

Who Do I Vote For?

This is a question that frequently comes up in conversation when an election nears, and it is a subject of discussion that can soon turn a bit nasty. No matter who one votes for, there will always be those who say you voted for the wrong person! It is not the role of the Church to tell anyone how to vote, but the Bible does help us with our decision making.

As Christians, it ought to be our duty and responsibility to vote for leaders who promote Christian principles. God is most certainly in control, but that does not mean we should do nothing to further His will. We are commanded to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). In terms of politics and leadership, there is evidence in Scripture that God has been displeased with our choices of leadership at times (Hosea 8:4). The evidence of sin's grip on this world is everywhere. Much of the suffering on earth is because of godless leadership (Proverbs 28:12). Scripture gives Christians instructions to obey legitimate authority unless it contradicts the Lord's commands (Acts 5:27-29; Romans 13:1-7). We ought to strive to choose leaders who will be themselves led by our Creator (1 Samuel 12:13-25). Candidates or proposals that violate the Bible's commands for life, family, marriage, or faith should never be supported (Proverbs 14:34). Christians should vote as led through prayer and study of both God's Word and the realities of the choices on the ballot paper.

Christians in many countries in this world are oppressed and persecuted. They suffer under governments they are powerless to change and governments that hate their faith and silence their voices. These believers preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at risk of their own lives. In our country, we have been blessed with the right to speak about and choose our leaders without fearing for ourselves or our families.

In our day and age, there are many who want to drive the name and message of Christ completely out of the public arena. Voting is an opportunity to promote, protect, and preserve godly government. Passing up that opportunity means letting those who would denigrate the name of Christ have their way in our lives. The leaders we elect - or do nothing to remove - have great influence on our freedoms. They can choose to protect our right to worship and spread the gospel, or they can restrict those rights. They can lead our nation toward righteousness or toward moral disaster. As Christians, we should stand up and follow our command to fulfil our civic duties (Matthew 22:21).