

Christian Leadership Reflections

Discussion Guide

CHRISTIANS AND THE POWER OF THE STATE

https://www.cccc.org/news_blogs/john/2015/12/14/christians-and-the-power-of-the-state



- 1) When you speak or write about those who attack Christianity, religious freedom, or something specific about your ministry, are you feeling negative emotions such as anger, hate, or bitterness? Are you thinking about revenge? How would Jesus have felt about your opposition?
- 2) Are there any *ad hominem* arguments in anything you write or say about your opposition? It is okay to attack a position or an action/behaviour, but not okay to attack the person.
- 3) Pick a position your ministry holds that the public may disagree with, and write down the goals, values, and assumptions held by both sides. If you were to reach the maximum possible agreement with the opposition, what would that agreement be? What would still be at issue? Can you agree to disagree?
- 4) Who, from the opposition, would you feel comfortable getting to know and building a relationship with? If no one comes to mind, commit to praying for God to bring you such a person. If you already have a trusting relationship with someone, how could you build on that relationship?
- 5) When people research your ministry online, will their impression be that you are either a special interest group or a supporter of a particular political ideology, or will their impression be that you are a faith-based organization that does good works of service? How can you show people that the controversial position you hold is just part of a much larger program of service (even if they disagree with your position)?