

GUARDRAILS

“Election Time”

July 31, 2016

Guardrails: “a system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous or off-limit areas.”

“The Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

What is a Christ-follower’s role in this upcoming election?

1. Be fully engaged in our democracy

“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them.” Romans 13 (NLT)

2. Treat those with whom you disagree honorably.

“Show respect for all people. Love the brothers and sisters of God’s family. Respect God. Honor the king.”

1 Peter 2:17 (ICB)

“While Joshua was there near Jericho: He looked up and saw right in front of him a man standing, holding his drawn sword. Joshua stepped up to him and said, “Whose side are you on—ours or our enemies’?” He said, “Neither. I’m the commander of GOD’s army.”

Joshua 5:13-14 (MSG)

3. Don’t fall into the trap of putting your faith in government

“When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.”

John 6:15 (NLT)

“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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)