

A high-angle, top-down photograph of a group of people's hands and forearms stacked in a circle. The hands are of various skin tones and are wearing different colored sleeves, including a green and white striped shirt, a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark blue shirt, and a dark blue shirt with red and white stripes on the cuff. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

LIBERTARIAN CHRISTIAN SMALL GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE



So you've taken the first step and you want to start a group! This is amazing, and we are fully behind you! We have some experience in starting a group, and we certainly want to give you a jump start on what works well, what to think through, and of course, we want to point you in the right direction for content you can sink your teeth into!

ABOUT LCI

The Libertarian Christian Institute is a federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational and religious nonprofit organization that promotes libertarianism from a Christian point of view.

We exist because we are convinced that libertarianism is the most consistent expression of Christian political thought.

The Libertarian Christian Institute is ecumenical in nature, welcoming all those who confess the traditional creeds of the universal church.

OUR MISSION & VISION

The Libertarian Christian Institute exists to make the Christian case for a free society and provide the best content to proclaim that libertarianism is the most consistent expression of Christian political thought. We aim to persuade Christians that the political expression of our faith inclines us toward the principles of individual liberty and free markets.

We seek to create quality resources to equip Christians to spread the message of liberty in their families, ministries, churches, and among their friends. We view ourselves as a contributor to the vast resources of libertarian content online by making the Christian case for a free society. We resist the assumption that the default political position of Christianity is domination and control, and we combat this by employing studies in history, theology, and biblical exegesis in a variety of venues.

GET STARTED



1. CREATE A DIGITAL PRESENCE

Start a FB or Google Group. We recommend naming it “Christians for Liberty XYZ Chapter” where XYZ is your city/county/area. Make sure to send us your links so we can update our website.



2. CHOOSE A PHYSICAL LOCATION

Find a good location for your meetings. The fastest thing will be to either host at your home or your church, so you might try there first. Go for a church, house, office, restaurant, pub, whatever you think will work best. If you approach a church, make it clear that this is about teaching good theology and learning rather than promoting activism.



3. COMMIT TO A DATE AND TIME

Two hours max is our suggestion, with about one hour of program material. Keep the fellowship part of this as a priority, especially at the beginning!



4. GET THE WORD OUT!

First find the people who will already be with you. So, besides your immediate friends, reach out to local libertarian groups and let them know what you’re doing.

And let us help you! Send us the details and we’ll promote it on social media and our group!



TIPS ON FINDING PEOPLE FOR YOUR GROUP

Remember, talk to the Libertarian Party, Republican Liberty Caucus, local activist groups, and your immediate friends/family who might be interested. And don’t forget to join our Facebook Group. You are welcome to announce there!

GET GOING



ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

What you do is up to you, but we encourage both theological *and* libertarian discussion. Remember that some people are going to need some “liberty schooling” every once in a while. Not everybody knows how roads will work on a free market. To that end, you can do Bible studies, guest speakers, documentary videos, book discussions, policy topics — whatever you think the group needs.



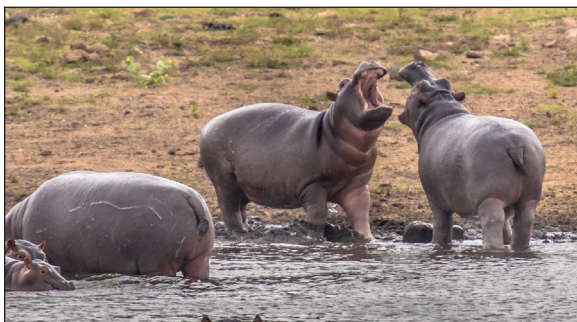
COMMUNICATION

We recommend starting a Google Group and a Facebook group to communicate with your people. These are both free and deal with the two ways people will need/want to hear about it: FB and email. If you want to splurge for a meetup.com group (\$100+ per year), go for it, but we don't think is scalable for this organization. Also, make sure to get people's names and emails.



REPORTING BACK

We want to hear from you about your meetings. Let us know how many people showed up, what you did, how you promoted the event, what is working, what isn't working, etc. These data points are essential for us to begin developing “best practices” for starting groups.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Let's face it: you're going to encounter a LOT of different views with a group like this, especially if you want it to grow! Libertarians have diverse views, incorporate their faith into it and it gets even more complicated. We have to go into this knowing that we need to practice the true form of “Christian tolerance” with each other.



TIPS ON CHOOSING YOUR LOCATION

Find a comfortable setting – think about climate control, seating arrangement, restrooms, parking (if applicable). Be open to changing locations and trying new places. It's your group, so experiment and let us know what works!

RESOURCES TO GET YOU STARTED



WATCH VIDEOS TOGETHER

Select a video from the LibertarianChristians.com Youtube Channel or website. If you don't have internet access at your meeting, you may need to download the video from Youtube beforehand.



PRE-LISTEN TO PODCAST EPISODES AND DISCUSS AT THE MEETING

There are so many topics LCI has covered on its podcast, it might be tough to know where to start. But pick one or two and encourage everyone to listen. then discuss at the meeting!



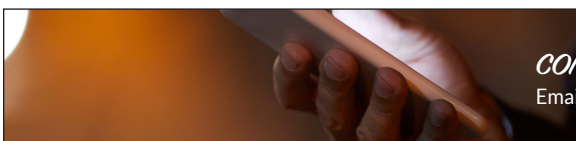
BIBLE STUDY

There are many biblical themes to study that align with the anti-state, pro-freedom message of libertarianism. Because we discourage proof texting, studying the themes of the Scripture can be a healthy alternative to finding support and encouragement for the message of freedom.



SUPPORT A LOCAL CAUSE TOGETHER

It's too easy to become focused on national concerns, but liberty is being infringed upon in your local area. Fight it in ways that are ethical and principled! Learn together how you can effect change on a local level.



CONTACT US IF YOU NEED HELP!

Email norman@libertarianchristians.com or doug@libertarianchristians.com

LCI'S CORE VALUES

We believe that every Christian libertarian should feel comfortable affirming our Core Values, even if they have their own nuance or “spin” on them. Our aim is not to comprehensively spell out what every Christian libertarian must believe, but provide a central set of tenets that we can all start from, regardless of differences in denomination or theological inclinations.

#1 Christian Political Philosophy Should be Informed by a Holistic View of Scripture, Reason, and Historical Theology

A comprehensive view of the biblical narrative indicates that the Church's proclamation of Jesus' lordship is not a mere personal statement of allegiance; it is also an anti-imperial declaration that the way of peace comes through Christ's counter-cultural kingdom of love and service. Followers of Christ are called to be a prophetic voice against the powers of domination and violence. The State — the monopolized institution of force in society — is never to be confused with the Kingdom of God, and when the power of the state grows, the rightful influence of churches, families, and local communities is diminished.

#2 A Free And Civil Society Depends Upon Respect For The Non-Aggression Principle

The ethics modeled by Christ and the early Church call us to change the world and build the Kingdom of God through service rather than force; through persuasion rather than coercion. The use of political force to compel ethical behavior cannot change hearts and only antagonizes our struggle against sin, death, and evil. Christians must call for repentance from sin in humility and never with violence. As such, a consistently Christian ethic always embodies non-aggression.

#3 Individual Liberty and the Common Good are not at Odds

As God is intrinsically relational within the Trinity, so also human beings are created to live in community. Sin has marred the communal relationships for which we were created by pitting individuals against God, against one another, and against the earth for which we are called to be wise stewards. Affirming the dignity, worth, and rights of the individual as an image-bearer of

God is a first step toward restoring authentic, Christ-centered community among diverse individuals. Because society is comprised of individuals, a healthy society requires healthy individuals. Through voluntary cooperation and respect for freedom, people can join together to trade, innovate, create, collaborate, share, and build a world that simultaneously respects the individual and betters our neighbor.

#4 Social Institutions Matter for Human Flourishing

Humans are created to be social beings, and God's design is that we work together to develop institutions which promote human flourishing. Insofar as these institutions are voluntary, peaceful, and non-coercive, human beings possess the God-given capacity to solve the worst of problems in the best of ways. Social institutions founded upon mutual cooperation — such as marriage, family, church, organizations, and businesses — are vital for authentic humanity.

#5 Christian Theology Affirms the Essential Tenets of Free Market Economics

Respect for private property, voluntary exchange, condemnation of theft, and the value of cooperation and service towards achieving common goals flow naturally from Christian thought and habit. This is what defines “capitalism” in the libertarian view. Wealth is a tool given by God, and all who possess such wealth are expected to utilize it for God's Kingdom and the good of our neighbor. Taxation and regulation tend to destroy wealth, discourage innovation, and centralize power, and therefore hamper our ability to fulfill the calling of God. Where free markets are allowed to flourish, human beings will prosper both materially and spiritually. Additionally, Christian ethics helps equip our economies for service toward God and neighbor.



www.libertarianchristians.com