

# Religion in politics?

Christian MP William Wilberforce persevered for 20 years before his Bill to abolish the slave trade was passed in 1807.

Lord Melbourne, a future prime minister of the UK, who opposed Wilberforce, said “things have come to a pretty pass when religion is allowed to invade public life.”

But Wilberforce – determined to stamp out the buying and selling of humans throughout the British Empire – was unmoved by any slur about mixing religion and politics. Millions of Africans owe their lives to his godly persistence.

In 1797, his book, *A Practical View of Christianity*, was a best-seller in its time.

But does religion have any place in politics in today's “enlightened” society?

**First**, surely no one seriously believes that politics is a “values free” zone. If we remove God-given values from our politics, another set of values will soon take their place.

**Second**, in this century, or any century, was it ever politically incorrect on God's part to prohibit kidnapping people and selling them into slavery? See Exodus 21.16.

**Third**, has God embarrassed us by the fact that wherever slavery is frowned on today it is due to Christian influence, the most powerful force for good the world has ever seen?

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**For explicit Christian teaching on the basic equality of all human beings, see Galatians 3.28.**

**Ken Packer**