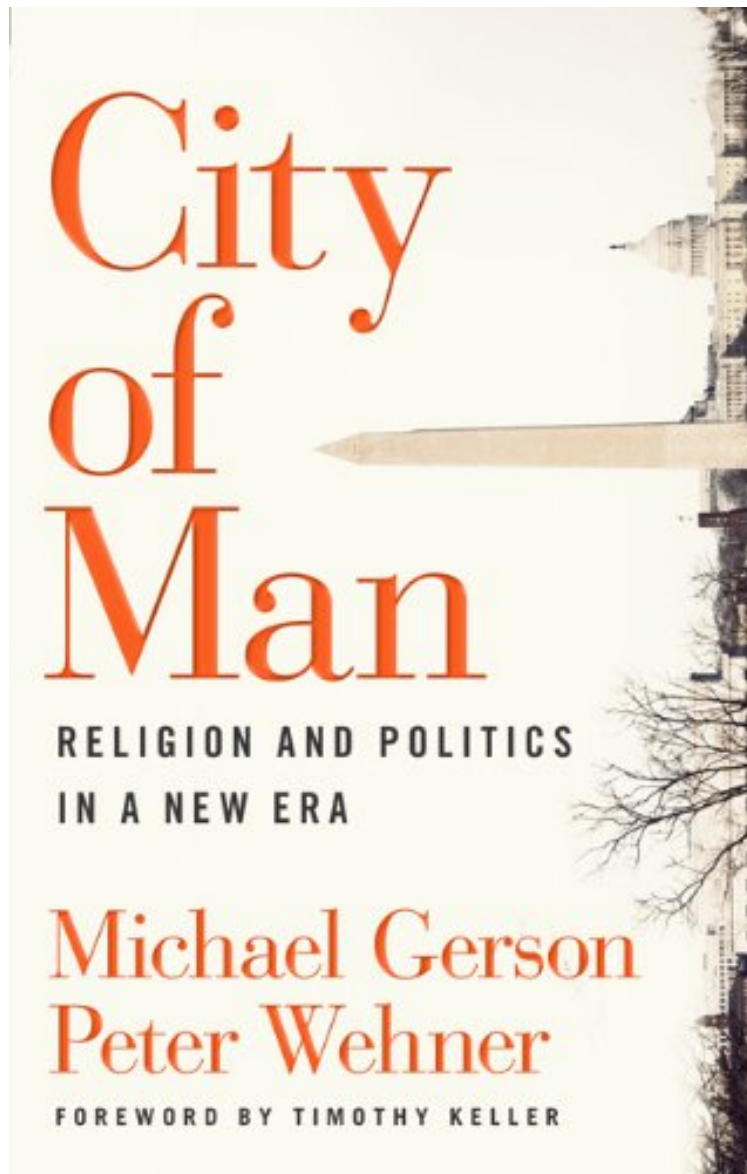


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City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era

Michael Gerson, Peter Wehner
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Michael Gerson, Peter Wehner : City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Short, important and valuable book.By Fitness CelebrityThis short book is important reading for all Christians who feel the need to engage in political discussion, but at the same time are afraid of alienating an increasingly secular, irreligious culture. Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner will sober up

evangelicals who feel that America is slipping away from them, but they propose a better, more civil way for religious people to behave in the public square. Not as cultural scolds, or with fire and brimstone denunciations of secular people, but by coming alongside them in grace and truth. For progressives, especially those who talk of removing Christianity from politics, this book is equally helpful in explaining why that's neither possible nor desirable. They may also learn a greater respect and appreciation for Christians who engage in politics with the right spirit, and spot the difference from those who don't.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Motivation for religious involvement in public policy

By Tim Lubinus Gerson and Peter Wehner, who served in the George W. Bush White House, offer *City of Man* as a beginner's guide to sorting out religiously motivated involvement in public policy. They rightly reject the demand of some secularists to disqualify any religiously based input in a policy discussion. They point out to the secularist that his foundation for human rights and the dignity of man can not be sustained logically. My beef with the authors is that they put too much stock in natural law as universal foundation for sound public policy debates. If natural law is so clear, it seems like we should have much more agreement on its content.

For Christians who want to opt out of political involvement because it is somehow dirty or out of bounds for godly people or because they are embarrassed by Christians who have been wrong in the past, the authors rightly point out that the neat separation of spiritual from worldly affairs is illogical and unbiblical. Christians who are fully practicing their faith can not ignore involvement in this key component of Christian ethics that includes speaking into civil government and public policy.

Gerson and Wehner caution Christians against confusing ethical content in the scripture intended for individuals with the content intended for the state. Similarly they warn against confusing instruction for churches with instruction for individual believers. These problems have derailed Christians in the past. Christians also need to understand that any mention of ancient Israel in the Bible can not be blindly applied to any civil government today.

In addition to the message of public policy the authors address the method of public discourse. The recommended approach is Tim Keller's: non-abrasive, culturally sophisticated, theologically conservative, in search of common ground where possible. Interacting respectfully with others will gain more influence than delivering a monologue of black and white statements.

City of Man invites Christians to be active in the public policy discussion but offers little guidance for the actual content of the discussion. I'm going to continue looking for a better book to introduce this critical topic.

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. How Should Christians Engage Today's Political World?

By William D. Curnutt Gerson and Peter Wehner are two former White House staff members under the presidency of George W. Bush. These men were staff writers who helped to craft policy and the statements to the public about those policies. They are both conservative and they are both Evangelical Christians. Their book is unapologetically Evangelical and Conservative. Their goal is to give Evangelical Christians a wake up call to their need to become involved in the political and moral life of the communities and the country that they live in.

In their conclusion of the book they state that they hope they have providing three broad propositions to the Evangelical Christian Community. Those are:

1. Politics is the realm of necessity
2. Politics is the realm of hope and possibility
3. Politics can be the realm of nobility

It is their premise that Christians should be decided vocal about politics and become more involved in helping form and shape the political landscape of our country.

Chapter 1 of the book takes us on an exploration of Religion and Politics and whether they are friends or enemies. I think they do a good job of addressing the Biblical aspects of why we need governments and that God is not opposed to the formation of governments. They explore also how governments ought not be formed with an absence of religious thought, but should give consideration to the moral values that religion brings to society.

Chapter 2 gives a history of the Religious Right and does a good job, I think, of showing the good and the bad inherent in what happened with the Religious Right. The movement wasn't bad, but it did birth some individuals who tended to take more pleasure in their power than what was prudent, Biblical or necessary. But the movement itself was not poor.

Chapter 3 gives their view of what "A New Approach" ought to be now that the Religious Right has had it's moment in the sun.

The final chapters are very good in regards to Human Rights, Morality and the Role and Purpose of the State. I specifically enjoyed Chapter 5. I felt it had the most nuggets of gold for what I was looking for. The following quote was my favorite from the book, "A wise government, constructed around a true view of human nature, thus creates the conditions necessary to allow the great mass of the people to live well and to flourish, the enjoy both order and liberty, to live under the protection of the state without being suffocated by it."

This book gave a good introduction to the need for us to be aware of our politic culture and able to articulate our beliefs and disagreements. I think a good reference tool for Christians looking for a Biblical answer to the social questions and political questions we face today will be found in Wayne Grudem's book on "Politics". But I think thoughtful Evangelicals will enjoy this book for the concepts that it promotes for us. Enjoy.

From two former White House insiders, one a columnist for the Washington Post, the other for the New York Times

Our nation is in a political nightmare. With the rise of the Alt-Right, and increasing division between liberals and conservatives, it is hard to know how to be politically engaged while maintaining Christian integrity. Former White House insiders Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner call evangelicals toward a new kind of political engagement a kind that is better both for the church and the country, a kind that cannot be co-opted by either political party, a kind that avoids the historic mistakes of both the Religious Right and the Religious Left.

A product of the authors' own

wrestling with the complicated relationship between religion and politics, *City of Man* deals with questions central to evangelicals' future political role, including: How can religious people exercise influence while maintaining their integrity? What tone should they be known for? How should they think about the role and purpose of government? Which causes and issues, both at home and abroad, ought to be a part of their agenda? Incisive, bold, and marked equally by pragmatism and idealism, Gerson and Wehner's book charts a new political future not just for civic-minded Christians and "values voters," but for the nation as a whole.

In recent American history, the mixture of religion and politics has all too often produced inflated rhetoric, demonization of opponents, runaway hyperbole, and mindless demagoguery. This book is different. It pulls back from the heat of conflict to seek light from Scripture, Christian tradition, and a measured analysis of American political history. Although I have voted "none of the above" in many presidential elections, I'm confident that what these veterans of the Bush White House have written will help Christian believers of any political persuasion to act more responsibly in the public square. Their discussions of the purposes of government (order, justice, virtue, and prosperity) and of the urgent need for patient persuasion in political debate are especially insightful.

Mark A. Noll
Francis A. McAnaney
Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

In an age when many of the battles between religion and politics are nearing the boiling point, *City of Man* is a primer for Christians seeking to find their rightful place in the political arena. Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner issue a clarion call for active Christian involvement in the form of calculated and thoughtful engagement. Chock full of historical and theological wisdom, *City of Man* reminds Christians that they should care about politics and win or lose never give up the fights that matter most.

William J. Bennett
Washington Fellow, The Claremont Institute

A thoughtful, creative articulation of a new agenda for conservative politics by Christians. One need not agree with all the assumptions or arguments to find this book a significant contribution to Christian reflection on where our nation should go. The book offers a significant challenge to both liberals and conservatives.

Ronald J. Sider
Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry, and Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary

Figuring out the appropriate relationship between politics and religion for Christians is a daunting task. Yet Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner have succeeded brilliantly. In *City of Man*, they spell out a political theology for 21st century Christians that rejects the narrow thinking of the Religious Right and the creeping secularism of the Religious Left. *City of Man* is a two-fer. It's an enormously important book on politics and on religion.

Fred Barnes
Executive Editor, the Weekly Standard

In *City of Man*, two of our nation's most gifted public intellectuals address the question: How should religious believers understand their obligations as citizens of a modern constitutional democratic republic? Michael J. Gerson and Peter Wehner warn their fellow Christians against, on the one hand, reducing religion to politics, and, on the other, imagining that Christian faith has no relevance to our political duties. Addressing a range of challenging and timely issues, they show how the resources of Christian faith can be marshaled to bring public policy more fully into line with the inherent dignity of human beings as creatures fashioned in the very image and likeness of God.

Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University

This is book is a wonderful gift to all of us who care deeply about Christian engagement in the political arena. Drawing on their experiences of having worked day-to-day in the inner corridors of political power during times of crisis, the authors offer us a marvelously clear and candid perspective on what it means to seek the welfare of the City of Man, while taking with utmost seriousness our identity as citizens of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Richard J. Mouw
President, Fuller Theological Seminary

Wisdom in the biblical sense is nourished at the intersection of God's character and our experience. Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner write out of both a rich experience in the national political arena and a deep immersion in biblical faith, and have given us a book of uncommon wisdom. Their reflections on how religion and politics interact in our rapidly changing culture are perceptive and challenging, combin[ing] a broad, historical understanding of the issues with a thoroughly accessible style.

Dr. Stephen A. Hayner
President, Columbia Theological Seminary