

How Does Good Theology Lead to Good Society, Law and Politics?

Modern society tends to be presented with two assumed opposites with regard to the relationship between Christianity and society. On the one hand it is assumed that society should be secular and that religion should be at the level of a private club. The alternative to this is assumed to be a kind of Christian theocracy where the church runs the State and pastors have as much political power as politicians. There is another, more biblical way. This seminar will look at how what we believe affects the way we behave and changes society for the better. We will look at how theology impacts society, law and politics. The 'salt and light' model of Jesus Christ is one that is more desperately needed in contemporary society than ever. Come and be prepared to think, engage, change, and be challenged.

David Robertson is the minister of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne's life), *The Dawkins Letters*, *Magnificent Obsession* and *Quench*. He has been invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew (27), Becky (26) and Emma Jane (16).

I. Theology and Society

A. What is Theology?

B. What is Society?

C. Church/State Relations

II. Theology and Law

A. What is Law?

B. Christ, the Christian and the Law

C. The Law that gives Freedom

III. Theology and Politics

A. What is Politics?

B. Is the Kingdom of God Political?

C. Pietists, Erastians and Politicians

IV. Where Now?

Suggested Readings:

Larry Sidentop: *Inventing the Individual, the Origins of Western Liberalism* – Allen Lane, 2014

Vishal Mangalwadi: *The Book that Made Your World*, Nelson – 2011

Norman Davies: *Europe, a History*, Pimlico, 1997

David Wells: *God in the Wasteland*, IVP, 1994

Niall Ferguson: *Civilization*, Allen Lane, 2011

William Hague: *William Wilberforce*, Harper Collins, 2007

John Stott: *Issues Facing Christians Today*, Zondervan 2006

F Schaeffer : *Trilogy*, Crossway, 1990.