

DO RELIGION AND POLITICS MIX?

Romans 13:1-7

July 6, 2008 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. On a recent talk show someone commented on the fact that both candidates for president have made their faith a paramount issue in their political speeches. That commentator remarked, “What a person believes really shouldn’t matter because religion and politics don’t mix.”
How often we have heard that...”religion and politics don’t mix.”
- B. The Apostle Paul apparently believed that religion and politics does mix because he listed two duties every Christian has to their government in Romans 13:1-7.
 - 1. First, Christians have a duty to “submit” to their government. Why?
 - a. First, because God says so-1a.
 - b. Second, because God is ultimately in control-1b.
 - c. Third, because its for our own good-2-3.
 - 2. Second, Christians have a duty to “support” their government.
 - a. First, monetarily-6-7a.
 - b. Second, verbally-7b
- C. Every election cycle there are groups that publish what they call “voters guides”. These guides usually follow the groups particular bias.
 - 1. Romans 13 may very well be a Christian voter’s guide.
 - 2. Notice three guidelines for Christians to follow when voting for a candidate.

I. FIRST, CHRISTIANS SHOULD VOTE.

- A. Years ago I helped then State Representative Ross Duckett, a member of the church in Mustang I served as pastor, hand out campaign literature door to door. At one home a woman told me she does not vote but instead prays that God will put the right person in office. Although at first hearing that sounds like a very pious answer, the truth is, if Christians don’t vote the right person cant be elected to office.
- B. Voting is every American’s privilege, but it is also every Christian’s responsibility-Romans 13:1.

II. SECOND, VOTE CHARACTER BEFORE CAMPAIGN PROMISES.

- A. Every candidate makes campaign promises. Some they intend to keep and some they either will not keep or cannot keep once they get into office (i.e. economy, ecology, the war, etc).
- B. Some insist that character doesn’t count, but the Bible says it does—**Proverbs 23:7**.
⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.
 - 1. Moses says character counts-**Exodus 18:21**.
²¹ But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.
 - 2. Jesus says it counts too-**Luke 6:45**.
⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.
- C. Noah Webster wrote in 1823.....
In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate--look to his character.
Noah Webster, Letters to a Young Gentleman Commencing His Education to Which is Subjoined a Brief History of the United States (New Haven: S. Converse, 1823), p. 18.

III. THIRD, VOTE PRINCIPLES BEFORE POLITICAL PARTY.

- A. In 1938, the name Boston Curtis appeared on the ballot for Committeeman from Wilton, Washington. Actually, Boston Curtis was a mule. The town's mayor sponsored the animal to demonstrate that people know very little about the candidates. He proved his point. The mule won! No word on whether the mule was a republican or a democrat!
- B. Our ultimate allegiance should not be to any political party, but to God.
 1. **Tony Campolo** was once asked,
“Do you think God is a Democrat or a Republican?” Neither...He is bigger than any political party.
 2. In his article, "A Century of Congress" published in Atlantic magazine in July 1877 **President James Garfield** said this
Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.

CONCLUSION

- A. So you see, religion and politics do mix.
- B. God calls us not only to be good Christians but also to be good citizens.