

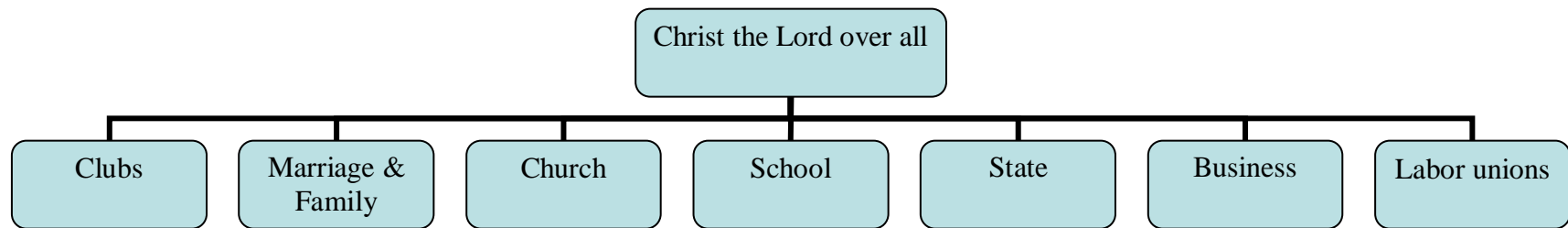
POLITICAL VISIONS & ILLUSIONS

A Survey & Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies

By [David T. Koyzis](#)

Sphere Sovereignty as a Christian Conception

With Christ as Lord over all, the state serves to administer justice while other legitimate spheres of authority function side by side.



Politics and Ideology

When a political vision offers a total explanation for the world it becomes an ideology and all ideologies contain totalitarian elements. “Politics is content to make do with the existing state of society and to conciliate whatever interests are currently there. Ideology attempts to remake, not only government, but education, industry, art, even domesticity and private affections. All of these are accountable to this all-embracing ideology, which in trying to politicize society, ends up destroying politics altogether.” (page 21)

A Comparison of Political Visions that Tend Toward Ideologies

	Liberalism	Conservatism	Nationalism	Democracy	Socialism
Source of salvation	The Sovereignty of the Individual	History as Source of Norms – Tradition	The Nation Deified	Vox Populi Vox Dei	Common Ownership as Salvific
Right Focus	The individual is important to God. There is a goodness to the freedom to live well.	Provides a stable political atmosphere in its pure form.	Nationalism at least fully recognizes the need for community as over against radical individualism.	Gives the governed the opportunity to assure just government	The idea of the just distribution of prosperity to everyone in a society
Inconsistencies and tensions	The individual is not all that is important to God. Community is important. The sovereignty of God and his revealed will in law is a clear threat to self-will.	History provides no “naked public square.” Adherence to an evil ideology because as conservation of the established order is not a good thing.	When all things become defined in terms of the nation-state, the leviathan created turns on its own citizens and its neighbors. Ethnic nationalism tends toward racism. Only God deserves unqualified loyalty.	When the voice of the people becomes the voice of a majoritarian tyrant, approving what God disapproves and disapproving what God approves, democracy no longer provides justice.	The tendency of socialistic ideals to become forcibly implemented by a totalitarian state where a new elite gain an uneven portion of prosperity
Source of evil	Community – God - any threat to individual will	Progress – anything forcing change from tradition	Rule by anyone else including the true Sovereign	Power concentrated anywhere but in the people	Private property –
Examples	The French Revolution	From Mother Russia to the Soviet Union to its breakup. From feudal England to American separation. Who are the conservatives?	Nazi Germany & Fascist Italy	Athens	Soviet Union

Political Ideologies
Analyzed in a two dimensional
continuum

