

The British EU referendum

1. Governments and Empires

- 1.1. God's Idea (Romans 13:1)
- 1.2. At their best rule according to God's wisdom (whether acknowledged or not) (Proverbs 8:14-15)

2. Responsibilities to their citizens

- 2.1. To promote justice, security and safety (internal and external) and right standards (Romans 13:2-3)
- 2.2. To promote the 'Good' of those in their society, citizens or not (Romans 13:4)
 - 2.2.1. to promote prosperity - acting on behalf of the poor and less powerful (Isaiah 1:23)
 - 2.2.2. to promote good stewardship of God's resources (Genesis 1:28, 2: 15)
- 2.3. to promote conditions for peaceful and quiet lives of human freedom and community (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

3. Responsibilities to international neighbours = other countries

- 3.1. to promote peace and security
- 3.2. to promote individual and collective human flourishing/well-being
- 3.3. to promote good stewardship of God's resources

4. Dangers

- 4.1. Over-centralization (Deuteronomy 17:14-20) – unaccountability, so power needs distribution
- 4.2. Tyranny (Revelation 13) –indifference to human need, exploitation of powerless
- 4.3. International Aggression (Isaiah 14)
- 4.4. Greed and Exploitation (Isaiah 23)
- 4.5. Aloofness from other nations in need (Obadiah 11-12)

5. Citizens

- 5.1.1. Respect and submission to governments, even empires
- 5.1.2. Beware over-idealised and over-cynical views
- 5.1.3. Beware scapegoating and/or disengagement

6. Understanding the EU

- 6.1. Roots in Christian principles (as well as socialism *and* free trade, so a rich mixture!)
- 6.2. 'a political authority with a remit for justice and the common good across European public space' (Chaplin)
- 6.3. Post WWII - Aiming for peace and relationships rather than war and mistrust
- 6.4. Over-centralised? Unaccountable? Disempowering? Interfering? Wasteful? Ineffective?
- 6.5. 'only a mixture of migrant workforces and incomprehensible bureaucracy' or 'constructive interdependence' ? (Williams)

7. EU – successful? reformable?

- 7.1. imperfect but improvable from the inside (Chaplin)
- 7.2. imperfect and improvable only from the outside (Shluter)
- 7.3. so imperfect needs to be exited from (Hilton)

8. The EU – how should we decide?

- 8.1. If you have a vote, use it! (Render to Caesar Matt. 22)
- 8.2. How will my vote best express my call and commitment to love my neighbour (Matt. 22)?
- 8.3. 'Is the EU the best means for British citizens and the UK to pursue our calling to live lives of neighbourly love, peace, security, prosperity and mutual responsibility (Chaplin)
- 8.4. What is best for the peace/security, freedom, and prosperity of UK, EU countries and the world? (Stevens)
- 8.5. 'How can Britain best continue to offer its distinctive services to Europe and the wider world?' (Welby)
- 8.6. Given the rise of far right nationalism how might my vote affect risk of conflict in Europe?
- 8.7. How might my vote best further opportunities for the sharing of the Gospel (Stevens and others)?

9. Deciding, voting and afterwards

- 9.1. The importance of more than going with our gut – will the elephant or the rider decide which way to turn?
- 9.2. Detect and repent of my own prejudices (perhaps especially on immigration?)
- 9.3. Detect and reject sloppy, personalized, alarmist and bogus arguments from both sides (get true info.)
- 9.4. Ask God to help me vote out of love neighbour love
- 9.5. Keep perspective – before and after (Render to God what is God's)
- 9.6. Work for healing and positive steps forward which ever way it goes

For Christian views and analysis on the EU referendum see <http://www.klice.co.uk/index.php/comment>, and <https://theweeflea.com/2016/04/26/european-referendum-the-tipping-point/> and <http://www.john-stevens.com/2016/04/should-we-stay-or-should-we-go-deciding.html> For principled, non-sensationalist secular cases for and against see <http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/06/the-six-best-reasons-to-vote-in/> , <http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/06/six-best-reasons-vote-leave/> and <http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/03/a-conservative-case-for-voting-in/>