

Effective Ways for Christians to Engage the Public Square

Rev. Edward D. Seely, Th.M., Ph.D.

1. Daily read God's Word, pray (including while you're reading the newspaper), and live in accord with Scripture. Resolve to make pleasing God your greatest desire, objective, and accomplishment. (2 Corinthians 5:9) **Making pleasing God your highest priority will both free and empower you to increase your comfort level to speak the truth in love to all people**, e.g., to your spouse, your children, parents, the church, neighbors, fellow workers, community leaders, and many others. This Biblical truth is simple, profound, and extensive!
2. Prepare for opposition with prayer and by comforting yourself with these and other words from Jesus and the rest of his Word: Matthew 5:11-12; Luke 6:23,26; John 16:33.
3. To be most effective in proactively disarming the automatic but illogical accusations and talking points of being hateful, it helps to first state the premise of what you are advocating: the command of Christ to his followers to love all people, and this that you are advocating is done out of love for the people who are being harmed by the practices you oppose.
4. Pick your comfort level. Start at home.
 - a. Become informed and prepared. Read all sides of the issues.
 - b. Parents, teach your children (e.g., Deuteronomy 6:4ff.)—over time; not just “one and done.”
 - c. Grandparents, teach your children and grandchildren (e.g., Deuteronomy 4:9. Notice no age limit is given but doing so differently with adults.)—over time; not just “one and done.” BE SURE in your teaching to emphasize salvation in Christ Jesus and the extensive and profound implications and applications; remember also 2 Corinthians 5:9 and Luke 6:26.
 - d. Talk with extended family.
5. Talk with friends and trustworthy acquaintances.
6. Vote and urge friends and others to vote.
7. If your local newspaper has an anonymous comment section, call in and leave a message.
8. Sign online and other petitions that gather your beliefs and opinions together with tens of thousands of others with similar views on current issues. Evidence shows they are effective.
9. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
10. Write a letter to, email, or phone the appropriate representative in your district, e.g., your ward city council person, school board, state legislator (house representative or senator), U.S. House Representative and/or U.S. Senator, and/or the President.

11. Make phone calls to talk radio shows. Since you will typically have only a very brief time to talk, and to help you feel more comfortable, pray, write out what you want to say, and then just make your comment, and reply to the host's comments or questions, as the Lord leads.
12. Post informed comments on social media, e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Parler.
13. Talk with your child's school personnel, teachers, counselors, administrators, and the school board.
14. Attend an official meeting dealing with the issue you want to address, e.g., city council and/or school board, in person or online, e.g., via Zoom.
15. Write a letter to, email, or phone the president and/or CEO of a company, and the chairperson of the board, and urge him or her to not engage in immoral issues or, if he or she already has, to withdraw that support, and resist "caving into" the pressure of activists to take stands, for controversial issues. Ask the question: "Are you aware of the sound scientific research that shows how harmful this practice (e.g., abortion, LGBTQ+) is to those doing it?" Then cite some of the [facts](#) and ask, "Do you really want your company to be associated with, affirm, encourage, and promote such behavior that is so physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually destructive?"
16. Meet periodically with a like-minded group, such as the Christians Engaging the Public Square ministry in Loveland, Colorado, about what you can do together, including coordinating individual efforts focusing on specific aspects of your work.
17. Ask friends to help organize a letter-writing group to contact government representatives, company CEOs, school superintendents, newspapers (for the letters-to-the-editor or guest editorial sections), and others about important current issues.
18. Encourage certain Christians to consider running for specific seats in local, state, and national government, and support them in other ways; consider if you should seek public office.
19. Attend "Meet and Greet" sessions hosted by incumbents and candidates.
20. Consider putting one or more of their yard signs in your yard during the pre-election campaign.
21. Teach, encourage, and support young people to engage the public square in the above ways.

Much more information on each of these suggestions may be accessed in the related documents on the [Current Issues](#) page of my free and secure Website. Don't try to address every issue in all these ways. Ask the Lord to lead you to the one(s) he would have you engage, and ask him to raise up additional people for the other issues.