

What Happens When Christians Vote?

Expressing Biblical Values in the Ballot Box

The Bible teaches that the believer's citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20; John 17:15-16). Believers who are American citizens should live according to the God-given values of their heavenly home. However, they also submit to human authorities and live as law-abiding citizens (1 Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:6,7). This "dual citizenship" is the foundation for the believer's responsibility to advocate for the greater good by voting. When Christians vote...

- A. **An unbelieving world has a godly influence:** The right to vote provides an opportunity to wisely influence our government and, in turn, our society with biblical values. God's light shines in a dark world.
*Colossians 4:5 "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, **making the most of the opportunity**....." (See Matt 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16)*
- B. **Evil or bad behavior is restrained:** Evil is restrained by having leaders who respect God's principles and by having good laws with an appropriate means of law enforcement.
*1 Peter 2:13-14 "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the **punishment of evildoers**...." (See Romans 13:3-4)*
- C. **Good or righteousness is encouraged:** Voting is a means of selecting people who will govern according to God's laws by promoting good and praising those who do right.
*1 Peter 2:13-14 "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the... **praise of those who do right**. (See Prov. 14:34)*
- D. **Peace and dignity are promoted:** God values social tranquility and human dignity. By voting, we can select leaders who ensure freedom from oppression and freedom to live godly lives so that the gospel will flourish.
*1 Tim 2:1-2 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, **so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity**." (See Proverbs 29:2)*
- E. **Justice increases:** God intends for authorities to govern with justice and righteousness. When we vote for leaders who believe that human relationships are healthiest when they are based on God's righteous character, all people enjoy a more just and merciful way of life.
*1 Kings 10:9 " ...because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore He made you **king, to do justice and righteousness**." (See Micah 6:8)*
- F. **Believers fulfill a proper role in society:** Just as paying taxes is the proper response to the privileges that one receives from government, so too, voting is the proper response to a democratic form of government. Believers vote to render to the government that which pertains to it, lest they be an offense by either refusing to participate or by ignoring the opportunity.
*Matthew 22:17-21 " And they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' Then He said to them, 'Then **render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's**.'" (See 1 Peter 2:17)*
- G. **Believers do what is good:** Since it is good to uphold and to advocate for God's principles, it follows that voting is part of the "good" that a believer is called to do.
*Romans 13:3 "For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? **Do what is good** and you will have praise from the same;" (See Psalm 34:14)*
- H. **Authorities are selected who serve according to God's design:** The Bible teaches that governing authorities are to fulfill their roles as "servants of God." By voting, the believer can select leaders who are devoted to this attitude of governance. *Romans 13:6 "For because of this you also pay taxes, for **rulers are servants of God**, devoting themselves to this very thing." (Romans 13:1)*