

CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS

Politics - the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power.

Dangers of Liberals – They portray standing for the rights of many, unfortunately, this includes those who practice evil. They usually want nothing to do with God or they want to dictate how God is. They are a party that allows man to define good and evil

Dangers of Conservative – They give the impression they stand for Godliness, while in reality, they use God to support their ungodly agendas. They are molded by a select culture and hold on to traditions despite being in conflict with God.

Believe it or not, all governments everywhere are completely up to God - Rom 13:1-6 - Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

God recognizes there will be unjust leaders. He guides us how to deal with them - 1 Peter 2:18-23 - 18 Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for DOING GOOD and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, HE ENTRUSTED HIMSELF TO HIM WHO JUDGES JUSTLY.

We are required to pray for those in authority - 1 Tim 2:1-3 - I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

It is up to us as Christians to be subject to those rulers in office - Titus 3:2 - Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,

This is not just talking about Christian leaders - 1 Peter 2:13-14 - 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

When it belongs to the government we must give it to the government – Rom 13:7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

However, We must distinguish what belongs to government, and what belongs to God - Luke 20:22-25 - 22 Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them, 24 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?" 25 "Caesar's," they replied. He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to GOD WHAT IS GOD'S."

Christians must answer to God over everyone else - Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

We must stop allowing what man values to be mistaken with what God values - Luke 16:15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. WHAT IS HIGHLY VALUED AMONG MEN IS DETESTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT."

Politics has the habit of pushing man's agenda and traditions INSTEAD OF God's Will - Matt 15:4-9 - 4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 5 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. **Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.** 7 **You hypocrites!** Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'"

With all that said...we must recognize the dangers of politics

Politics picks and chooses the things of God they will do, while ignoring other things God commands - Matt 23:23-24 - 23 "**Woe to you,** teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!

Politics clearly points out issues of others, while not dealing with their own - Matt 7:3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"

God is the standard to what is right or wrong, unfortunately, many in politics continue to do wrong and support wrong doing - Rom 1:32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

We are clearly told NOT to partner with non-believers, and this is ignored in the name of politics - 2 Cor 6:14 **Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.** For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

The foundation of politics is "world loyalty" which makes us enemies of God - James 4:4 You adulterous people, **don't you know** that **FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS HATRED TOWARD GOD?** Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world **becomes an enemy of God.**

There are certain matters Christians should simply not get involved with...we live to serve Christ - 2 Tim 2:3-4 - 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 **No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer.**

*Knowing all Christians **MUST be on the same page with one another, the root of the problem is man and man's viewpoints** - Phil 2:2-4 - 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 **DO NOTHING OUT OF SELFISH AMBITION OR VAIN CONCEIT,** but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Political stances Christians are responsible for is **standing up for the weak, poor, needy, and whoever else lacks a voice** - Prov 31:8-9 - 8 "**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.** 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

This is not a difficult thing to deal with, but it seems difficult because of our self-importance and man being unapologetic - Rom 2:5-8 But because of your **STUBBORNNNESS** and your **UNREPENTANT HEART, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath,** when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "**will give to each person according to what he has done.**" 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Finally! Remember, if we are not 100% with Christ, we are against Him - Matt 12:30 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters."