

Voting Righteously Is a Christian Duty

"All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent." - Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

I was raised in a family of Democrats whose roots were in the south -- southern Democrats. They tend to vote more conservatively, but still lean liberal. When I got a little older I called myself an independent, probably because I didn't know what to think. When I became born-again my priorities, thinking, and philosophy changed. During this time Jimmy Carter became president. One of the reasons he was elected was that Christians supported him because he was a born-again Christian. During his first term, however, he did not split from the Democratic Party's view of abortion, which some had hoped he would. I voted in my first election in 1981 for Ronald Reagan who was conservative, pro-life, pro-traditional family, anti tax and strong military. A large percentage of Republicans today are evangelical Christians. There are also plenty of Republicans who are not believers and there are many Christians who were raised Democrat and have stayed loyal to that party.



A while back someone shared the political platform of the Democrat party when John F. Kennedy ran for president. It is interesting that when read looks like the Republican party of today. The Democrat party of today has grown progressively more liberal in the last 45 years. Another irony is that Republicans were responsible for the ending of slavery, yet more black people are Democrats.

The two things we have been told *not* to talk about in public, co-workers or strangers is religion and politics. In truth, if we want to maintain our liberties in this country, we had *better* talk about them. In our country we institute policy and laws by a system of voting. By participating we provide a voice to our conscience and direction for our country. Some decisions made during elections can affect people's lives for righteousness or unrighteousness, freedom of religion or despotism. If you don't vote you give place to opposing forces.

My happiness in life may not be based on a political party, but the person occupying the leadership role can make a difference:

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.

Responsibilities We Have In This World:

1. **To be an influence for righteousness.** We have a responsibility to be salt and light in the world.

In Jeremiah 29:7 before they were to be taken into captivity they were told to, "Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace."

In the parable of the nobleman being given finances to invest He says "Occupy till I come" Luke 19:13 (KJV)

Being a part of government, and especially voting, would fulfill the call to responsibility and influence.

2. **Pray for those in authority.**

1 Timothy 2:1-4 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Whether you agree or disagree with a leader, you have a God given priority *and responsibility* to pray for them: for their salvation and their decision making, or for them to be removed from office if they rule contrary to God's principles. Our prayers for leaders could determine a peaceable life and open the doors for the gospel or a life of bondage and restrictions upon the free preaching of the gospel.

While we should respectfully disagree and make our voices heard where needed, we should do so in conjunction with praying for leaders who may not be a part of our party or persuasion.

Ways to Vote:

1. **In Righteousness:** Finances are important and can be instrumental in our decision making, but it is still not my top priority. An important question to ask on any issue or candidate: Do they advance the kingdom of God?

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2. **By Principle:** Some things don't need to be prayed about. It is clear from the scripture they are right or wrong.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

3. **With our Conscience:** We have a mandate to stand up for innocent children who are being slaughtered in the holocaust of abortion. When we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ we will not be asked what political party we were a part of, but whether or not we defended the children who could not speak or fight for themselves (among other things).

Proverbs 24:11-12 Deliver *those who* are drawn toward death, And hold back *those* stumbling to the slaughter. ¹² If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider *it*? He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*? And will He *not* render to *each* man according to his deeds?

4. Prayerfully: While voting is an important voice, our prayers will bring the power to change men's hearts and to heal our land. We must do BOTH.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Ways Not To Vote:

1. With our Emotions, Opinions or what the Economy is doing:

I have seen elections turn on the feelings of individuals, groups and the state of the economy. Hitler was elected in such an environment! It is important to know the issues and realize that in every economy, no matter who is in power, it can have highs and lows. We need to view what is best for the big picture and future rather than for short term satisfaction.

2. By Candidates Age: Age is no guarantee of wisdom, but wisdom will be found more often in those who have experience. Greenhorns have been known to make a mess of things.

Job 12:12 Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding.

A quote I have always liked says, "If you're not liberal when you're young, you have no heart. If you're not conservative when you're older, you have no brain."

There is a great prejudice against older folks in our nation. This comes from a demented philosophy and is contrary to Bible thinking. We should not be prejudiced against people because they are young *or* old.

3. According to Gender: I am happy that women have been promoted in our political system. It is long overdue. As much as I would like to see a woman president, it has to be one that will promote God's agenda!

4. By the Candidates' Intellect Eloquence & Charisma: As attractive and appealing as these may be they can also be deceptive. The Anti-Christ will have these characteristics.

Proverbs 26:24-26 He who hates, disguises *it* with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; ²⁵ When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for *there are seven* abominations in his heart; ²⁶ *Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.*

5. According to Race: I understand that issues of race have been sensitive for people who have personally experienced prejudice and hate themselves and have seen it in their ancestry. I have to confess that I would like to see a black man as president. But like any other person running for office, I want him or her to be one who promotes God's agenda.

I am disappointed that some African-American pastors have chosen to prioritize race over righteousness - They chose to endorse a candidate based on race to further their personal agenda. The justification I have heard is "We don't believe in abortion or homosexuality, but we believe God gives people a choice, where He says "Choose you this day who you will serve". Should people have a choice when it comes to murder? That is what abortion is - legalized murder. I don't choose a candidate because they have my skin color, but because they best further the agenda of the kingdom of God.

All true believers want there to be healing in issues of racism past and present. But an affirmative action motive in picking a presidential candidate based on race is just plain wrong. It has the potential to instill an antagonism and separation fueling more racism.

One white pastor I read about justified the possibility of supporting a black candidate (whom he disagreed with) based on his emotional desire to be able to relate to and be sensitive to a younger generation, who may be more open to the gospel because of his actions. That pastor has adopted an ethereal reasoning from our society that boggles the rational mind and common sense. The younger generation needs leaders to stand up for what is right and speak against unrighteousness, not acquiesce to appeasement.

There are a number of black brothers and sisters in Christ who are being persecuted right now because they are not backing a black candidate because he does not represent their views or their faith. They have chosen righteousness over peer pressure and popularity. They are to be saluted!

While I believe we have overcome much prejudice in this nation, we still have a ways to go and should work on these issues. True ministers of the gospel should represent and promote Jesus' kingdom, not a particular race, color or ethnic group.

6. By Party Affiliation: While I have made clear that I lean to the right, I am certain there are a few demon possessed Republicans. Some people feign being conservative and even go to church and claim to be Christians just to get your vote.



Don't be deceived. I once voted for a Democrat because he stood for righteousness. *Issues* should be priority over Party lines every time!

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Defeatist Attitudes Of Why People Don't Vote:

1. "It Doesn't Matter Who Gets Elected"

It sure does. I am sure Germany's history would be different had Hitler not wormed his way into power through the peoples vote. It is an irony that even many church leaders supported Hitler during his reign.

2. "I Have Enough Problems In My Life Than To Worry About An Election And Vote"

Life is not easy, but it can be worse with the wrong laws passed or person in office. Get off your "blessed assurance"!

James 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

3. "God Will Take Care Of It. It Is Not Ours To Worry About"

True, we need to cast our anxieties on the Lord concerning the election, and we should not be ruled by the fear of man. The election is not an excuse to operate in worry and unbelief. But we *do* need to operate in the fear of God which will demand passion and action from us. Our faith and actions do matter. Our vote does count.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.

4. "Whoever Gets Elected God Can Use. They Are His Ministers. We Are To Submit To Authority"

That is true to an extent after they get elected, but is no excuse for laziness and apathy beforehand. The higher law is the Bible and obedience to God. If given a choice we MUST choose God's way.

Romans 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Acts 5:28-29 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" ²⁹ But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

5. "Whoever Gets Elected Is God's Will. We Should Just Rest In That."

That is pacifist fatalistic predestination doctrine and attitude. That is the same reasoning as "Well God knows who is going to heaven or hell, so we should not have to pray or witness to others." That is not Biblical doctrine or practice. He gives us choices in the matter. Our actions do cause results in our nation. We have a part in the will of God being done on the earth. Jesus gave us an example of how to pray daily,

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

6. "The Polls are indicating my candidate will lose, so why should I vote."

Many pollsters lie! They use marginal deception, skew and twist information to discourage their opposition from going to the polls or giving finances. They try to paralyze by fear. When Reagan won in 1985 the pollsters said it was a two point race. He won by 18 points!

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Edmund Burke - *Irish orator, philosopher, & politician (1729 - 1797)*

*If You Don't Vote, Who
Speaks For You?*

