4 Views of Christians in Politics

- Separatism/Distinctivism
  - Slogan: The kingdom of God is not of this world
    - put both feet in the kingdom of God
  - Goal: to keep the Kingdom of God "holy" or distinct from the kingdom of the world
  - Example: Anabaptists
  - Pros
    - It seems to fit Jesus' model
    - preserves the uniqueness of the kingdom of God
  - Cons
    - Can lead to isolationism, passivity, and cultural irrelevance
- Triumphalism
  - Slogan: Our government is already Christian
    - The Church has won!
  - Goal: Maintain power of church in the govt.
    - defend Christian Culture
  - Examples
    - Constantinian Christianity
    - Medieval Catholic Christendom
  - Pros
    - taps into the NT claim that Jesus is Lord of all
  - Cons
    - Doesn't appear to be the model Jesus used in his ministry.
    - Tendency to label as "Christian" whatever our govt does
- Dualism
  - Slogan:We live in two unrelated kingdoms, we stand with a foot in each world.
  - Goal: to live in this unavoidable tension wisely
  - Example: Martin Luther
  - Pros
    - acknowledges the tension of living in two worlds
    - Acknowledges the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of the World
  - Cons
    - Compartmentalizes the Christian life into different categories and behaviors
    - Justifies Christians doing anti-Christian things because they're playing a different role.
- Transformationalism
  - Slogan: We can Christianize our govt.
    - use political process to create a Christian culture
  - Goal: to acquire power to run a Christian government and create a Christian society
  - Examples
    - John Calvin in Geneva
    - American Evangelicalism
  - Pros
    - Taps into the biblical theme to transform our world
  - Cons
    - Doesn't appear to be the model Jesus used in his ministry.
    - you can't legislate morality
    - Having to obey certain laws does not make one a Christian.
    - Tends to divide and corrupt the church