5. Participate in government and civic life →

   - Vote
   - Persuade
   - Respond/protest/campaign
   - Seek the election of people who are faithful, brave and wise
   - Serve in public office
   - Unite with other Christians to consolidate powers

6. Prophetic witness: when the church SHOULD involve herself in politics and government

Next week = Question Time

Government and nation: what should we DO?

Ephesians 1:19-23

Discuss while waiting to begin

- What are the *most* important things currently happening in our nation?
- How do you *know* that those are the most important things?
- What should you/we *DO* in the light of those things?

Our nation = bigger than family and tribe… smaller than empire

(a) Determined by God (Acts 17:26)

(b) Accountable to God (Proverbs 14:34): national interest, distinct culture, under Christ

(c) Redeemed by God (1 Peter 2:9-10, Revelation 21:24-26)

(d) Applications and reflections

1. Our nation matters
2. *Our* fate is tied up in the life of our *nation*
3. Learn a proper love of nation and culture

4. Understand our culture… history…

   - Events: good and bad
   - The hand of God
   - → why we are the way we are

5. Read some history books…
   … but beware much modern history-writing

6. Pray – for the gospel to impact our nation, leading to an increasingly Christian English culture and national life

   - e.g. King George VI → 7 national days of prayer during WW2
   - e.g. "Henry V" → Psalm 116

7. Lament… and pray… because we are helpless… and the Lord must do it.

8. Share the Gospel…
   for honour of Christ… and good of the lost…
   AND for the common good

9. Christians must build a counter-culture:
   = our rituals, lifestyle, stories, catechisms

Our government

(a) Government is instituted by God (Romans 13:1-4, WCF 21.1)

(b) Therefore, all rulers owe allegiance to Christ the King of Kings (Psalm 2:11)

(c) So, they must seek the public "good" (Romans 13:4)
= piety, justice & peace (1 Timothy 2:1)
= reflect 10 commandments and promote the Christian church

(d) We, as citizens, must submit (Romans 13:1)
… except when must disobey (Acts 4:19-20)

(e) Applications and reflections:

1. Have a proper concern for government
2. This is part of the common good: "seek the welfare of the city" (Jeremiah 29:7)
3. So, Christians must pray for and pursue a genuinely Christian government
4. Learn the Scriptural benchmark by which to evaluate all politics, government and law: