

GOD AND POLITICS

Part 1: The Bible's Guide to Separating Church & State

Separation of church and state does not mean separation of _____ and _____

1) _____.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”
--Colossians 1:15-17 (NRSV)

The Greek word for “hold together” is “συνέστηκεν,” pronounced *synhesteken*, means system.

2) _____.

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.”
--Colossians 2:8 (New Living Translation)

“for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
--Ephesians 6:12 (NRSV)

3) _____.

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom does not belong to this world.’”
--John 12:36 (NRSV)

“In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”
– Colossians 2:15 (New Living Translation)

“It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don’t use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom or that of someone else. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that’s how freedom grows. For everything we know about God’s Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That’s an act of true freedom.”
--Galatians 3:13-15