

POLITICS:  
A CHRISTIAN DECISION



"Oh, I shouldn't get involved, I'm a Christian and we are to be separated from the world." How many times have we heard this statement or one like it? You can be sure if Christians aren't involved, ungodly decisions will be made. We should be affecting all areas of our lives, especially laws that concern those who have no chance to defend themselves. Jesus said we were to be the salt of the earth. Salt affects everything it touches.

We live in a nation that provides opportunities for Christians as never before. In many countries, no choice is given, neither can complaints be aired, nor injustice corrected without there being a great price paid, even one's life. Scripture tells us that the heart of the king is in the Lord's hand (Proverbs 21:1), but Joseph reached a position of influence with Pharaoh. Look at Daniel, he served God by serving man through three administrations of an idolatrous nation. God never intended for the church and state to be separated, to leave God out of man's dealings and laws. God ordained government in order for us to lead peaceable lives.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1799 said, "By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion." Politics and religion were still hand in hand in 1845 when Andrew Jackson said, "The Bible is the Rock on which our nation rests." Six years later retired Justice Joseph Story said, "Christianity ought to receive the encouragement by the state so far as was not incompatible with the private rights of conscience and the freedom of worship." Still, no one is forced to go to church, and no denomination is lifted up above the other.

The American Civil Liberties Union can fight every law and every ordinance on the books, but they are legally and spiritually incorrect when they say that the First Amendment

denies cooperation between politicians and Christians. Where do our laws against murder, theft, destruction of property, and other crimes against man come from? If not the Old Testament, then the resemblance is more than remarkable.

We live in a political era controlled by special interests, political action committees, politicians who have learned to talk from both sides of the table, and promises apparently made to be broken. Sometimes we only have two choices, bad or worse.

What are we to do? Our reaction must always be in love or we are just as wrong as the liberal politicians are.

First, let your elected officials know you are praying for them. Nothing has more of an affect on an individual than to know someone cares enough to be praying for them. Then follow it with effectual fervent prayer (James 5:16). If they are not Christian, pray for their salvation. Then pray that God will lead them in their decisions.

Secondly, stay informed. That includes being aware of the world around you without being overcome by it. It also includes involvement. Know the issues and know your candidates. Hit and miss at the ballot box is not being a good citizen. Involvement includes working for a candidate you support. Many decisions are made based on staff recommendations.

Third, make sure you vote! Faith without works is dead. Opinion without action is the same. Somebody once said, "If you didn't vote, you can't complain." It's a shame for election returns to come in, showing that only a small percentage of the eligible people voted.

Who does God want in certain positions? Where do you fit in? Should you run for office? Should you help circulate

petitions? What about working in the campaign office? Only after taking it to the Lord in prayer can these questions be answered.

What if you do all this and your candidate doesn't win? You are still responsible to pray for the one that is selected (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

No matter how great we think our candidate is, no one has all the answers. Nor does the survival of this country lie in the hallowed hall of Congress, but in the throne room of Heaven. The scripture admonishing the people to "humble themselves" has been used frequently in the past few years. "If my people" will humble themselves then God will heal their land. MY people, not the ungodly or the politicians, but us, the Christians. Those who not only believe in a Supreme Being, but have a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus.

God can and will make His voice heard, if WE will listen and then speak up. If we will salt America with our action as good citizens, exercising our privilege to vote, praying for our leaders, we can change things. We can get this nation back on the right track.

*"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty"*  
(1 Timothy 2:1-2).

**Gospel Tract Society, Inc.**  
**PO Box 1118**  
**Independence, MO 64051**