“Power corrupts, and power point corrupts absolutely.”
Fastest way to make Thanksgiving awkward?

Sex

Politics

Religion
California
Most Beautiful State in the Union
GOALS

1. Introduce topic and plug California

2. Define Politics: Greek and Biblical

3. The Union Student’s Political Toolbox

4. Barbecue Sacred Cows

5. Conclude and Q & A
Blood & Bugs
Greek Politics

• 1. What is the good life?
• 2. How should we live together?
• 3. What is required? What is optional? What is forbidden?
• 4. Who is empowered to enforce this?
• 5. What means will accomplish our ends?
Biblical Politics—Genesis 1-4

It is not good for man to be alone.

Man does not play well with others.

Imago dei
Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. 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. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“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.”
13 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. 14 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 15 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. 16 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. 17 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
Romans 13 in America

1. We are to be subject to the authorities, God’s servants.
2. In a democracy, authority comes from the people.
3. Thus as Christians we are to yield to authority, but we are also to wield authority, because we are the authority.
4. Moreover, we share this authority with neighbors who do not share our faith.
5. The challenge for Christian politics is how to submit to authority, and exercise authority, while sharing authority, with people who don’t share our beliefs.
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Social Issues:
- Trad. marriage
- Pro-life
- Religion in public life
- Pro-choice
- Gay marriage
- Cloning

Economic Issues:
- Contra cloning
- Trad. marriage
- Pro-life
- Religion in public life

Government oversight of Economy:
- Free markets
- Some libertarians
- Yankee Republicans
- Bill Clinton
- Barack Obama

People:
- Mitt Romney
- Ron Paul
- Rick Santorum
- White evangelicals
- Southern Democrats
- African-Americans
- Yankee Republicans
- Bill Clinton
- Barack Obama

Politics:
- Yankee Republicans
- Southern Democrats
- White evangelicals
- African-Americans
- Mitt Romney
- Ron Paul
- Rick Santorum
- Yankee Republicans
- Bill Clinton
- Barack Obama
Biblical Ends & Political Means

• 1. Taxes are legit, but what tax rate?
• 2. Government is legit, but what kind?
• 3. Government’s role is God-ordained, but what is government’s most important job?
• 4. Society must care for poor, but how?
• 5. Society must defend the weak and helpless . . .
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Sacred Cows

On the one hand:

“There oughta be a law!”

On the other hand:

“You cannot legislate morality.”
Sacred Cows

On the one hand:

“God is Republican (or Democrat).”

On the other hand:

“God is indifferent about political parties.”
Sacred Cows

On the one hand:

“The Church can solve everything with political power.”

On the other hand:

“If the Church would just be the Church, problems would take care of themselves.”
Sacred Cows

Last one:

“Surely I cannot impose my own private religious views on anyone else.”
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“A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people.”
James Madison

CONSTITUTION DAY
September 17

Individual, Community and State: How to Think About Religious Freedom

Guest speaker
Matthew J. Franck

Matthew J. Franck is the director of the William E. and Carol G.Simon Center on Religion and the Constitution at the Witherspoon Institute. He is professor emeritus of political science at Stanford University, where he taught constitutional law, American politics and political philosophy, and was chairman of the Department of Political Science.

September 17, 2012, 7 p.m.
Carl Grant Events Center
uu.edu

International Justice Mission chapter at Union, meeting @ 7:00 pm in the Bowld to watch The Rescue.