

COLLIERS CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Sunday, October 9, 1966

1. Methodist Preacher
2. "You don't think that my mother would have sent me out on a night like this.
3. I'm going to have to depend on the lord this morning, but I'll try to do better next Sunday.
4. It may be necessary for me, a lawyer and politician to explain my presence in the pulpit of the church, for one of the basic principles upon which our country was founded is that of complete separation of church and state.

A famous Protestant clergyman refused to preach on the importance of voting, on the ground that this kind of sermon "would degrade the high purpose of the pulpit". And a prominent layman rebuked his pastor for signing a petition dealing with school construction. This, said the member was "meddling in politics." Anyone with broad experience in either church affairs or politics could cite many instances of the same kind.

But if we study our scriptures, to see what God expected of his church, you will see that there is an urgent need for relating our Christian faith to the political processes of our Country.

Many hundreds of years ago a potential Churchman, whose name was Paul, had a vision to serve God and realized that to do it he must first find out what God expected of him. So he asked God a question, "WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?"

This was the right question to raise because the effective service of a Christian depends not only on a desire to serve but also on the clear knowledge of how best to serve.

This same question applies to the Church and how it can best serve God and man in these days. Our churches are sometimes an institution of little achievement in the local community and its denominational and world relationships because its people have not matched their desire to do good through the Church with a knowledge of what good the Church should be doing. The question of the ancient Church builder should therefore become the question of the modern Church member as he thinks of making the Church a power. "LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE MY CHURCH TO DO?"

To find the answer one might well read <sup>about</sup> Paul, the Church builder, found out about the nature and task of the Church. He is responsible for likening the Church to the body of Christ.

To Paul the Church stood for Christ in the world. It was Christ's mind, heart, <sup>hand</sup> and spirit, bringing Christ to men everywhere and for all of their needs.

Just as God dwelt among men in the body of Christ, so must Christ dwell among men today through the life and activity of the Church. <sup>and its members</sup>

There are four chief ways by which you can make Christ live thru your church/. Each of these ways offers many opportunities and requires many different expressions but ~~any~~ <sup>if</sup> any Church really does the best it can along these four lines the presence of Christ will be felt in all of the Church's influence.

a. It must have a passion to make Christ known and real in every life..

b. It must impart a full knowledge of Christ.

*We cannot do these things*

c.

The third and fourth ways, are the ones I want to talk with you about this morning.

The American doctrine of separation of Church and State and the denial of the right of the Church to become involved in politics as if it were a temporal state like nations, are not inconsistent with its ultimate task of making the dominant ethics of men and nations Christian and of establishing men's highest allegiance to God through Christ.

*I do not mean endorsing candidates etc.*

IT has been quaintly said that if Christ took Christ with them to the polling places, corruption would soon vanish from politics. If world leaders took Christ with them to the conference rooms and placed him at the head of the table around which the destiny of nations and peoples for centuries to come is fixed, the longed for day of peace would soon dawn.

*Money politics*

It is the supreme task of the Church in this fateful hour to quicken the conscience of men and nations in the exercise of their citizenship and their world responsibility.

Jesus' heart was full of compassion, and his hands were busy in healing and his feet were winged with service.

To confine the Church to its ceremonial function of the sacraments, the ritual and the ordinances, as totalitarianism decreases, and indifference in America often encourages us to do would reduce Christ's influence to a memorial.

The tendency to take the Church out of the social services, such as hospitalization, welfare and homes for the needy because the State wants to control it, often for political reasons, is to delay the day when real Christian brotherhood dominates the relationships of mankind. Laymen sometimes welcome the offer of the state to perform these services as a financial relief and a release from the requirements of voluntary time-consuming efforts on their part. Such moves have had the general effect of taking Christ out of these activities. The laymen of the churches hold the decisions and power within themselves to put him back into these social services through Church provision and participation.

*Handwritten notes:*  
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