

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS POLITICS

One of the major issues of the day centers around the separation of church and state. It raises the questions as to how a Christian ought to be involved in the government. It's a very personal matter. You notice in the heading we used the word "Christian" instead of "church". We should honor the separation of church and state. History shows us that when false religious views become coupled with unscrupulous politicians the government becomes deplorable.

However, as personal as it should be the Christian needs to recognize his responsibility to the government (See Titus 3:1). He needs to pay his fair-share of taxes. He needs to obey the laws of the land. And, he needs to participate in the electoral process, which would include expressing the Biblical teachings on the various issues.

Personally, I think he should do so on a non-partisan basis if possible. There's a bumper sticker we see from time to- time that reads: "The last time we mixed religion with politics people were burned at the stake." The reference is to the "witchcraft trials" in Salem, Mass. in 1792. A couple of serious errors are committed:

One, they were not burned at the stake; they were hanged on the gallows; and the trials were not initiated on a religious basis as much so as on a medical basis. Be that as it may, I interpret the sticker to imply that religious people should be limited in their involvement in political matters. It is obvious today that there are those who would restrict religious people from expressing their political views.

Here are some of the political issues of the present in which a Christian should take a Biblical stand:

1. We believe in the sanctity of marriage and the home; that one man should be married to one woman in a life-long relationship, and that it is only in this relationship children should be brought into the world.

2. We believe that homosexual relationships are immoral, and very dangerous to the future welfare of America.

3. We believe in helping the needy; but do not believe our government should take the taxpayers money and give it away to people who are lazy and irresponsible for the sake of getting their votes.

4. We believe that human life is sacred, and should be protected from the time of conception.

5. We believe that the casual/non-medical use of drugs (including all alcoholic beverages) is a plague that must be controlled with the same efforts used to control tuberculosis, typhoid and rabies.

6. We believe that every form of gambling is just another way of taking unfair advantage of the poor and ignorant, a way to get something for nothing.

We appeal to Christians everywhere not to let those who differ intimidate and discourage you from exercising your right to participate in the electoral processes ... not to keep quiet on moral issues.