

A. Where Are We? (what is our public square?)

1. Exile in Babylon, not Home in the New Jerusalem

2. Now: Marriage → Gender → Religious Freedom

Democratic National Committee Platform: “we support a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate.”

3. Before: Racism, Injustice, Religious-Political Compromise

4. Posture and Gestures

a. Our **Posture**: We are **for** the world.

1) Kuyper: Common Grace

2) Jeremiah 29:4-7

3) But even a very good world/nation falls short of the kingdom of God.

b. Our frequent **gesture**: We are **against** the world, **for the sake** of the world.

1) Abraham Kuyper: Antithesis. “Two kinds of men doing two kinds of science.”

2) 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

5. Why did Daniel refuse “to defile himself with the royal food and wine”? (Dan. 1:8)

a. Drew a line somewhere (public stand). *Where is your line?*

b. Remembered the source of his power (private reminder). *Who or what is your hope?*

B. *Who Are We?* (which people?)

1. Shepherds of the Body of Christ. Leaders of the political kingdom of God. Don't stoop for earthly power.
2. Dual citizens: higher allegiance empowers us to serve America well (Phil. 3:20)
3. Kuyper: Church as Institution (Gathered) vs. Church as Organism (Scattered)

C. *What Must We Do?* (what principles?)

1. Hope in Jesus.
2. Recognize larger forces may be at work, such as the **judgment of God** and the activity of **Satan**.
3. Remember the **higher good** of the kingdom. Avoid **triumphalism** and **nationalism**.
4. Cleanse our corporate worship of Jesus from expressions of loyalty to the state.
5. Remember the **common good** of creation. Promote biblical values; avoid a **privatized faith**.
6. Never tell people who to vote for, especially if the candidate is known to be an immoral person who holds unjust positions. The lesser of two evils is still evil.
7. Distinguish, but do not separate, our public roles as **Christians and citizens**.
8. **Don't compromise** with idolatry for the sake of solidarity.
9. Discern when to speak in the public square with a **thin and thick** Christian accent.
10. Be patient with each other, because **politics and persecution is messy**. "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3).