

In the course of studying the relationship between the Christian and government, I came across this 600 plus page tome of Wayne Grudem's called *Politics According To The Bible: A Comprehensive Resource for Understanding Modern Political Issues in Light of Scripture*. His bio is given on Amazon as follows: "Wayne Grudem (PhD, University of Cambridge; DD, Westminster Theological Seminary) is distinguished research professor of theology and biblical studies at Phoenix Seminary, having previously taught for 20 years at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a former president of the Evangelical Theological Society, a member of the Translation Oversight Committee for the English Standard Version of the Bible, the general editor of the ESV Study Bible, and has published over 20 books."

The book begins with several chapters of introduction that offer a particular conclusion from Grudem urging "significant Christian influence on government." Whatever your view in that regard, Grudem does go over the scriptures and makes generally good arguments for his position. The bulk of the book is Grudem taking a multitude of current issues and trying to apply scripture to them to come to a conclusion. He has been roundly criticized for seeming too partisan and for, in some cases, lacking solid scripture for the issue.

In my study, I found the beginning chapters of this book the most useful. After all, I was studying the relationship of Christian and government and so was not as concerned with special issues. It is there he gives the background and analysis of the situation that leads him to his conclusion. If one is looking to deal with specific issues, he may find the material useful; however, it is a lot of book for just one issue. I think Grudem is more objective than some give him credit for. He has the right idea in trying to apply scripture to issue, and it will be his thought pattern that is interesting as well as the weighing of his conclusions with scripture. He raises some points to think about. "If Christians are silent about such moral and ethical issues, then where will moral standards come from [for a nation's government]?" "The opportunity to help select the kind of government we will have is a *stewardship* that God entrusts to citizens in a democracy, a stewardship that we should not neglect or fail to appreciate. That at least means that Christians are responsible to learn enough about the important issues to be able to vote intelligently."

This is a reference tool, not a good read. I found it helpful on the subject of government in general and the passages of scripture. This issue is much more complex than mere platitudes of "Obey the government." This book was a help in my study.