

Joshua 5:13-14

¹³ Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ He said, "No; rather I indeed come now *as* captain of the host of the Lord." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?"

The true servants of the kingdom of God are known by their first loyalty- not to us, or to our enemies, but to the Lord!

Lincoln article

Are you for the Democrats or the Republicans? The Libertarians or Democratic Socialists? No; rather.....

2 Corinthians 5:20

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

What, then, is a Christian's role as Christ's ambassador in the political cycle, and the affairs of the culture?

How can any believer vote or be a part of a system that never will fully represent God's character or values?

Luke 12:1b

... He began saying to His disciples first *of all*, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Jesus maintained NO ILLUSIONS about the true character of the political/religious leaders.

Christians are TRUTH people! We don't idolize men, because, like Jesus, we know what is in a man.

Christians are GRACE people! We don't degrade imperfect men because we know that if not for the grace of God, we would be just like them.

We have to recognize that God chooses and uses imperfect, and morally flawed men!

Isaiah 44:28

²⁸ "It is I who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' And of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.'"

Isaiah 45:1-7

⁴⁵ Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: ² "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. ³ "I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places, So that you may know that it is I, The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. ⁴ "For the sake of Jacob My servant, And Israel My chosen *one*, I have also called you by your name; I have given you a title of honor Though you have not known Me. ⁵ "I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; ⁶ That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, ⁷ The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

Mark 4- Jesus, just as He was

Jesus was perfectly positioned to begin the political revolution of His day: He was powerful, had the total loyalty of the oppressed masses, and He bravely opposed the institutional leaders of the day, putting them to shame.

Instead of undermining the authority structure, He encouraged a very unique approach: Submissive non-conformity.

Matthew 23:1-3

23 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, ²saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; ³therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say *things* and do not do *them*.

“Do what they tell you, but do not be like them!”

Romans 13:1-6

13 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. ²Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

We submit to (and participate in) government for Christ's sake, avoiding trouble and keeping our consciences clear.

How do we make decisions about how to vote? We begin with Jesus' principle: “You will know them by their fruit.”

Jeremiah 22:16-17

¹⁶“He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know Me?” Declares the Lord. ¹⁷“But your eyes and your heart Are *intent* only upon your own dishonest gain, And on shedding innocent blood And on practicing oppression and extortion.”

1 Kings 22:4-5

⁴And he said to Jehoshaphat, “Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?” And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” ⁵Moreover, Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Please inquire first for the word of the Lord.”

2 Chronicles 20:12

¹²O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”

1 Timothy 2:1-8

2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

Pray that the government may further our liberties to preach the gospel, and God's Kingdom will flourish all around us!

(This does not need to be on the screen)

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln was purportedly asked if God was on his side. “Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side,” said the President, “my greatest concern is to be on God’s side, for God is always right.”

Although Lincoln is often praised for this remark by those who oppose the mixing of religion and politics, it contains three of the most controversial ideas in American politics: that it is legitimate to invoke the name of God within the realm of political discourse; that God’s existence isn’t merely symbolic, but that he is always right; and that since God takes sides on certain issues, some people will be divinely justified while others will stand in opposition not only to their political opponents but to the very Creator and Sustainer of the Universe.

If you find these ideas absurd and repugnant, you are most likely a secularist. If you find them to be embarrassing truths, you may be on the religious left. If you find them so obvious that they hardly need stating, you are probably a member of the so-called “religious right.”

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2010/12/being-on-gods-side-an-open-letter-to-the-religious-right>

By Joe Carter

Isaiah 8:11-14

¹¹ For thus the Lord spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying,

¹² “You are not to say, ‘*It is a conspiracy!*’

In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy,

And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of *it*.

¹³ “It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy.

And He shall be your fear,

And He shall be your dread.

¹⁴ “Then He shall become a sanctuary

When fear is in charge, we become slaves and we have no options.

When God is our only fear, we are set free and we have options. We can do whatever God says, and be at peace.