

Why should Christians vote?

1. God established our Government. Romans 13:1

- A. All governments including ours, are established by God.
- B. Part of our form of government is the responsibility to elect our leaders.



2. It is important for us “to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” I Timothy 2:2

- A. In the time of Paul the ability of Christians to participate in government was limited to just praying.
- B. This passage deals with our need to pray – and we must pray. However, in our society, Christians can do more than pray. We have the ability to affect who will be our rulers, by participating in the political process.

- C. Our rulers have a great affect on our ability “to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”
- D. This passage implies that the ability “to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” affects our ability to share Christ.
- E. Our ability to choose our leaders gives us the ability to pick leaders that would choose to assure our ability “to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”
- F. The ultimate reason for Christians to do anything is because it pleases God.

3. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Proverbs 14:34

- A. If a nation is to be righteous it must have righteous leaders and people.
- B. If a nation is to be righteous then the leaders and people must participate and act righteously.



What criteria should we use to select for whom we vote?

1. We must understand that no one candidate is perfect. Romans 3:23

- A. No one person is perfect because we have “all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”
- B. In understanding that no candidate will perfectly meet the criteria for civil leaders we must resolve ourselves to choosing from a group of imperfect candidates.
- C. After understanding that we have a choice of imperfect candidates, we must evaluate our options to see which candidate best meets God’s criteria for a good civil leader.
- D. It is not a compromise to choose an imperfect candidate, because all are imperfect.

2. God wants our civil leaders to be “capable.” Exodus 18:21

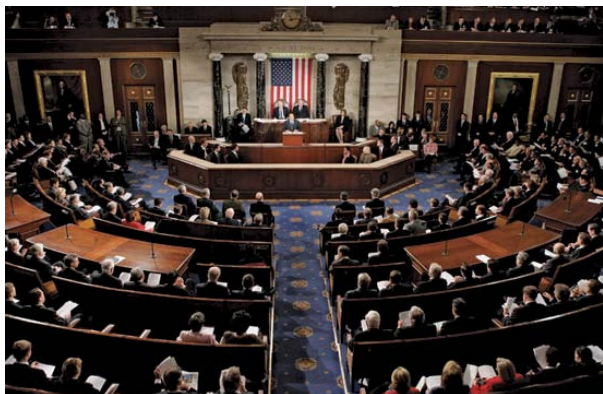
- A. Capable means: able to perform the position that the person is seeking.
- B. Evaluate each candidate’s resume.
- C. Rank each candidate as to their capabilities

3. God wants our civil leaders to “fear God.” Exodus 18:21

- A. In the Old Testament fear of God is used as a designation of true piety. It is a fear conjoined with love and hope, and is therefore not a slavish dread, but rather filial (child to parent) reverence.
- B. In the New Testament the fear of God is preventive of carelessness in religion and as an incentive to penitence.
- C. To evaluate a candidates “fear of God” will be somewhat subjective:
 - a. Based on statements made,
 - b. Behaviors, past history,
 - c. Church association and attendance,
 - d. Professions of faith,
 - e. Positions on issues.

4. Moral behavior to name a few. God wants our civil leaders to be **“trustworthy.”** Exodus 18:21

- A. Trustworthy means that you can depend upon the person’s statements and actions. Those actions would be in agreement with the heart of the person.
- B. There would be no secrets relevant to the ability to perform the duties of the office they seek or that would reflect on their personal character.
- C. To evaluate trustworthiness you should:
 - a. Evaluate each candidate’s voting record.
 - b. Evaluate statements made in the past and positions today.
 - c. Evaluate each candidate’s follow through on promises made in their public and private life.
 - d. Evaluate sources of campaign finances.



5. God wants our civil leaders **“who hate dishonest gain.”** Exodus 18:21

- A. A person “who hates dishonest gain” (literally “hates bribes”) is a person who would refuse and be offended even at an offer of something for personal use or benefit that would cause them not to see something that is wrong or that would cause one to pervert the cause of righteousness.

- B. To evaluate a person who hates dishonest gain:
 - a. Are they running for office for their own personal benefit?
 - 1. Personal prestige.
 - 2. Change the laws to provide personal benefit.
 - 3. Increased income from normal sources solely because they are in office and an unwritten expectation exists to vote a certain way.
 - b. Have they accepted a personal benefit so that they do something that is wrong or perverted the cause of righteousness?
 - c. Have they offered something of personal benefit so that they do something that is wrong or perverted the cause of righteousness?
 - d. How have they responded when someone else has been found to receive something of personal benefit so that they would do something that is wrong or perverted the cause of righteousness?
 - e. What is their motivation for running for office?



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Biblical Basis for Voting

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