Joshua John / General Adult

Stand Alone / Politics

Introduction

Today it seems that to discuss politics and religion - especially for a Christian - automatically lands you into one of two groups - You are called either a “ ***Christian Nationalist*** ” if you have views aligning with one party, or a “ ***Woke Progressivist*** ” if you have views that align with the other. This tends to be a ***culture-wide*** phenomena.

What is Politics?

Politics, properly understood, is about how groups of humans organize their ***affairs*** . If we convince ourselves that politics only deals with clashing politicians, and choose to withdraw from politics at large, society—and our neighbors—will be ***worse*** off.

The “Why” Questions

Why should Christians Care about Politics?

We should care about politics because ***God*** cares about them, and we have ***instruction*** and ***examples*** from the Scriptures as to the way we are to engage politics .

Do Christians have a moral or biblical obligation to participate in government?

Politics is an ***unavoidable*** area of Christian concern. Government decisions affect evangelism, missions, and freedom to preach the gospel. Christian “good works” extend to all areas of life including ***politics***.

The “How” Questions

How should Christians engage in politics?

Silence can tacitly ***endorse*** the status quo. Praying and addressing issues without providing information can leave Christians without ***practical*** guidance.

Do Christians have a duty to vote?

Voting ***delegates*** governing authority to those entrusted with “sword-bearing” responsibility. It is an act of ***stewardship***. Our choices affect local, county, state, and federal government and, through America’s influence, communities ***worldwide***.

Biblical Principles Applied to Politics

Informed engagement is a responsibility, not something to ***avoid***. However, we should never equate the church’s ***mission*** with the

platform of a political party. We also have to acknowledge the reality of America's ***two party*** system. Christians must work within that system without surrendering their convictions, while recognizing that elections require a ***choice*** about whom to support.

Practical Application

Neither party fully ***aligns*** with Scripture, therefore neither party perfectly ***represents*** Christians but party platforms reveal governing priorities and help voters assess ***alignment*** with Scripture. Christians must follow our convictions to their logical end by voting for candidates and parties that support clear biblical values.

Conclusion

There are several questions to think on and pray on before casting your vote:

- What political or moral issues does the Bible address?
- Are there policies that are explicitly condemned by the Bible?
- Are there areas where well-meaning Christians can disagree?
- Where does my preferred party/candidate stand on all of these issues?

Answering these questions ***requires*** biblical clarity and wisdom. Within our two-party system, we must follow our convictions through to the ballot box, supporting candidates and parties that uphold clear biblical values.