



Politics Identity in Christian Perspective and the Implication for Christian Politicians in Indonesia

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Abstract

This research examines political identity from the Christian perspective and the Implication for Christian politicians. In 2024, Indonesia will run the presidential election. The most apparent phenomenon of identity politics in the history of Indonesian democracy was the election for the Jakarta area in 2017. It was done by a handful of people considering the success of identity politics in 2017. They want to repeat their success in 2017 in the forthcoming 2024 election. Politicians and Christians must be different; they must stand firm in their Christian identity and bring important messages to Indonesia. The study adopted a literature study which is a library study method research technique that involves seeking sources that offer factual information or expert opinions relevant to a research question. This method utilizes various library resources, such as books, scholarly journals, and online databases, to collect reliable information. The authors carefully analysed works to build a frame of mind to answer the problem that was formulated. Data analysis techniques were based on careful content analysis. All data are presented descriptively. The result and key finding of the study is that Christian politicians must play their roles as prophetic politicians.

Keywords: Indonesian election 2024, identity politics, prophetic politics, Christianity.

Introduction

The most apparent phenomenon of identity politics in the history of Indonesian democracy was in the election for the Jakarta area in 2017. As the 2024 elections approach, the seeds of identity politics seem to be reappearing. This is done by a handful of people considering the success of identity politics in 2017. They want to repeat their



successes obtained in 2017, in the 2024 election year (I Putu Sastra Wingarta et al., 2021).

The term "politics identity" typically refers to an individual's political affiliation or political beliefs that shape their identity and perspective on various political issues. It includes how individuals identify themselves within a political group or ideology, such as being liberal, conservative, libertarian, socialist, or belonging to a specific political party. Politics identity encompasses one's values, opinions, and viewpoints on issues related to governance, social justice, economic policies, civil rights, and more. It significantly shapes an individual's political behaviors, influencing their voting choices, activism, and overall political engagement (Fox, 2018).

"Identity politics" refers to the political mobilization and organization based on a group's shared characteristics, experiences, or identities. It is the idea that individuals who share a common identity, such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religion, should form political alliances to advocate for their collective interests and address issues specific to their group. Identity politics aims to challenge systemic inequalities, social injustices, and discrimination by focusing on the experiences and perspectives of marginalized or underrepresented groups. Proponents argue that groups must claim political power and have their voices heard. However, critics argue that identity politics can lead to division, tribalism, and an exclusionary approach that undermines a sense of shared identity and solidarity (Eisenberg & Spinner-Halev, 2005).

The terms "identity politics" and "political identity" have some overlap but also represent distinct concepts. Identity politics is the political mobilization and organization based on a group's shared characteristics, experiences, or identities (Bernstein, 2005). On the other hand, political identity refers to an individual's identification with a particular political ideology, political party, or set of beliefs. Political identity can encompass a range of perspectives, affiliations, and ideologies, such as being a liberal, conservative, libertarian, or affiliated with a specific political party (Hoggett, 2016). Social polarization has witnessed an increase whereby identity politics has the potential to exacerbate divisions among diverse racial, religious, and cultural factions. The phenomenon of social polarization has the potential to arise as a consequence, thereby posing a threat to the overall cohesion and unity of the nation. The phenomenon of identity politics has the potential to foster the formation of echo chambers (an echo chamber refers to a group of participants who choose to preferentially connect with each other, to the exclusion of those considered to be outsiders), erode the capacity for empathy and mutual comprehension among different groups, and function as a mechanism for exacerbating societal divisions when employed in such a manner. It could potentially hinder endeavors to resolve collective issues that impact the entire populace and impede the advancement of social harmony (Monroe et al., 2000).

Intolerance and discrimination can arise due to identity politics, leading to the marginalization and mistreatment of minority groups perceived as divergent. The potential consequences of this action could threaten individuals' legal entitlements and undermine Indonesia's rich cultural and religious diversity. Identity politics can also perpetuate social divisions and reinforce stereotypes, exacerbating marginalized groups' difficulties attaining equitable access to resources and opportunities. To foster a more equitable and cohesive society, it is imperative to actively encourage the principles of inclusivity and dialogue that transcend mere distinctions based on identity (Bickford, 1997). Conflict escalation can also arise due to identity politics, leading to group conflicts. The potential consequences of this situation could pose a threat to the security and stability of Indonesia. Furthermore, exacerbating conflicts rooted in identity can lead to heightened polarization and animosity among various societal groups, thereby hindering endeavors from fostering a sense of national cohesion and collaborative engagement.



The collaboration between decision-makers and civil society is of utmost importance in addressing these disparities. Adopting proactive measures prioritizing mutual respect, empathy, and cooperation among diverse groups is imperative (Bang, 2009).

The phenomenon of identity politics can exert a detrimental influence on democratic systems by amplifying the identities of certain groups while simultaneously marginalizing others. For instance, the Jakarta regional head election of 2017. (Fautanu et al., 2020). The potential consequences include a potential compromise of the fundamental principles of justice and democracy. Identity politics can potentially curtail the representation and inclusivity within democratic institutions by marginalizing minority voices and perspectives. It undermines the core tenets of fairness and equality that democracy seeks to uphold. Promoting inclusivity is crucial for societies to enable universal political participation, irrespective of individuals' identities or physical appearances (Hussain, 2010).

The phenomenon of heightened corruption can be attributed to the potential for certain interest groups to derive financial gains from specific policies, thereby fostering an environment conducive to corruption. This correlation is particularly evident within the realm of identity politics. It may not align with the collective best interests of all individuals. Furthermore, in cases where identity politics are prioritized over qualifications and merit, it can lead to the selection of individuals who lack competence solely due to their affiliation with a specific group. The phenomenon above not only diminishes the effectiveness of democratic institutions but also erodes public trust in the system, compromising a society's collective capacity for self-governance (Gillespie & Okruhlik, 1991). Based on the discussion above, there are two questions: How do Christian politicians maintain their political identity? What are the messages of Christian politicians so that they have an impact on the Indonesian nation?

Method

The library study method is a research technique that involves seeking sources that offer factual information or expert opinions relevant to a research question. This method utilizes various library resources, such as books, scholarly journals, and online databases, to collect reliable information. The library study method critically evaluates sources to ensure their reliability and relevance to the research question (Leavy, 2022). The author analyses carefully to build a frame of mind to answer the problem formulation. Data analysis techniques are content analysis. All data are presented descriptively (Kothari, 2009).

Finding and Discussion

The meaning of identity

The concept of identity is employed to characterize the unique attributes or characteristics of an individual's personality. One's self-concept is shaped by their unique attributes, affiliations, and societal positions. The concept of identity is inherently dynamic, as it undergoes transformation and evolution in response to personal growth and exposure to novel experiences throughout an individual's lifespan. Various factors, such as cultural background, early life experiences, and religious beliefs, shape an individual's beliefs and values. External factors, including societal norms and expectations, can also shape the formation of one's identity (Bernstein, 2005).

The following are critical points about identity. The concept of identity pertains to an individual's unique personality traits and characteristics. Individuality is the characteristic that sets one person apart from another and renders them unique. An individual's identity



is often shaped by the amalgamation of their inherent attributes (for instance, people who are growing up in a Christian environment, will find that their lives are influenced by Christianity and those in a Javanese environment, will behave as if they are Javanese in every sense) and external influences. Individuals' values, interests, experiences, and affiliations with various networks and communities can influence them. The notion of identity is inherently intricate and characterized by multiple dimensions, exhibiting a dynamic nature that transforms an individual's lifespan (Bang, 2009).

The concept of identity can also encompass aligning with a given description or assertion. This encompasses an individual's aggregate traits and characteristics considered essential for self-awareness. From a conceptual standpoint, identity can be perceived as a mechanism for asserting one's distinctiveness and demarcating oneself from others. This encompasses not solely the physical attributes of an individual but also their beliefs, values, and personal achievements, which collectively contribute to their self-perception and identity (Hoggett, 2016).

Identity encompasses diverse manifestations, encompassing personal, social, and cultural dimensions. Conversely, social identity pertains to the various groups or classifications an individual is affiliated with, such as their racial, gender, or national affiliations. Personal identity encompasses the unique characteristics and attributes that define an individual such as tribe, ethnic group, nationality, and religion. Conversely, cultural identity is influenced by a particular group or community's traditions, customs, and shared experiences. The interplay and impact of diverse identity categories influence the formation of an individual's self-concept and social interactions within society (Bernstein, 2005).

"Cultural identity" refers to the collective beliefs, values, customs, and practices that define a specific group or society. The concept of identity holds substantial importance as it facilitates individuals in comprehending their sense of self and their place within the broader societal context. Additionally, it is plausible that this phenomenon could influence individuals' interpersonal interactions and self-perception. Individual and collective identities, alongside cultural identity, contribute to the formation of an individual's holistic self-perception. Personal identity comprises unique characteristics, lived encounters, and inherent attributes that differentiate individuals from their peers. An individual's social identity is influenced by the groups or communities they belong to, encompassing various factors such as gender, race, religion, and socioeconomic status. The interaction between different dimensions of identity contributes to developing a comprehensive and intricate self-understanding (Bang, 2009).

The Meaning of Politics

Politics refers to the activities and strategies involved in acquiring and preserving political power and exerting political influence. The subject matter encompasses a diverse array of endeavors, including but not limited to engaging in advocacy efforts, participating in electoral processes, engaging in lobbying activities, engaging in negotiation processes, and undertaking governance responsibilities. Furthermore, it entails applying and examining interactions (Fox, 2018).

Politics is essential to any democratic society as it facilitates the unrestricted articulation of divergent perspectives and the nonviolent settlement of conflicts. The field of politics plays a crucial role in shaping the formulation of public policies, thereby contributing to the resolution of societal issues and the promotion of the well-being of citizens (Hoggett, 2016).

From a more comprehensive perspective, politics encompasses the intricate interplay of power dynamics within society, economy, culture, and formal governance structures.



Power dynamics refers to the concept of personal identity as it pertains to the distinct qualities and characteristics that establish an individual's sense of self. For instance, people who grow up in middle up in a wealthy community have more confidence than people who grow up in poor area. The concept encompasses the allocation and exercise of power, the allocation of resources, and the resolution of conflicts within social structures. Recognizing and rectifying social injustices and promoting inclusive decision-making processes necessitate a comprehensive comprehension of politics. It facilitates the analysis conducted by scholars to understand the mechanisms of power and identify systemic barriers that hinder the progress of social justice and environmental sustainability. Scholars specializing in political science possess the capacity to contribute to formulating policies and strategies that prioritize marginalized communities, thereby fostering a future characterized by enhanced equity and sustainability (Bickford, 1997).

The field of politics encompasses a wide range of topics, including exercising power, establishing governance systems within societies, and the intricate processes involved in making decisions. The concept under consideration is an essential element of human civilization, exerting a substantial influence on governmental bodies' and local communities' structure and functioning. The comprehension of politics empowers researchers to analyze and confront the systemic inequities and imbalances of power that often persist in marginalizing specific communities. Researchers can propose innovative ideas by analyzing political systems and structures and advocate for inclusive policies that promote social justice, equity, and environmental sustainability (Eisenberg & Spinner-Halev, 2005).

The Meaning of Politics Identity

In this context, "political identity" refers to a person's affiliation and identification with a particular political group or ideology. It encompasses all the dispositions, allegiances, and values that affect a person's political preferences and viewpoints. Various elements, such as personal experiences, education, and upbringing, may influence one's political identity. It significantly affects one's political behaviors and decision-making (Bernstein, 2005).

Political identity is frequently shaped and reinforced by interactions with family, peers, the educational system, the media, and other social institutions. These interactions expose people to various ideologies and viewpoints, leading them to question or support their current political identity. Historical occurrences, movements, and cultural and societal norms that have a long-lasting influence on a group's or society's collective consciousness can also impact political identity (Reidy et al., 2015). A few examples of how political identity can manifest itself are party affiliation, ideological alignment (liberal, conservative, socialist), or support for specific policy positions or social movements. Joining political parties, attending political gatherings, and participating in political discourse are additional ways to demonstrate it.

The political identity of a person has a significant impact on their political behaviors and decision-making. It might impact voter turnout, political engagement, and the level of support given to different candidates or ideas. It also affects the growth of political coalitions, social movements, and the overall dynamics of political systems (Lowndes et al., 2006).

Remembering that political identity is dynamic and subject to change is critical. People's political opinions and affiliations can alter in response to new information, personal growth, or external factors. People may also identify with multiple political ideologies or discover that different aspects of various ideologies resonate with them. Understanding political identity is essential for comprehending political dynamics, voter behaviors, and



the formation of political coalitions. It clarifies the complexity of political systems and the diversity of social perspectives (Lowndes et al., 2006).

The Role of Christians in Politics

The roles Christians assume in politics can vary depending on their personal beliefs, the denomination they adhere to and how they ultimately interpret religious doctrine, and the general cultural and political context in which they reside. Specific individuals who identify as Christians believe that engaging in political activities effectively upholds moral principles and promote justice in alignment with their religious doctrines. Individuals may endorse policies that align with their beliefs, actively engage in political campaigns, and potentially pursue political candidacy. Nevertheless, some individuals who identify as Christians tend to focus on spirituality, asserting that political engagement can divert their attention from their religious beliefs and the imperative of disseminating the Gospel. The level of Christian engagement in political activities is ultimately determined by individual discretion, which is shaped by many factors (McVeigh & Sikkink, 2001).

The following are several overarching concepts to consider; civic engagement encompasses the responsibility and entitlement of Christians, as with all members of society, to actively engage in political affairs. It may involve engaging in activities such as voting, participating in political campaigns, seeking elected positions, and expressing their perspectives on contemporary issues. Christians ought to exercise prudence and discernment when engaging in political matters, considering the potential pitfalls and allurements that may arise. Individuals engaging in political activities must maintain their integrity and uphold their core values (Hicks, 2002).

Christianity often provides a moral and ethical framework that adherents can employ to guide their political decision-making (Fernando & Jackson, 2006). The viewpoints of individuals who identify as Christians regarding governmental policies and issues may be shaped by Christian principles such as notions of justice, compassion, human dignity, and the promotion of the common good. These concepts can guide Christians in challenging political dialogues and empower them to arrive at ethical judgments. To ensure that individuals' actions are grounded in a comprehensive comprehension of their beliefs, they may enhance their decision-making process by praying and seeking guidance from religious authorities.

Christians can express their support for legislation and adopt positions that align with their religious beliefs and values (Djupe et al., 2023). It may encompass various issues about social justice, human rights, poverty eradication, environmental preservation, traditional family values, and the protection of life from conception until its natural conclusion. Christians can actively contribute to advancing a society that aligns with their religious beliefs by advocating for and upholding these principles. It may involve engaging in grassroots movements, supporting organizations that align with their beliefs, organizing nonviolent demonstrations, or exerting efforts to influence policymakers.

Christian organizations often emphasize the importance of engaging in acts of service and advocating for social justice (Haenfler et al., 2012). Efforts to tackle challenges such as poverty, inequality, discrimination, and other social issues can be classified within this domain. Christians can engage in volunteerism, charitable endeavors, and the provision of assistance to programs that promote the advancement of human welfare and dignity. Furthermore, individuals may engage in community enhancement endeavors, advocate for legislative revisions that benefit marginalized populations, and collaborate with secular and religious entities to tackle systemic issues. Christians may also prioritize education and awareness initiatives to foster compassion, empathy, and mutual understanding among individuals from diverse backgrounds.



Within pluralistic societies, individuals who identify as Christians can engage in interfaith dialogues, collaborating with individuals from diverse religious backgrounds to address common concerns and promote social cohesion collectively (Fowers & Davidov, 2006). To foster mutual respect and enhance comprehension among diverse religious traditions, individuals may engage in interfaith gatherings, forums, and discussions. Christians may actively seek opportunities to enhance their understanding of different religious traditions and rituals, intending to foster constructive dialogues that contribute to bridging gaps among diverse religious communities.

The significance of recognizing the customary division between religious institutions and governmental bodies in democratic societies cannot be overemphasized. It implies that although individuals who identify as Christians possess the liberty to openly manifest their religious convictions in the public sphere, they are also obligated to acknowledge and uphold the rights and beliefs of others. Furthermore, it is incumbent upon them to actively support legislation that promotes the well-being of all individuals, irrespective of their religious affiliations. This principle aims to prevent any single religious group from dominating the political decision-making process, thereby ensuring equal treatment for individuals of all religious affiliations or lack thereof. It fosters a pluralistic and inclusive society wherein individuals from diverse religious affiliations can coexist harmoniously and actively contribute to the holistic progress and welfare of the nation (Karppinen, 2007).

Prophetic Politics

The notion of "prophetic politics," alternatively labeled as prophetic political engagement or prophetic activism, entails the integration of spiritual or religious principles with political endeavors, specifically in pursuing social justice and resolving systemic issues. The influence of Christian prophetic traditions and those present in other religious traditions can be observed (Gutterman, 2005). Typical components of prophetic politics encompass truth-telling to those in positions of authority, active resistance against injustice, and the advocacy for the rights of marginalized and oppressed communities. The ideology places significant importance on political engagement's moral and ethical dimensions while advocating for a societal framework prioritizing principles such as justice, equality, compassion, and human dignity (Isaacs, 2011).

Prophetic politics aims to offer a moral testimony to inequity and raise awareness about societal matters that may be overlooked or disregarded. It involves vocalizing opposition to prevalent issues such as violence, racism, discrimination, and poverty. (Johnson, 2021) The concept of prophetic politics catalyzes individuals to critically examine the existing societal norms and contemplate innovative strategies to promote transformative social progress. The primary objective is to foster a society characterized by inclusivity and equity, wherein all individuals have the opportunity to flourish. It is achieved through the amplification of marginalized voices (Andrain & Apter, 1995).

Prophetic politics endeavors to effect societal change by challenging oppressive systems and structures (Rankin, 2002). The proposition advocates for the implementation of legislation and protocols that promote principles of fairness, equality, and the overall welfare of all individuals, with particular emphasis on those who are marginalized and disadvantaged. Prophetic politics acknowledge the imperative of employing a comprehensive approach to effect social change, surpassing the mere fulfillment of individual requirements. The objective is to eradicate systemic obstacles, reallocate authority, and establish a societal framework wherein all individuals possess equitable opportunities for happiness and achievement. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of grassroots movements and community organizing in effecting substantial transformations at the local and national levels.



Prophetic politics prioritizes the concerns and needs of society's most vulnerable citizens (Isaacs, 2011). It encompasses advocating for the rights of disadvantaged individuals, immigrants, individuals belonging to racial and ethnic minority groups, women, children, and other marginalized populations. Prophetic politics recognizes the prevalent systemic discrimination and barriers these groups face and endeavors to rectify these injustices through engaging in social activism and implementing policy reforms. Prophetic politics aims to foster a society characterized by inclusivity and equity, achieved through amplifying marginalized voices.

Prophetic politics entails scrutinizing political authorities and institutions in instances where they either uphold moral principles or persist in endorsing acts of injustice (Gutterman, 2005). Scrutinizing political authorities and institutions, politicians who are Christians must be more involved in government. They must stand in elections and become government official. The primary objective is to ensure accountability among individuals occupying positions of authority and challenge policies inconsistent with the principles of empathy, justice, and human rights. Individuals and communities can facilitate the promotion of substantial societal transformation through the identification and exposure of underlying structural issues that perpetuate disparities such as the poor and the rich, educated and uneducated, commoners and officials. Prophetic politics aims to dismantle oppressive systems and establish a societal framework prioritizing preserving human dignity and overall welfare. It is achieved by challenging those in positions of authority with honest and critical discourse.

Prophetic politics may also involve engaging in collaborative efforts and demonstrating solidarity with individuals and organizations representing diverse religious traditions, all united by a shared commitment to promoting justice and upholding the inherent worth and value of every human being. The collaboration between different faith traditions has the potential to enhance the overall effectiveness in tackling systemic challenges through the amplification of marginalized communities' voices. Prophetic politics can facilitate the advancement of inclusive solutions that transcend religious boundaries by recognizing the interplay between social justice and spirituality (Purdie-Vaughns & Eibach, 2008).

Nonviolent resistance, while not invariably linked to prophetic politics, often emerges as a favored approach for engaging in political participation within this framework. The ideology above aligns with the principles of harmony, tranquility, and recognition of all individuals' intrinsic value and dignity. Nonviolent resistance prioritizes collective action and espouses the notion that peaceful means can effectively instigate change. This phenomenon empowers individuals to actively promote principles of justice and challenge oppressive structures while abstaining from using physical force or aggression. This approach aligns with the tenets of prophetic politics and catalyzes inspiring others to actively participate in establishing a more equitable and empathetic society (Marshall, 2011).

Numerous faith communities engage in prophetic politics, a phenomenon that transcends any particular religious tradition. The statement recognizes the capacity of religious or spiritual beliefs to impact and motivate political engagement to foster a society characterized by compassion and justice. Individuals and communities can harness the transformative potential of their religious beliefs to confront systemic injustices and advocate for substantial societal transformations by adopting prophetic politics. Individuals from diverse religious affiliations are encouraged to collaborate and exhibit unity through this all-encompassing methodology, thereby cultivating a collective endeavor to establish a more equitable global society.



The Messages of Prophetic Politics

The three concepts can be considered deceptively simple. These concepts are derived from the fundamental Christian declaration as stated in 1 John 4:16, which affirms that the nature of God is characterized by love. The concept of divinity is inherently associated with love, and the present literary work is organized in a manner that revolves around the three objects of affection that the divine entity holds. The concept of God is often associated with attributes of love and compassion. The concept of divinity exhibits a predilection toward material abundance. The statement "God loves people" holds significance in moral and social matters. The assertion that "God has an affinity for prosperity" carries economic ramifications. Moreover, the statement "God loves justice" carries significant implications about matters of crime and punishment, as well as war and international relations (Mattson, 2012).

God Loves People

God is love (1 John 4:8). Since God is love, God loves the world (John 3:16). God holds a deep affection for humanity throughout creation. Psalm 8:4-5 states that humans were created with a slightly lower status than celestial entities but were given glory and honor. Jesus emphasizes the avian creatures of the sky's ability to subsist without agriculture and their divine Father's provision. It highlights God's care and provision for humans and all living creatures. It serves as a reminder of God's unconditional love and concern for every aspect of His creation.

In Matthew 6:26, the biblical passage emphasizes that inherent worth and dignity are inherent qualities individuals possess rather than acquired through external factors like wealth or social status. This belief is rooted in the idea that all individuals are created in the image of God and emphasizes the importance of treating everyone with respect and compassion, regardless of their circumstances or societal standing.

God's love towards individuals stems from their creation in his image and likeness and the world's ultimate welfare. Proverbs 8:27-31 describes the celestial establishment, subterranean springs, sea limits, and Earth's fundamental underpinnings. Wisdom is personified as the pre-incarnate Son of God in Christian theology.

The divine entity brought the human race into existence with profound delight. God assumed a human incarnation within spatial and temporal dimensions to restore harmony between humanity and the divine. The Word became flesh and resided in our midst, as stated in John 1:14. This act of divine incarnation allows us to experience a tangible and relatable connection with God as we witness the embodiment of divine love and wisdom in human form. Through this profound union, we can understand better and emulate the qualities of compassion, forgiveness, and selflessness that God exemplifies. The Christian perspective on political inquiries concerning human life's sanctity is based on the concept of God, often associated with love and compassion attributes. Reality has an inherent structure; Christians aim not to enhance or comprehend its significance. The phrase "awakening to harsh realities" encourages individuals to confront the harsh realities of their lives, avoiding fantasies and magical formulas. The divine entity did not solicit human consultation before cosmic creation.

In Genesis, Adam and Eve were placed by God in the Garden of Eden, but they were not responsible for its creation. The world's origin is not attributed to human agency, but we bear responsibility for stewardship. Biblical teachings assert that God instituted laws, limitations, and purposes to promote humanity's well-being and progress. These limitations provide parameters for expanding and developing individuals or entities rather than serving as constraints.



One noteworthy aspect of the Bible is its portrayal of divine communication extending beyond collective interactions with individuals. Undoubtedly, he engages in that behavior. In a rudimentary sense, the individual in question engages with the entirety of the human race utilizing two particular embodiments: Adam and Jesus Christ, as referenced in Romans 5:12. Following the account presented in Genesis 15, the individual in question elected to designate Abraham and his progeny as a distinct and favored group. Following the Exodus, the individual in question proceeded to forcibly remove all Canaanite inhabitants from the territory that had been previously pledged to Abraham. The prophets frequently exercised their judgment and prophetic abilities over nations such as the Assyrians and the Babylonians. The Bible unequivocally imparts the notion of corporate solidarity, wherein collective entities are assembled and subjected to moral assessment.

The concept of divine providence entails that God attends to the needs and concerns of every individual human being in a simultaneous and personalized manner. The divine entity is primarily preoccupied with the well-being and affairs of every individual. Throughout human history, there have been instances where divine intervention is believed to have influenced the fate of entire nations, either by elevating their status or leading to their demise. Nevertheless, on the ultimate day, all individuals will be subject to scrutiny and responsibility. Personal accountability is a recurring theme in the Bible, underscoring the individual's responsibility for their choices and behaviors. The divine may engage in collective interactions with nations, yet ultimately, individuals will be subject to judgment based on their deeds. The individual's moral accountability to God underscores the importance of personal faith and righteousness in fostering a meaningful connection with the divine.

In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul references this particular Psalm, asserting that divine retribution will be meted out to individuals following their actions (Romans 2:6). This notion underscores the fundamental concept that individual responsibility is indicative of individual value. No individual can be deemed insignificant, devoid of value, or deserving of neglect when all individuals are held responsible. If the assertion made by God that "Every living soul belongs to Me" is correct, and if He indeed intends to provide care for each individual, it follows that all individuals hold significance. Put differently, people have not encountered an individual who lacks significance. Everyone possesses intrinsic worth and importance regardless of circumstances or perceived societal contributions. In light of the current state of affairs, we must adopt an approach that upholds the principles of dignity, compassion, and empathy when interacting with individuals, duly acknowledging their unique experiences and valuable contributions to the fabric of society. Consequently, we must foster a societal environment that upholds all individuals' intrinsic values and ensures every person's inclusion and acknowledgment.

Everyone is an integral component of the collective entity known as humanity while occupying a distinct and individualized position within this larger framework. An individual can be perceived as a distinct concept from a divine entity, possessing enduring importance and a designated objective. This concept underscores the significance and distinctiveness of each individual within the broader context of human society. Therefore, it is imperative to acknowledge and esteem every individual, as their contributions collectively foster society's progress and enhancement.

God Loves Prosperity

God desires prosperity, but it must come from the right source. He opposes wealth that takes away the rights of others or people experiencing poverty. Theft is prohibited, as stated in Exodus 20:15. This commandment is simple, direct, and comprehensive,



encompassing a worldview. The deity responsible for creating the cosmos is the individual responsible for this legislation and the author of diverse contributions. The concept of gift-giving is also emphasized, and it is prohibited to covet one's neighbor's possessions.

God allows someone to be part of politics so that they can care for the poor, defend the rights of the poor, and reduce poverty. The politicians must have charity. The Bible teaches that charity must come from the heart, and God's compassion for the poor is expected from his followers. Paul's encouragement to the Corinthians demonstrates this as they test the sincerity of their love. Paul emphasized that a "commanded gift" is no longer a gift but a "grudgingly given" one (2 Corinthians 9:9). A welfare system supported by coercive government action disregards this biblical principle, taking money rather than giving it, leading to bitterness and resentment. This results in increased social disintegration—not cohesion but increased social disintegration. Christians often misunderstand the concept of "coerced charity," which suggests public provision is similar to charity, fostering state paternalism and undermining the teaching that charity is an individual act.

The Bible emphasizes the connection between work and wealth in aiding the underprivileged. Pure entitlement contradicts biblical poverty eradication. Paul established that physically fit, "idle" people were not eligible for charitable giving in churches. This demonstrates the charitable design of the Old Testament legal system. The Israelites used the law to help the less fortunate in their agrarian society. The Bible emphasizes the importance of leaving vineyards and fallen grapes for the underprivileged and strangers. Landowners had the right to provide leftovers and unharvested field edges, and Boaz, King David's great-grandmother (Ruth 2:16), exemplified God's generosity by instructing harvesters to leave stalks on the ground without legal requirements, coercion, or government regulation.

The traditional method of eradicating poverty involves labor, as seen in the story of Ruth. People experiencing poverty had to work hard to obtain fruits left over after harvest, known as "gleanings." Biblical law required labor for charitable purposes to uphold the creation mandate, which links financial incentives to work. However, entitlement to another person's wealth without effort or work breaks this connection. The poor lose motivation to work if their financial security is guaranteed without work, and the wealthy lose motivation if their labor is automatically extracted and given to someone else. Gleaning laws ensured the needy care without severing the biblical link between work and wealth.

In the Old Testament, King David's story of seeking Mephibosheth, the disabled son of his friend Jonathan, is a powerful example of pure generosity. Mephibosheth's claim to the throne of Israel was based on his grandfather's lineage, and David chose to show kindness and hospitality instead of killing rivals. He promised to return the land to Mephibosheth's great-grandfather Saul, and David's response was a testament to his generosity. David's actions exemplify how Jesus, David's descendant, heals and blesses all those who are "cripples." (2 Samuel 9:1-13). By embracing God's generosity, we can emulate his kindness towards those in need.

The Bible distinguishes between those who can glean and those who cannot, emphasizing the importance of preserving the creational link between labor and reward. Paul's 2 Thessalonians 3:10 states that if a man does not work, he shall not eat. Handouts may sometimes be appropriate, but generating income is preferable. Mephibosheth lacked the entitlement mentality, while David's voluntary charitable giving was recognized as charitable giving. Charity ceases to exist when it becomes a legal requirement or right, leading recipients to depend on it and believe they are entitled to it.



God Loves Justice

Christian perspectives on understanding the value of human life and the importance of creation are essential. Understanding is equally vital to justice as an idea. In some areas, the Creator is more important than creation. Ultimately, the importance of justice, prosperity, and people is based on who God is. The value of human life stems from the fact that it bears the imprint of God. God bestows human beings with dignity; we are not merely a creaturely "copy." This understanding of human life as bearing the imprint of God leads Christians to believe in the inherent worth and sanctity of every individual. It also emphasizes the responsibility to treat others with love, respect, and compassion, recognizing that each person is uniquely valuable in the eyes of God. Ultimately, this perspective shapes how Christians view issues such as social justice, equality, and the protection of human rights.

God is, first and foremost, a just God. The only true character of God is his moral standard by which humans are evaluated. He enjoined the Israelites to "be holy, as I, the LORD," which encapsulated his message. Leviticus 19:2 states, "I, your God, am holy. Jesus clarifies this: "Be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48). Like Father, just like kids. as the Creator and the creature. If you give it some thought, there is no higher moral law or guideline for human conduct. If God spoke everything into existence, proving that she is the world's Creator. If God is the world's Creator, she has the ultimate authority to establish moral laws and guidelines for human conduct. It suggests that obeying these laws is necessary and reflects our relationship with God as his creatures. Therefore, recognizing and striving for holiness or perfection becomes essential in aligning ourselves with God's divine nature and purpose.

According to Christian theology, there is a transcendent standard of justice and morality. That indicates that it is higher than the ebb and history's progress. Everything good, right, and true is always that way, regardless of the historical context. Therefore, as creatures, we do not create or invent what is true, correct, and sound. Politicians must submit to what is good, trustworthy, and correct, like we do not create the world but rather encounter it. In this perspective, humans are seen as participants in a larger cosmic order called to align their actions with the divine will. This understanding emphasizes the importance of humility and obedience as individuals strive to follow the inherent truths and values beyond human influence. Ultimately, this belief system encourages individuals to seek guidance from a higher power and acknowledge their place within a grander scheme (Bretherton, 2010).

God's law is justice. It is inherent in the concept of justice is essential, which is why the Bible strongly condemns perverting it. Exodus 23:6; Deuteronomy 16:19; 24:17; 27:19 all refer to justice. The definition of justice being abused is to modify, morph, or adjust the criteria to produce the desired result. When justice is perverted, it undermines the fundamental principles of fairness and equality essential for a just society. By adhering to the unchanging rules of justice, individuals can ensure that everyone is treated impartially and that the system's integrity is upheld.

They were aware of "the laws of nature, and nature is God." it was impossible to justify the morality and justice of their actions; they shared the desire for independence. They needed to explain—give because they wanted to be independent. Thus, they appealed to a higher they used as the foundation for their claims, specifically that God had created all men are created equal, and those rights are unassignable and unassailable. They believed these rights were inherent and could not be revoked by any earthly authority. By appealing to the idea that these rights were bestowed upon all individuals by a higher power, they sought to establish a moral and philosophical basis for their quest for independence. They argued that it was unjust for any governing body to infringe upon



these fundamental rights, as they were essential to the human experience and the pursuit of a fulfilling life (Collins & Council for Secular Humanism, 2009).

Conclusion

Prophetic politics, or prophetic political engagement, integrates spiritual or Christian faith principles with political endeavors to promote social justice and resolve systemic issues. It involves truth-telling to authority, active resistance against injustice, and advocacy for marginalized and oppressed communities. The ideology emphasizes moral and ethical dimensions of political engagement, justice, equality, compassion, and human dignity. The Christian perspective on political inquiries revolves around divinity, love, and compassion. God loves and cares for all living creatures, including humans. Wisdom, personified as the pre-incarnate Son of God, provides clarity and purpose. The Bible portrays divine communication beyond individual interactions, with individuals engaging with the entire human race through Adam and Jesus Christ.

The Bible emphasizes the connection between work and wealth, providing aid to the underprivileged and leaving vineyards for the underprivileged. Gleaning laws ensure the needy care without severing the biblical link between work and reward. Christian perspectives on understanding the value of human life and the importance of creation are essential. The Creator is more important than creation, and the importance of justice, prosperity, and people depends on who God is. The value of human life stems from the imprint of God, leading Christians to believe in the inherent worth and sanctity of every individual. The Bible distinguishes between those who can glean and those who cannot and emphasizes preserving the creational link between labor and reward. God is just, moral, and transcendent, guiding human actions and promoting independence through unchanging rules and inherent rights.

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