

Voting through The 10 Commandments

September 22, 2024

Exodus 20

This is election season and many people have been swayed into thinking elections, voting and politics have nothing to do with the church.

Actually, they have a lot to do with the church and the Christian way of life.

God loves governments. He instituted them and tells us to pray for them.



I Tim 2:1 *First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, v.2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. v.3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,* Paul is saying that we should not only pray for government but pray that we would have a government that would uphold Godly laws. Apart from that, it would be difficult to lead a "tranquil and quiet life."

This now becomes our Christian duty.

Pr 21:1 *The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

Now;

God can turn the heart of a bad king, like Pharaoh, and bring devastation or He can turn the heart of a good king like Solomon and bring peace.

Finally,

Would you rather be subjected to the laws of an evil government or a good government?

Rom 13:1 *Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.*

We are responsible for the government we have chosen so I want us to see how to choose a good government as a major election rolls around.

How you vote is up to you but let's look at voting through the lens of God's Word, The 10 Commandments.

Now;

I know we are not in the Millennial Reign of Christ, but neither were the Israelites when they came out of Egypt. These are laws that protect individuals, families and the nation.

Let's try to imagine a nation that is submitted to these laws.

1. Ex 20:2-3 To worship the Lord, God alone.

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before Me.

Now,

I am not advocating that the United States should mandate Christianity for all of its citizens.

But let's think of the goodness of God and how He can lead a nation through its leaders if they willingly follow Him.

I believe people should have the freedom to worship who they want but our foundation in America is Jesus Christ.

2. Perhaps not so much to do with voting but with people

v.4 *You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.*

v.5 *"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,*

v.6 *but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

"worship" to show great honor, respect, devotion

Ie.

This is about things over people.

If I may make this application, better to have a government that places people over things.

I will leave you to think about how governmental policies can infringe on the rights and freedom of people.

- Windmills are destroying ocean life
- Batteries for electric cars are ravaging the earth

I believe when we focus on God and His perfect will, our policies will line up with that and we will all be better off as good stewards of the planet.

3. Have a government that does not ignore God.

v.7 *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*

Do the people you are voting for ignore God or embrace His laws?

I think of:

- Abortion (the killing of babies)
- Mockery of the Christian faith
- Failure to bring justice to criminals

An evil empire from the East, attacked Israel and this is what happened:

Hos 13:16 They will fall by the sword, Their little ones will be dashed in pieces, And their pregnant women will be ripped open.

This was the work of an evil king, Shalmaneser, King of Assyria.

What does God say about abortion?

Ex 23:7 Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty.

Every child is a blessing from God:

Ps 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

When you go into the voting booth, keep this in mind.

4. Not really related to voting.

v.8 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

But for our sakes, Jesus Christ is our sabbath. Through Him we rest from our religious works and enter into Heaven by faith.

We always come back to an awareness of God in our lives and our country.

5. Give honor to parents

Ex 20:12 *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

We should be looking after our parents and the elderly.

For those parents who need constant care and attention, we have nursing homes but many nursing homes are understaffed and some are closing.

They are not getting the governmental help they need and deserve.

A government should have this problem high on its agenda.

6. Enforce the laws

v.13 *You shall not murder*

Murder is the taking of an innocent life.

So we look at the crime rate and if you see it escalating and criminals being set free, you must vote your conscience that this is wrong.

Evil triumphs when evil is free to roam.

Again,

We are talking today about how to preserve our nation by voting to put God-fearing people in office who make God-fearing laws for the sake of the people.

If not,

God will give the people the government they choose.

King Saul, was Israel's first king. They chose him based on his looks.

They judged him on his outward appearance and he turned out to be a terrible king.

7. Government should support purity

v.14 *You shall not commit adultery*

Virtually every society has a marriage code of faithfulness and purity between husband and wife.

Today, the lines have been skewed:

Our government now supports

- Men marrying men
- Women marrying women
- Men becoming women
- Women becoming men
- Taxpayer funded sex changes
- Men in women's sports and locker rooms

All enforced by the government and if refused, people or organization can face heavy fines.

How did we get to this place?

When you remove God-awareness from your laws, evil takes over.

8. Don't steal

v.15 *You shall not steal*

Not only should you not steal from others, but government should not steal from its citizens.

Stealing is taking something from someone else without permission and not returning it.

When you vote, pay attention to the policies of the politicians. Are their plans to take your money and give it away or to make life better for you and your family?

Ie.

Do you know where your tax dollars are going?

9. Government should not lie to its citizens

v. 16 *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

When you vote, hold your politicians accountable. Remember what they said and hold them to it. Do they flip/flop to get votes?

Do they change their stories depending on where they are?

No politician is even close to perfect but we have to make wise choices, even if it's the lesser of two evils!

10. A government should not want what you have.

v. 17 *You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

We have a debate, actually a battle going on between capitalism and socialism.

Capitalism: trade and industry is privately controlled

Socialism: trade and industry should be regulated by the community as whole

It is a move away from free markets.

Socialism is the first stage of the worldwide transition to communism.

The government should not be in:

- Our churches
- Our schools
- Our marketplace
- Our homes

When you go into the voting booth, and I hope you do, try to remember these 10 mandates. Yes,

Some apply more than others but at least it gives you a frame of reference on how to cast your vote.

It is our Christian duty.

Remember what Paul said to Timothy:

I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

v.2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

This is what we are looking for.

v.3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

