

## IS JESUS A REPUBLICAN OR A DEMOCRAT?

John 17:20-21

October 5, 2008, Sunday A.M.

### INTRODUCTION

- A. I'm sure that famed evangelist Billy Graham surprised a lot of people when he said in an interview for *Parade Magazine* (quote) **"Most people think I'm a Republican...Actually I'm a Democrat."** (*Parade Magazine*, October, 1996)
- B. In 1995, popular Christian author and speaker Tony Campolo wrote a book titled *"Is Jesus a Republican or a Democrat?"* (Word, 1995)
  1. Campolo says that **"in the 1960's mainline denominational churches with their social conscious concerns could easily identify Jesus as a Democrat."**
  2. However, Campolo continues, **"the pendulum has swung and now conservatism is in and many of these same churches are convinced Jesus has switched parties and now is a Republican."**

### I. IS JESUS A REPUBLICAN OR A DEMOCRAT?

- A. It was George Bernard Shaw who said, **"God made man in His image, and we have decided to return the favor."**
- B. There has always been the temptation to define God as a collective representation of ourselves.
  1. Republicans may dress Jesus in a Brooks Brothers suit while Democrats may put Him in the denim work clothes of union workers.
  2. Both however are modern attempts to recreate God in our own image.
- C. The Bible, though, calls all such projections as idolatry--**Romans 1:22-23**, .  
<sup>22</sup> **Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools**  
<sup>23</sup> **and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.**
- D. The truth is, God is neither a Republican nor a Democrat. Why?
  1. He transcends all such partisan labels.
  2. The Apostle Paul confirms this in Galatians 3:28.  
**There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**  
This means that God...
    - a. Isn't a Jew or a Gentile (or Arab).
    - b. Isn't a man or a woman.
    - c. Isn't a Caucasian, Anglo, or African American.
    - d. Isn't a Southern Baptist or a Roman Catholic.
    - e. Isn't a Fundamentalist or a Moderate.
    - f. Isn't a Republican or a Democrat.
  3. God expects us never to let partisan loyalty tempt us into reading the platform ideas of any party into the Bible.

### II. IF JESUS HAD A POLITICAL AFFILIATION, THOUGH, WHICH PARTY WOULD HE CHOOSE?

- A. Each major political party incorporates some of God's truth. Its also true that no political party incorporates all of God's truth.
- B. Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God through his church, not to start a political party.
  1. And God's Kingdom cannot be equated with the Republicans or Democrats.
  2. Neither will God's Kingdom be achieved by polarizing people into political or denominational groups or parties.
- C. The Promise Keepers Men's Organization has had as their goal tearing down walls that separate people, racial and denominational walls especially.
  1. When Jesus takes control of a human life He also tears down walls that separate.

2. His own small band of disciples is an example in question. Among the twelve were bitter mortal enemies, Matthew a Roman tax collector and Simon the Zealot, an anti-government revolutionary. Yet in Christ they laid their differences down for the sake of the Kingdom of God.
3. Paul tells us how this happens --**2 Corinthians 5:18**.  
**<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:**

## CONCLUSION

- A. The most important label we can wear isn't "*Republican*" or "*Democrat*." It's "*Christian*".
- B. Let's wear this label proudly while breaking down the other barriers that divide us—**John 17:20-21**.  
**<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**