

CHRISTIANS NEED TO STAND UP AND VOTE FOR BIBLICAL VALUES!

The most prominent evangelist of the Second Great Awakening, Rev. Charles Finney (1792 - 1875), reminded Christians of their responsibility to “take the right ground in regard to politics” by voting the Bible:

God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the church will take right ground. Politics are a part of religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as a part of their duty to God. It seems sometimes as if the foundations of the nation were becoming rotten, and Christians seem to act as if they thought God did not see what they do in politics. But I tell you, he does see it, and he will bless or curse this nation according to the course they take.

The Bible describes Christians as “salt” and “light” who preserve those things that are good while shining the light of God’s truth into every sphere of life. This includes the political realm, where Christians are called to exert a righteous influence on government.

As citizens of our constitutional republic, we have the power to elect leaders who will pursue policies that have an impact on the lives of those in our families and our neighbors. Let’s make sure we do our homework and vote for candidates that will govern according to God’s principles!

Don’t forget to register to vote!

Idaho residents can register to vote or check their voter record and polling location at VoteIdaho.gov.

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Idaho Family Policy Center is a non-profit ministry that advances the lordship of Christ in the public square by promoting biblically sound public policy, equipping Christians to fulfill the cultural commission, and training statesmen to advocate for Judeo-Christian values.

BIBLICAL CITIZENSHIP *Guide to Voting*

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.”
-Proverbs 29:2, NKJV

One of the most effective ways for Christians to exert a godly influence in their communities is through exercising their biblical responsibility to vote. Christians are uniquely equipped to judge candidates and policy proposals according to the universally true and unchanging principles given to us by God in His Word.

Christian Voting Glorifies God

Paul reminded the early Christians that everything they did needed to be done unto the Lord Jesus Christ and in His name (Col. 3:17). This charge applies even when we cast our votes, which, when done in faith and according to biblical principles, offers yet another opportunity to glorify God! In the final analysis, we are responsible to God for our votes.

Scripture also teaches us that righteous rulers lead the people into political happiness, but wicked rulers make the people miserable (Prov. 29:2). It is clear, then, that elections have consequences. One of the many ways we are called to live out our faith – and, in so doing, demonstrate love for our neighbors – is by voting for candidates who will enact policies that facilitate the conditions necessary for human flourishing and prosperity.

If we desire our friends and families to live in thriving communities, then we must elect candidates that advance biblical values like the sanctity of human life, religious freedom, parental rights, biblical gender and sexuality, and economic freedom.

Voting in the Bible

Voting for civil leaders is not without biblical precedent. The biblical Israelites, for instance, took part in selecting their civil leaders. Moses instructed them to “choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes” that would rule over them (Deut. 1:13), a practice that continued until Saul was anointed as king. And even the kings that eventually ruled over Israel needed to be confirmed by the people (Judges 9:6; 2 Kings 14:21; 2 Chron. 23:3; etc.).

These examples provide the basis for the biblical principle known as the consent of the governed.

Thankfully, God does not leave us without instruction on how to vote. The quintessential biblical teaching on the matter is found in the divinely inspired guidance Jethro offers to his son-in-law, Moses:

“Moreover, you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers...”
-Ex. 18:21, NKJV

Let us consider these four biblical qualifications for public officials that ought to guide us as we decide which candidates to vote for:

1. Men who are capable. Government cannot function properly if the people in charge lack the necessary experience and knowledge for competent administration. Does the candidate understand the issues? Does the candidate have the experience he or she needs to do the job well?

2. Men who fear God. The Bible teaches that God created government to administer His justice in civil society. Government officials are called “ministers of God” because they are entrusted with the responsibility of ruling according to the principles revealed in God’s law (Rom. 13:4).

Consequently, the best civil magistrates will be born-again believers who understand political matters with a biblical worldview. This is why founding father John Jay ardently contended that “it is the duty – as well as the privilege and interest – of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

3. Men who are trustworthy. Isn’t it unlikely that someone who is unwilling to follow God’s principles in his private life will adhere to God’s principles for government when he assumes public office?

Let us vote for people of integrity who tell the truth and honor their word. After all, we are electing God’s civil ministers—so let us make sure they are people of good character!

4. Men who hate covetousness. The Bible repeatedly condemns government officials who take bribes or redistribute wealth (Deut. 16:19; Prov. 17:23; etc.). Public servants are supposed to use their office to serve the common good in justice instead of seeking private gain for themselves or some of their constituents.