

## The Left Hand Kingdom & A Biblical Approach To Voting

- Martin Luther was instrumental in the theological understanding of “The Two Kingdoms” or “The Two Reigns”. The idea is that the “Left Hand Kingdom/Reign” is comprised of the earthly governments and is “temporal”. It is designed to provide opportunity, provision, protection and orderly rule. It was to punish sin and to wield the sword, dispense laws and provide for the good of the world. At the same time, God operates in the “Right Hand Kingdom/Reign” where the primary means of this Kingdom is the Word and Sacrament. It’s focus is eternal and the mission/co-mission of Jesus. They happen concurrently. One is focused on secular issues. The other on spiritual issues. It’s important to note that BOTH belong to God! He is the Ruler of ALL!

**Jesus Before Pilate:** “So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, “**You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.** Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.” - John 19:10-11

**Jesus To Us:** “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**” - Matthew 28:18

So...our Government belongs to God (whether we acknowledge this or not). And it is the Christian’s Duty to be submissive to it, to pray for our earthly leaders and to work for its good AND to support, participate and seek to serve God, through serving in this kingdom.

**READ: Romans 13:1- 7** “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Q: According to this passage, "WHO" has established earthly authorities?

Q: What is our duty towards them?

Q: In our system of choosing leaders, what happens when "our" candidate gets elected? What happens if they don't? What's our response to each?

**READ Titus 3:1-2** "Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people"

Q: Why is this difficult when it comes to politics?

Q: ULTIMATELY Who is in charge of the Left Hand Kingdom? What happens if those we have in charge are NOT ruling well?

Q: What happens if our rulers/authorities are unjust, pass laws that are contrary to God's Law?

**READ: Acts 5:27-32** "And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.**" <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Q: What was the exception to obeying the authority of the High Priest? Discuss....

### **A Biblical Worldview To Politics: Recap**

1.) Settle "WHO" has authority and understand how that authority is exercised.

(Romans 13:1; Daniel 2:21a)

2.) Settle: Our ULTIMATE Citizenship: (Philippians 3:20; 2:19)

3.) Think about voting BIBLICALLY: (Proverbs 3:6)

4.) PRAY: Clarity (on the issues), Wisdom (of scripture), Discernment (of God's Will).

This requires WORK: (Matthew 7:7)

5.) Know What The Bible Values: (Partial List)

### **Sanctity of Life**

Q: Where do the candidates stand on the issue? (Jeremiah 1:5)

### **Stewardship**

Q: Financial - What is their plan to handle \$ wisely (Proverbs 27:33)

Q: Environment - What is their plan to manage God's Creation? (Psalm 24:1, Genesis 2:15)

### **Sanctity of Family**

Q: What is their stance of the Biblical Family? (Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:18)

### **Protection**

Q: What is their view or law/order and protection of our country, community? (Proverbs 25:6)

### **Poor and Underprivileged**

Q: Who shows the greatest willingness to help the poor? (Psalm 82:3-4).

**Note:** you may have to define what "helps" and what "hurts in the name of helping"!

### **Productivity and Industriousness**

Q: Who promotes productivity and work as a means to helping the poor and the overall? (2 Corinthians 9:6)

### **Character**

Q: Who has character that the Bible Values? (1 Timothy 3:12, Proverbs 16:18)

### **Justice**

Q: Who has the character to give Justice? (Proverbs 29:4)

**Note:** You will want to study "justice" biblically and try and align what you see/hear with what you read!

### **Freedom/Peace**

Q: Will their platform/ideas lead to freedom and peace? (Psalm 122:6, 2 Chronicles 7:14)

**Discernment (Ephesians 5:6-10) NOTE: This requires STUDY both biblically AND practically!** For candidates: Visit their websites (don't depend on main-stream news, water cooler conversations, or talk show/radio hosts). For issues, check voting guides for your community, state and national elections.

**One Approach:**

- **Do Your Homework!**
- **Make A Grid (see attached)**
- **Weight the Values**
- **Rate The Candidates**
- **PRAY**
- **VOTE**
- **Leave the Results in God's Hands**