



# The Christian Politico - Part 1 'City of God v City of Man'

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Sunday 5 June 2016

# City of God v City of Man

- City of God by Saint Augustine (AD 427)

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**“Man is by nature a political animal”**

*- Aristotle*

# City of God v City of Man

*Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup> You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? <sup>4</sup> For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?*

1 Corinthians 3:1

# City of God v City of Man

*The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. <sup>2</sup> The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. <sup>3</sup> All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. <sup>4</sup> Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the Lord. <sup>5</sup> But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous.*

**Psalm 14:2-5**

# City of God v City of Man

*On the holy mountain stands the city founded by the Lord.  
2 He loves the city of Jerusalem more than any other city  
in Israel. 3 O city of God, what glorious things are said of  
you!*

**Psalm 87:1-3**

# City of God v City of Man

*Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. <sup>2</sup> Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth, like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. <sup>3</sup> God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress.*

**Psalm 48:1-3**

# City of God v City of Man

*All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

Hebrews 11:13-16

***The city of God puts the city of man in context***

# The characteristics of the two cities

	<b>The City of God - Zion</b>	<b>The City of Man - Babylon</b>
Origins	Heaven, supernatural, eternal	Earthly, natural, temporal
Church & state	Church (bride, body), Christian elect, city within a city	State, all men, false/religious church
Citizenship	In heaven, aliens & strangers in this world	On earth, all life is within this realm
Standards	Spirit & life moral law, absolute truth	Sin and death Flesh, relative truth

# The characteristics of the two cities

	The City of God - Zion	The City of Man - Babylon
<b>Access to man</b>	Compelling of the heart faith, belief in invisible	Seduction of the flesh mental reasoning, observation of visible
<b>Worships</b>	Godhead Serve others in love	Self - contempt to God Lord it over others
<b>End</b>	Rev 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.	Rev 18:17 'Woe! Woe to you, great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!'

# The separating of two cities on the earth

*“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

Genesis 3:4-5

# The separating of two cities on the earth

*Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. <sup>9</sup> He was a mighty hunter against the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter against the Lord." <sup>10</sup> And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel. The first centres of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in Shinar.*

**Genesis 10:8-10**

# The separating of two cities on the earth

## Peleg and the earth divided

*Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber. <sup>22</sup> The sons of Shem: Elam, Shur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram. <sup>23</sup> The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshek. <sup>24</sup> Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber. <sup>25</sup> Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.*

Genesis 10:21

***Eber becomes Hebrew***

***Peleg means division***

# The separating of two cities on the earth

## Tower of Babel

*Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. <sup>2</sup> As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup> They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”*

Genesis 11:1-9

# The separating of two cities on the earth

## Tower of Babel

*<sup>5</sup> But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” <sup>8</sup> So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.*

Genesis 11:1-9 continued

***Babel or Babylon means confusion***

# Two main divisions: Spirit & Flesh

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

**Romans 8:1-4**

# Two main divisions: Spirit & Flesh

## The mind according to the City of God or man

*Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.*

Romans 8:5-11

# Two main divisions: Spirit & Flesh

## The mind according to the City of God or man

*<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

Romans 8:5-11 continued

# Christ, the mediator between God & man

**Jesus, God in form of man comes as promised Messiah to give man free access to the City of God**

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Matthew 5:3-10**

# Your role as the Christian politico

**Political etymology...**

*Polis* meaning city (greek)

*Polites* meaning citizen (greek)

***The best for the city of man are those from the city  
of God***

# Your role as the Christian politico

## 1. Know where your allegiance lies - in heaven not on earth

*For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...*

**Philippians 3:18-20**

# Your role as the Christian politico

## 2. Understand that all authority in the city of man is set by God

*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.*

Romans 13:1-5

# Your role as the Christian politico

## 3. Be The church as it was designed to be - separate from the state

*Then the Pharisees went out and laid **plans to trap him in his words.** <sup>16</sup> They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that **you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.** You **aren’t swayed by others,** because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup> Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”*

Matthew 22:15-17

# Your role as the Christian politico

## 3. Be The church as it was designed to be - separate from the state

*But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” <sup>21</sup> “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “**So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.**” When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.*

Matthew 22:18-21

***The Church and state divided ensures the church is playing its role well***

***Only Christianity separates church and state in a way that the church allows the state to govern itself while attempting to keep it accountable***

# Your role as the Christian politico

## 4. Live at peace with everyone (where possible) while engaging in the public square

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

**Romans 12:17**