

Kingdom citizens

Are you equipped for this hour?

By Sancha N. Smith

On the night Paul Revere made his famous ride, Parson Clark was having dinner with John Hancock and Samuel Adams. These two great patriots asked Clark the question: If war came, would the men of Lexington fight?

Rev. Clark replied that he had trained them for that very hour. The next day the “shot heard ‘round the world” was fired only a few yards from his parsonage.

“[Our liberty] began in a church – with a parson not afraid to speak out on the great issues of freedom and tyranny.”

- Dr. D. James Kennedy

Today, churches can make a tremendous difference in government and public policy by helping the members of their congregations be informed, responsible citizens. As part of its mission, a church should educate on:

- **Vital issues of public policy (abortion, education, taxes)**
- **Sound principles of government**
- **Responsible citizenship**
- **The importance of involvement**

A church can educate its congregation through sponsoring seminars on topics such as Biblical principles of government and providing literature tables for the distribution of educational materials.

One of the most important tasks a church can perform is to teach its members how to be effective citizens. Learning the *Rules of Engagement* will help us influence the government in ways that will help restore our country and our culture back to strong, traditional family values.

Becoming aware of the appropriate legislative activity will equip us and help us make substantive gains in pro-life and pro-family legislation and keep them. For instance, General Rule: Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, churches may engage in some “legislative activity” and still qualify for favored tax status, as long as such activity is not more than an “insubstantial” part of its overall activity in terms of time and money (e.g., worship service, Sunday school programs, etc.).

Legislative activity that amounts to 5 percent of all church activity is generally considered safe. Legislative activity between 5 and 20 percent is less certain and, therefore, less safe. Activity over 20 percent has been found unacceptable by the Internal Revenue Service.

Legislative activity is defined as any conduct intended to influence:

- **Legislation - bills before the U.S., Congress and state legislatures**
- **Measures before city councils**
- **Initiatives**
- **Referendums**

As kingdom citizens, we need to know the laws and how to apply them to the election-related activities allowed and those not allowed.

We should know the Biblical principles that define government and how to engage our legislators in honorable and effective ways.

Our nation and our government are in desperate need of salt and light which only the church, her pastors and her people can provide. By understanding and creatively using the lawful means at our disposal, we can make a difference.



Who is CWA?

Concerned Women for America (CWA) is the nation’s largest grassroots women’s organization devoted to public policy issues. It has a rich history of helping our members apply Biblical principles to all levels of public policy.

CWA, like your church, operates under the guidelines of a 501(c)(3) organization in its voter education projects. For more information about CWA in your area, contact CWA of Louisiana State Director Sancha N. Smith at 337-308-8696 or director@louisiana.cwfa.org. Go to ConcernedWomen.org for the latest news and information you need.

Seven Core Issues

1. **Family** - Defending marriage as between one man and one woman.
2. **Sanctity of Human Life** - Protecting life from conception to natural death.
3. **Education** - Reforming public education by returning authority to parents.
4. **Sexual Exploitation** - Fighting all pornography, obscenity, prostitution and sex trafficking.
5. **Religious Liberty** - Supporting the God-given right of all people to pray, worship and express their beliefs without fear.
6. **National Sovereignty** - Ensuring that no organization holds authority over the U.S. in any area. Supporting the duty of the U.S. to defend and secure its borders.
7. **Support for Israel** - Supporting Israel in policy and prayer.

Prayer/Action Chapters

Prayer/Action Chapters meet monthly in homes, churches and communities across the nation. The Prayer/Action Chapters’ purpose is to help members to:

1. **Be alert and informed on the issues.** “...being watchful to this end with all perseverance...” Ephesians 6:18b
2. **Pray about the issues.** “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...” Ephesians 6:18a
3. **Act on those issues.** “...that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” Ephesians 6:20



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