

What is a Salt and Light Team?

A Salt and Light Team monitors the cultural landscape through the lens of scripture. Social issues, legislation, and public policy are all part of this landscape. The ministry's findings are provided to the church with the goal of educating, equipping, and encouraging Christians to have a Godly influence on our society and culture.

"And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will." 2 Timothy 2:24-26

A SALT AND LIGHT TEAM IN ACTION

The Salt and Light serves to educate, equip, and encourage the church to stand for righteousness in the public square. We provide opportunities for this by:

- Holding monthly meetings designed to provide a deeper understanding of current issues.
- Hosting special events to address specific topics and issues.
- Sharing our views and concerns with elected representatives.
- Providing action alerts to call for action on targeted issues or legislation.
- Participating in the political/electoral process by conducting voter registration and petition drives.
- Producing and distributing voter guides on state, school board and city council elections.

Our Focus

Public policy affects virtually every aspect of our society and culture. This includes essential freedoms such as the right to life, religious liberty, and the God-ordained institutions of marriage and the family. Laws that are hostile to these freedoms have been enacted in our nation. We believe defending these rights is worthy of our time and effort. Christians must pray and act in order to return America to its biblical foundation.

Religious Freedom: Religious freedom and the Judea-Christian worldview are the indispensable moral supports upon which our American society and culture is built. However, many groups and individuals have initiated hostilities against Christianity or support of other religions in our courts, schools and legislatures which are designed to diminish or destroy our religious liberties, including evangelism, missions and the proclamation of Truth in the public square.

Human Life: Human beings, having been created in the image of God, should be protected in all stages of life from conception to natural death. Abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, mercy killing, etc., are morally wrong because these acts violate the character of God and the sanctity of creatures made in His own image.

Marriage: Marriage is the first institution designed by God to bind and hold together the fundamental fabric of civilized society. Marriage and the family flowing from it were created and intended for human happiness, tranquility, and the raising and nurturing of children. Because government has the duty to defend natural rights, to ensure domestic tranquility, and to promote the common good of civilized society, it should not promote, elevate or validate any behavior or conduct which undermines the institution of marriage or the family.

Parental Rights: Securing parental rights is a fundamental purpose of the state. Parents have the sole right to direct the training and care of their children. Without these natural rights, the state could interfere with raising godly children which would undermine the family and create chaos in society.

Civil Government: Civil government is ordained by God to restrain evil, promote the common good, maintain moral order, and to secure our natural and unalienable rights. Because all civil governments are morally obligated to be just and good, they are accountable to the Laws of Nature and Nature's God. Unfortunately, our local, state and federal governments are continuing to pass regulations and laws which impact our biblical values. Our Salt and Light teams must continue to monitor and report on actions that impact our religious freedom and are contrary to our biblical human life value. Additional local governments and school boards are also impacting our religious freedoms by requiring our kids to participate in courses that go against Biblical values especially in regards to sex education and the teaching of Islam.

... *"Go, set a watchman, Let him declare what Isaiah 21:*

Handbook

As Americans we are blessed to have a form of government established on Judea Christian principles that preserve and protect the God given rights of the people. Our founders recognized that God, not government, is the granting authority for our natural rights.

Biblical principles were employed to provide the indispensable moral support upon which our American society and culture is built. The writings of our early leaders make it clear that they believed the involvement of Christian ministers and lay people was and is essential to having good government and shaping good public policy.

As stewards of the freedom granted to us in Christ through our salvation and our humanity, we must be actively involved in preserving this freedom for our family, the Church, and ourselves. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been a diligent and concerted effort to keep Christians inside the church walls and out of the public square. Our ability to speak out about issues is being challenged and is in jeopardy. We must stand strong and not draw back in fear of taking a stand for a biblical world view and being involved in the politics of our society. We must speak out about important cultural and societal issues.

The focus of Faith and Public Policy is to educate, equip, and encourage pastors and church leaders as they work to uphold a Judeo-Christian worldview in all spheres of society, culture, and public policy. We provide information, resources, and tools to equip these leaders to promote and defend a Judeo-Christian worldview in the public square. To accomplish this, we assist church leadership in the establishment or expansion of culture impact ministries.

Many who deeply care about preserving our republic and our Judeo-Christian foundation feel overwhelmed when they think about starting a church based culture impact ministry. Faith and Public Policy supports those who desire help in this process. In order to guide church leaders in the establishment of a new ministry, we offer and ideas for getting started, and then growing, a culture impact ministry. Bear in mind that not all ministries will begin in exactly the same way nor will they look the same as they grow and expand.

Whether you are reading this as a pastor who desires to recruit a ministry leader or as a lay person who is charged with leading a culture impact ministry, we encourage you to prayerfully study the information contained herein and use it as God guides you.

Laying the Foundation

A church based culture impact ministry needs a qualified and committed leader. This person need not be someone who is experienced in the "political" or public policy arena. The committed person may learn and grow into the ministry as he or she moves forward. However, essential traits for this leader are that he or she be a person of prayer and that he or she holds to a biblical worldview.

Core Values of a Ministry Leader:

- Be Pro-Life
Psalm 139:13
- Be Pro-Natural Marriage
Mark 10:6-9
- Be Pro-Natural Family
Psalm 127:3
- Affirm the God-given Right to Religious Liberty
John 8:36

- Affirm the God-given Right of Parental Authority
Proverbs 22:6
- Recognize that Civil Government is Ordained by God
Romans 13:1
- Be Willing to Treat Those with Differing Viewpoints with the Love and the Compassion of Christ
2 Timothy 2: 24-26
- Be Politically Non-Partisan
Micah 6:8

Getting Started

"A nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins" Benjamin Franklin

The specific activities and projects each ministry team will engage in may vary from church to church. Here are some ideas that you might use as you begin.

A Beginning Culture Impact Ministry Leader will:

- Meet with several others to pray about the projects and actions the ministry will take.

<Monitor current news and legislation. (Sign up for emails from organizations listed on the FPP website: FaithandPublicPolicy.org.)

<Communicate with the pastor and leadership of the church.

a. Email updates and information to the pastor and leadership according to the frequency they desire.

b. Meet with the pastor and/or leadership on a mutually agreed upon schedule.

- Communicate with the congregation in accordance with the methods and frequency approved by the pastor and leadership using one or more of the following:

a. Email updates

b. Pulpit announcements

c. Bulletin inserts

d. Social Media

e. Church website postings

- Register voters prior to the primary and general elections. (See the County Registrar of Voters schedule for registration deadlines prior to each election.)

- Review the IRS Guidelines for churches. Visit our website for a link to review these guidelines in their entirety. (See Sample A)

Expanding the Ministry

"No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved. "Samuel Adams

A growing culture impact ministry will continue the above and may also:

- Hold regular meetings.
 - a. Educate and encourage the congregation. See Samples B & C. (Also see "Plan a Ministry Meeting" on the FPP website.)
 - b. Equip the congregation to apply a biblical worldview to societal and cultural issues.
 - Set up an information table to generate interest, communicate with the congregation, and recruit ministry volunteers.
 - a. Produce Action Alerts - See "Create a Legislative Action Alert: on the FPP website. Encourage congregants to contact their representatives regarding specific legislation.
 - b. Provide the congregation with instructions about how and when to respond to other issues.
 - Implement additional methods of communication with the congregation.
 - a. Set up a website. (See www.WatchmenMinistry.com for an example of a ministry website.)
 - b. Send out a weekly newsletter.
 - c. Use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to share pro-family news, action alerts, and opportunities to learn more about current issues, etc.
 - Check the Family Research Council website for a list of your state's Family Policy Council (FPC). Family Policy Councils work at the state level to accomplish the same goals that Family Research Council works for at the national level- to shape public debate and formulate public policy. Let your FPC know of your church's culture impact ministry.
 - Review items in the Faith and Public Policy website "Practical Tools" section for additional/new ideas.
- <Network with like-minded churches, ministry leaders, and pro-family organizations to learn more about issues, to work together on issues, and to better influence your community, state, and the nation.

For more information about "Increasing Ministry Impact on the Culture" click on the download below.

Topics:

California Issues
Marriage & Family

Quality of Life

Information: