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Church and Politics**Myung Yong Kim**

There are typically three major misunderstandings on the relationship between the Church and politics. First is the understanding that the Church should maintain a neutral position when it comes to political issues. Church's political neutrality clashes with the very purpose of the Church to build the kingdom of God here on this earth. This is an error made by forgetting the church's responsibility to the world and ultimately leads to the error of allowing the devil to rule the world. The second mistake in understanding the relationship between the Church and politics is the separation of both. This theory does have a positive aspect. In an Islamic nation, the separation of religion from politics is critical for ensuring the freedom of religion. Hence, there are instances where separation of religion and state is necessary for the freedom and development of religion. However, like the Church's political neutrality, the separation of religion and politics raises a major issue in the Church's responsibility to the world. In order to establish God's kingdom here on this earth, recognizing the Church's responsibility to the state is extremely important. The third misconception about the relationship between the Church and politics is theocracy. This theory stands against the above two errors and is an attempt to realize God's will and purpose through the power of the state. The problem here lies in trying to establish the kingdom of God in the world through hierarchical ruling using power. God's kingdom is not established through force and coercion but through love and persuasion. The reign of God is a rule from the bottom-up based on freedom, not reinforcement from the top-down. The way of God's kingdom is not theocracy but God's democracy from the bottom-up. God's kingdom, God's democracy from the bottom-up is expanded through analogies of God's kingdom. Through deep recognition that it is God who establishes his kingdom and prayer, the church expands the kingdom of God by discovering, producing, and spreading analogies of God's kingdom.