

Christians Must Do Their Duty

The great revival preacher Charles Finney declared, “Politics are a part of religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as part of their duty to God.” Considering that Charles Finney is renowned as a revival preacher, not a political activist, his assertion may surprise those who consider it inappropriate to mix religion and politics, but Finney was also a strong proponent of Christian cultural engagement. It was during Finney’s time that God stirred in the Northern states once again with such power that hundreds of thousands of conversions were recorded in the churches. The entire Northern United States was changed. Out of this great spiritual awakening a potent political movement emerged which greatly aided the antislavery cause and ultimately changed the course of our nation through the election of Abraham Lincoln as President. Had that spiritual awakening not occurred, and had leaders like Charles Finney not encouraged those converted to turn their attention to the culture, it is very possible that Lincoln would not have been elected. Because he was elected, our nation finally settled the greatest moral issue of the day—slavery.

(Richard Land and Barrett Duke, “Being Salt and Light in an Unsavory and Dark Age: The Christian and Politics,” *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 11.4, (Winter 2007): 82-99)