

INTRODUCTION

In just a few weeks we face a big election regarding the highest office in our land. I have to be honest I hate election years and here is why:

1. Because it doesn't bring out the good in people.
2. People listen less in an election year than they do the rest of the time.
3. Christians lose sight of truly Who is in charge and control.
4. Christians put more faith in their political party than in Jesus.
5. People seem to escalate their ability to lie with a straight face.

Many Christians and ministers believe it is not wise to talk about politics from the pulpit, but to this I disagree. First, my response is why shouldn't I discuss what is so prevalent in our society and truthfully in most every other area of most churches because we all know how political churches can be. Second, how can I teach what the Bible says regarding life if certain topics are off limits.

Now I'm not here to tell you how to vote, but I am here to teach us all some principles and things to consider regarding our vote. So to begin with let's consider the definition of *politics*.

Politics:

1. the activities associated with the governance of a country or area.
 - a particular set of political beliefs or principles.
 - the principles relating to or inherent in a sphere or activity, especially when concerned with power and status: *the politics of gender*.
2. activities aimed at improving someone's status within an organization.

Now many Christians say that a believer shouldn't be involved in politics, as I said before, but according to this definition of politics regarding 'the activities associated with the governance of a country or area' this sounds like exactly what a Christian should be involved with.

So as we look into the subject of the Christian and Politics may our hearts be open and grow into maturity as we learn to think through matters Christianly! Let's look at what Paul says to the Philippians regarding foundational matters.

Christians and Politics

Philippians 3:12-4:1

Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. Therefore, all who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you. In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained. Join in imitating me, brothers, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame. They are focused on earthly things, but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself. ¹

I. First & Foremost Our Allegiance is to King Jesus

Matthew 28:18

Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." ²

Revelation 19:11-16

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on His head. He had a name written that no one knows except Himself. He wore a robe stained with blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed Him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. A sharp sword came from His mouth, so that He might strike the nations with it. He will shepherd them with an iron scepter. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ³

Revelation 21:22-24

I did not see a sanctuary in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its sanctuary. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ⁴

¹[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version.*](#) (2009). (Php 3:12–4:1). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

²[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version.*](#) (2009). (Mt 28:18). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

³[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version.*](#) (2009). (Re 19:11–16). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

Tom Torrance

How should followers of Jesus Christ approach politics today? Before all else, we must examine our hearts to ensure that our highest motive and goal is to please God and help others. And we should keep ever before us the fact that “our citizenship is in heaven” (*Phil. 3:20*), not just on earth. As heavenly citizens inhabiting a fallen world, our first allegiance must always be to Jesus Christ, not to country, party, or cause. First and foremost, we’re disciples of Jesus—not patriots, Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, or Independents.⁵

II. Christians Should be the Example in Attitude & Action

Matthew 5:13-17

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men.

“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”⁶

1 Peter 3:14-16

Do not fear what they fear or be disturbed, but honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. ***However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame.***

III. Things to Consider When Casting a Ballot

Matthew 21:28-33

“But what do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘My son, go, work in the vineyard today.’

“He answered, ‘I don’t want to!’ Yet later he changed his mind and went. Then the man went to the other and said the same thing.

“ ‘I will, sir,’ he answered. But he didn’t go.

“Which of the two did his father’s will?”

“The first,” they said.

Jesus said to them, “I assure you: Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you! For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn’t believe him. Tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him, but you, when you saw it, didn’t even change your minds then and believe him.”⁷

⁵Thomas A. Tarrants. “From KKK Activism to Cruciform Politics The Gospel” The Gospel Coalition

⁶[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version*](#). (2009). (Mt 5:13–17). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

⁷[*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version*](#). (2009). (Mt 21:28–33). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

IV. Learn to Think Christianly about the Issues

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man that is in him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. But the unbeliever does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. For

**who has known the Lord's mind,
that he may instruct Him?**

But we have the mind of Christ.

"Thinking Christianly is thinking by Christians about anything and everything in a consistently Christian way – in a manner that is shaped, directed, and restrained by the truth of God's Word and God's Spirit."

– **Os Guinness, quoted in *A Mind for God* by James Emery White, pg. 20-21**

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

– **C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*, 140.**

"A worldview is a framework of fundamental concepts of beliefs about the world. In short, a worldview comprises the lens through which we see the world."

– **Michael Wittmer, *Heaven is a Place on Earth*, 21.**

"People function on the basis of their worldview more consistently than even they themselves may realize. The problem is not outward things. The problem is having, and then acting upon, the right worldview – the worldview which gives men and women the truth of what is."

– **Francis Schaeffer, *Complete Works, Volume 5*, 252.**

"Apart from a Christian mind we will either be taken captive by the myriad of worldviews contending for our attention, or we will fail to make the Christian voice heard and considered above the din."

– **James Emery White, *A Mind for God*, 16.**

"The Word of God was never given to make our flesh feel good; it was given to confront us with our worldly and fleshly thinking. The Word takes us to the cross."

– **Michael Catt, *The Power of Surrender*, 90.**

V. All Authority is Given By God

Romans 13:1-7

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God. So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. For government is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of your conscience. And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God's public servants, continually attending to these tasks. Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

CONCLUSION

N.T. Wright

Hope, for the Christian, is not wishful thinking or mere blind optimism. It is a mode of knowing, a mode within which new things are possible, options are not shut down, new creation can happen.