**1 Chronicles 18 – December 18**

What constitutes a faithful king? Perhaps in our day it would be more helpful to rephrase the question a bit, what constitutes a biblically faithful government? Some in our day believe that the government’s job is to usher in revival. Somehow, many have bought the lie that revival begins with elected officials. This is simply not true, its found nowhere in the Scripture and it does not square with the biblical truth of the role of government as found in passages like Romans 13. The government is not meant to do the job of the church but that does not mean that it doesn’t have a God ordained role to play in our lives. While the government isn’t tasked with preaching the gospel or making disciples, it is given the responsibility of functioning just as King David did according to v. 14 as the Bible says that David “administered justice and equity to all his people.”

In the end, the government is meant to treat all of its people equally. There are no second class citizens in the world according to the Scripture because every person is created in the image of God and therefore has worth and is deserving of our respect. One role of government then is to protect this worth by ensuring that all citizens are cared for and guarded from crimes against them. This is why it is right to call on the government to ban abortion as those unborn people (not fetuses!) are real human beings who are deserving of justice. Therefore, any government that protects its people by ensuring that all of them are treated with equity is a biblically solid government.

There is another element of this equation that is connected to the call for equity and that is justice. The government is given the “sword” of God to inflict proper pain and punishment against those who mistreat her citizens. A biblically faithful government is one that does not allow crimes to pass unpunished. The government exists to enforce the law that is designed to look out for the well-being of all citizens.

These realities serve to inform the Christian as he or she evaluates and participates in our own democratic government. We should commend those in government when they treat all of our citizens fairly and punish the evildoer and we should work to change those policies and replace the people who choose to ignore the law or treat one class of citizen differently.

In short, government was given to the people for our good, but it is only good as it functions in the way God designed. Today, we can be thankful for those who are using their authority obediently and we can work to replace those who are not. All the while, we as the church are called to pray for all of those who are currently in authority over us!