

The Doctrine of Elections

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The fact of the matter is that some Christians are republicans, some are democrats, and some are independents.

“I urge that supplications, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life,”

1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

We should begin politics in our country with thanksgiving. We are grateful for great freedoms and our ability to take part in the government of our nation.

“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and praise those who do good. For this is the will of God . . . Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:13-18 ESV

Understand two things:

1. Government is imperfect
2. Officials are sinful and prone to corruption

Thus, the separation of powers

As Christians, We enter politics with hands tied behind your back.

“Love your enemies.”

Matthew 5:43 ESV

*“Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with **gentleness and respect**, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”*

1 Peter 3:15-17 ESV

There are two issues in elections – the issues, and how we treat those who disagree with us.

Biblical stories of elections:

1. Paul and Silas have separate candidates for their second missionary journey. A sharp disagreement ensued – they split up.
2. After Judas hangs himself – the apostles bring forth two candidates to take Judas’ place. They cast lots to pick the candidate.

How should a Christian engage politically?

1. Be grateful for the great positives of our government.
2. Study the issues and vote.
3. Pray regularly for government officials/government.
4. Engage with opponents without anger.
5. Be careful – lots of misinformation out there – be patient making conclusion on what you hear.
6. Be gentle and respectful at all times.
7. Make it your goal to love your opponents.
8. Hold officials accountable (Nathan to David).

There is the party of the elephant and the party of the donkey and they are deeply divided. Believers are also in the party of the Lamb.

We campaign for Jesus Christ so others may come under his rule.

We await the kingdom of God to be realized.

God elected you to love and for you to serve.