

# SALT AND LIGHT

## IN AMERICA

### *Bible Principles for Faithfulness in Voting*



*When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.*

PROVERBS 29:2 (NLT)

We believe the Bible gives us direction for how to vote in a nation that encourages its citizens to participate in government. Here are ten principles that can serve to guide how believers in Christ should vote according to their faith in Christ and with a biblical worldview.

- ① You should actually vote. One of our roles in society is to serve as salt (Matthew 5:13), which was used as a preservative in ancient times. Jesus has called us to be salt in our culture, to serve as a preservative in a morally decaying world. While our primary citizenship and our hope is in Heaven, we are called to be good citizens while we sojourn in this land. Part of what it means to do good in this country God has placed us in would be to participate in elections. Sticking our heads in the sand or throwing our hands up in frustration are not what we have been called to. We are called to be discerning and wise, impacting our world for Christ. One of the basic ways we can do this is by voting. (Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:15, 4:19; Deuteronomy 1:13)
- ② Vote God's values first. We cannot separate our faith from our vote. In those areas of life that God speaks, we must honor God and His Word and allow how we vote to be guided by Him. If you vote for an ungodly candidate or platform with evil positions on what God says are primary issues because you care more about a secondary issue, then you have elevated your priorities above God's. Biblical issues are *always* more important than your personal issues. If we desire God's blessing on us as a nation, we need to vote for platforms, candidates, and issues that would adhere to God's values and priorities, not our own. (Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Matthew 6:33)
- ③ Vote for life, not death. How a nation values life is of utmost importance. Abortion is, without question, the greatest injustice of our day. We need to support platforms, candidates, and issues that uphold the value of human life without exception. When there may not be an ideal candidate or platform on this issue, we need to discern who would provide the best leadership to at least move the issue further away from death and toward life. (Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Proverbs 31:8-9; Psalm 82:2-4)
- ④ Vote for family by God's design. God created the family unit so God gets to define it. Marriage and family are God's ideas. As much as our world would like to divorce itself from God, any other definition of marriage or family just doesn't make sense. Our nation's laws and priorities should reflect God's design and nature's affirmation. History also corroborates that strong marriages and families create and sustain strong societies. (Genesis 1:27-28a, 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Colossians 3:18-21)
- ⑤ Vote for biological truth. The issue that is the current rage is the transgender movement, which tries to tell us that a woman can become a man, that a man can become pregnant, that children should be able to take harmful drugs and/or cut off body parts, and that a man dressed as a woman can compete in

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woman's sports. These ideas are not just silly, they are demonic. But the issue of biological truth impacts more than just the one issue — medicine and healthcare, food and diet, climate change — these are just some of the issues that are impacted by people who attempt to manipulate science to fit their own agenda. (Genesis 1:27-28a; Matthew 19:4)

⑥ Vote for the freedom to worship. The same people who do not value life, who promote immoral standards, and who seek to manipulate science to serve their own agenda are the same people who would seek to censor and silence the church and those who stand for truth. There is a reason our founders enshrined the first amendment into our constitution. (Galatians 5:1; 1 Peter 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-25)

⑦ Vote for unity, not division. There are people today who want to divide us as a nation by highlighting skin color, by using immoral standards of equity, or by antagonistically putting people into categories of oppressors vs. the oppressed. In the body of Christ, there is no place for prejudice or racism. So we should never vote for those who would seek to employ the tactics of racism as a way to divide us as a nation. As Christians, we are to highlight the things we have in common, not the things which divide us. (Galatians 3:26-28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13; Colossians 3:11-15)

⑧ Vote for safety and security. It is not ungodly to want to defend your family, your home, and your nation — in fact, we have a responsibility to do so. In addressing how this works itself out in our current context, we need to have secure elections, a strong military, secure borders, and safe communities. In fact, one sign of God's judgment on a nation is it's broken down walls and unprotected borders. (Nehemiah 4:13-14; Psalm 147:10-12; Psalm 122:7; 2 Chronicles 36:19; Nehemiah 2:17)

⑨ Vote for financial responsibility. We all may have different priorities or passions or ideas for how money should be allocated, but our nation will be blessed when it does not spend beyond what it has available to it. We are a nation who has trained many people to expect handouts and entitlements (by the way, Social Security is *not* an entitlement), without taking into consideration how it will impact future generations. (Proverbs 13:18; 15:27; 21:20; 22:7; Ecclesiastes 5:10)

⑩ Vote in peace; God still reigns! We can take comfort in knowing that Jesus is on the throne and is coming again to make all things right! Our hope is anchored to Jesus. In the storms of life, in the ups and downs, we have a steady hope. We can have an unexplainable peace in the midst of the chaos of this world. (Philippians 2:9-11; 4:4-7; Hebrews 6:16-20a)

Make no mistake, we are called to be good citizens in the country God has placed us. For us, here in the United States of America, voting is a part of what it means to be a good citizen. We need to take it seriously. And we need to honor God with the choices that we make. While there is no such thing as the "perfect" candidate or platform, we can vote for those candidates and platforms that at least move our cause a little further down the road. Let us not stick our heads in the sand or declare the system is too broken — those are not acceptable excuses to not participate. Pray for God's wisdom. Study the candidates and positions. Confidently cast your vote at each election — local, state, and national. And may God bless you, your family, your local church, and our nation!

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