained and what are their roles?**

Please start in Prayer

Please pray for all those affected by this virus (health & job loss).

Please pray for our culture, society, and governing officials.

- County Supervisors
- Governor
- President

Please pray for churches & church leaders across the state.

Please pray for our church & church leadership.

I. What does separation of Church and State mean?

- How should Jesus’ command for us to carry on his Ministry priorities (Matthew 28:18-20) mesh with our political and social activities?
- Where did the phrase, “separation of church and state” come from and how is it misunderstood?
- Read and discuss the following quote from the Westminster Confession of faith.
 - **Section 23.3** Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments; or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven; or, in the least, interfere in matters of faith...Yet, as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the church of our common Lord, without giving the preference to any denomination of

Christians above the rest, in such a manner that all ecclesiastical person shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger.

- Why is basic morality crucial to a viable social order and cultural stability? Where does basic morality and knowledge of it come from?
- Francis Schaeffer is known for saying, “If there are no absolutes by which to judge society, then society is absolute.” What does this mean?
- Why shouldn’t Christians abandon their biblical worldview when it comes to politics and public policy?
- **Read 2 Chronicles 26:3-6, then 16-21.** How was Uzziah prideful in verse 16? Why do you think God separated the roles of King and Priest in the Old Testament?
- Can you think of times in the history of western civilization where the government and Church blurred the lines between their distinct roles? What happened?
- **Discuss the following quote:**
 - The need for a clear division of labor between the church and the state was a belief that emerged out of the Protestant Reformation. The church was called to pray for the state and to be supportive of the state. The state was called to guarantee the liberty of the church and protect the church from those that would seek to destroy it. There was to be no favoritism to any particular denomination or group of believers. This is the root of the principle of separation of church and state. – R.C. Sproul

II. What distinct institutions has God ordained and what are their roles?

- How is the family the most basic building block of human society? How is an attack on the family an attack on society?
- Why is marriage the most important relationship in the family?
- **Read Ephesians 6:10-12** and discuss in what type of warfare Christians are to engage.
- **Read Matthew 26:49-52** What reason does Jesus give Peter for the church not picking up the sword?
- **According to Romans 13:1-4** what is the role of the State?

- What does Paul mention as a loftier motivation for believers in maintaining good citizenship (Romans 13:5)? Why does that motivation work?