

PEACE MAKERS



in a noisy world

03 The Church and the Christian

Because Christ has given distinct callings to His church and to His people, faithful peacemaking requires clarity about mission and responsibility.

EMBARK

Listen to the Case Study, then discuss:

1. What did he do well?
2. Where could he have gone wrong?
3. What boundaries did he seem to understand?
4. What does this suggest about the difference between personal responsibility and corporate worship?
5. What would have happened if Daniel had confused his personal faithfulness with the mission of Israel's worshiping community?

EXAMINE

READ Matthew 28:18–20

6. What does Jesus explicitly commission the church to do?
7. What is central in that mission?

READ Ephesians 4:11–16

8. What is the purpose of church leadership?
9. What kind of maturity and unity is the church meant to cultivate?

READ 1 Timothy 3:14–15

10. How does Paul describe the church's identity and responsibility?

READ Romans 13:1–7

11. What responsibility does God assign to civil authorities?
12. How is that responsibility different from the church's mission?

READ 1 Timothy 2:1–4

13. How are believers to relate to governing authorities?
14. What does Paul connect political peace to?

Not every
RESPONSIBILITY
belongs to
THE CHURCH.

EXPOSE

Scripture gives both the church and individual believers real responsibilities. But they are not identical.

The church as a church:

- proclaims the gospel
- guards sound doctrine
- forms consciences through Scripture
- models unity across differences
- disciples believers

Individual Christians:

- serve in public roles
- vote and participate in civic life
- influence culture through vocation and relationships
- advocate according to conscience
- love neighbors in tangible ways

When we assign the church what belongs to individuals, the gospel becomes entangled with secondary matters. When we assign individuals what belongs to the church, consciences become bound where Scripture gives freedom. Daniel's life illustrates faithful personal engagement without institutional confusion. Peacemaking requires clarity about both mission and sphere.

ENGAGE

Group Activity – Church or Christian? (8–10 minutes)

As a group, discuss the questions below.

Step 1 (3–4 min): Place the statements.

For each statement below, decide together which category it should go into.

Church as a Church	Individual Christians

- *Proclaiming the gospel*
- *Forming consciences through teaching*
- *Participating in public policy debates*
- *Serving in civic office*
- *Guarding unity in the body*
- *Loving difficult political opponents*
- *Issuing public statements on every cultural controversy*
- *Modeling cross-cultural unity*

Step 2 (2–3 min): Where is it hardest to tell?

- Which statement was hardest to place?
- Why?

Step 3 (2–3 min): What happens when we blur the line?

Discuss:

- What happens to unity?
- What happens to witness?
- What happens to conscience?

For further discussion...

11. How does Daniel's example help us think about engagement without confusion?
12. Why are churches often pressured to speak beyond their mission?
13. How does clarifying the church's mission protect both gospel clarity and Christian liberty?
14. What would steady, confident faithfulness look like in our context?

MEMORY VERSE

1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV) "...the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."