

Christians and Politics

Edmund Burke warned, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

“He shall have dominion also from sea to sea.”

- Psalm 72:8

Mistaken Thoughts Christians Have About Politics:

1. “If it’s good for me as a Christian, it must be God’s will.”
2. “My way is the only way to achieve this desired result, so God must be for it.”
3. “Canada is a country God has especially blessed.”
4. “It is our primary responsibility to make Canada a moral country.”
5. “My political party’s platform sets my agenda of priorities.”
6. “Political solutions are clear and long term.”
7. “There is little one Christian can do in such a large country.”

Reasons Christians Withdraw from Politics: (not get involved)

1. They are reacting against the “Social Gospel.”
2. They have a certain view of the future.
3. They want to be separated from the world & worldliness.
4. They lack appreciation for the ability of the government.
5. They feel religion and politics don’t mix.

Issues the Church Should Address in the Political Arena:

1. Religious Liberty.
“Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!” - Acts 5:29
2. Social Equality.
“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” - Galatians 3:28
3. Moral Climate.
“Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” - Isaiah 1:16,17

4. Stewardship of Our World.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created man in His own image.”
- Genesis 1:26,27

What can Christ-followers do to change the world?

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
- Matthew 5:13-16

“Salt and Light” are not just to be different in their society — they are to bring positive change!

How Can a Christian Make a Difference?

1. Prayer!

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour.”
- 1 Timothy 2:1-3

2. The Triumph of Truth.

“This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”
- 1 Timothy 2:3,4

3. The Effectiveness of an Example.

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.”
- 1 Peter 3:15

4. The Power of the Group.

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ...For there the LORD bestows His blessing.”
- Psalm 133:1,3

5. Become Informed.

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”
- Matthew 10:16

6. VOTE!

“The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper.” - Pro. 11:11 (NASB)

7. Help elect qualified, godly people.

“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”
- Proverbs 29:2

To try to improve society is not worldliness but love;
To wash one’s hands of society is not love, but worldliness.

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Is. 2:3 ¶ Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Zech. 8:19 This is what the LORD Almighty says: “The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.”

Luke 20:22Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

23He saw through their duplicity and said to them, “Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied..

He said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

Romans 13:1-7

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Rom. 13:5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

6This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.”

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Jesus prayed that we’d be “in the world but not ‘of the world.’”

<http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/9870.htm>

You are wrong if you do not vote. You are to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. One vote may make the difference.

On January 18, 1961 in Zanzibar, now part of Tanzania, the Afro-Shirazi Party won the general election by a single-seat, after the seat of Chake-Chgake on Pemba Island was won by a single vote.

ONE VOTE made Oliver Cromwell Lord Protector of the Commonwealth and gave him control of England. (1645)

ONE VOTE caused Charles I to be executed. (1649)

ONE VOTE kept Aaron Burr--later charged with treason--from becoming President. (1800)

ONE VOTE elected Marcus “Landslide” Morton governor of Massachusetts. (1839)

ONE VOTE made Texas part of the United States. (1845)

ONE VOTE saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment and removal from the Presidency. (1868)

ONE VOTE changed France from a monarchy to a republic. (1875)

ONE VOTE admitted California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho into the Union. (1850, 1850, 1889, 1890)

ONE VOTE elected Rutherford B. Hayes to the Presidency, and the man in the Electoral College who cast that vote was an Indiana Representative also elected by ONE VOTE. (1876)

ONE VOTE made Adolf Hitler head of the Nazi Party. (1923)

ONE VOTE maintained the Selective Service System (the draft) only 12 weeks before Pearl Harbor. (1941)

ONE VOTE per precinct would have elected Richard Nixon, rather than John Kennedy, President. (1960)

I'm only one but I am one. I can't do everything but I can do something, and what I can do I ought to do and that by the grace of God I will do.