

## 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.**