

Saturation of Church & State

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Every 4 yrs, culture becomes almost unbearable...as people - who are already opinionated, upset, and polarized...get passions stoked fiery inferno.

Opinions > judgments // Frustrations > anger // Polarization > war.

Every election cycle, the internet turns into a hot stinky dumpster fire: Name calling, disrespect, relationships destroyed, anxiety and panic.

And, I'm not talking about unbelievers in the world. This is problem for Christians in the church. (20 days of prayer and fasting)

Prepare your soul for this season, and give you a biblical framework to approach voting as a Christian

SATURATION OF CHURCH & STATE

Before anyone hyperventilates, I'm not going to tell you who to vote for... I do promise to offend everyone equally

- You've probably heard the phrase "separation of church and state". Some people today mistakenly claim that this principle is supposed to keep the faith out of society & government affairs. It was always actually intended to keep the govt out of church affairs.

- The 1st Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Government should not establish an official religion or interfere with your ability to worship God as you see fit.

This DOES NOT mean that Christians need to keep faith out of politics. Our faith SATURATE how we see politics.

• **Matt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**



Jesus said pray *You're kingdom come...your will be done on earth as in heaven*... we should work to do what we can do, to create a society that is AS PLEASING to the LORD as possible

So our faith in God and trust in His word should SATURATE every part of our lives, how we work, play, live, and vote.

Maybe as a Christian you're wondering how your faith should affect your vote.

Important question. You probably have some issues that you're passionate about.

But if we seek his kingdom 1st, means His issues are always MORE important than our issues. As we walk w/ Christ, become like him...his issues *become* your issues. *"God's issues are my issues!"*

The thing is, you have to read the Bible in order to figure out God's issues.

- **Economic policy:** Bible: Put God 1st, save, spend less than make, trust God to provide, enjoy, be generous. (family, church, bus, country) blessed
- **Law and Order** bible Says role of the government is punish those who do wrong
- **2A** - It's ok for a Christian to defend innocent life. Bible has nothing to say about right to bear arms. Important, not as important.
- **Welfare:** bible says we should care for the fatherless, widow, the immigrant, the poor. Both parties want To do that, but have different ideas about *how* to do that. Some think the government should do more, some church.
- **Women rights** or well being of children: they had no rights until Jesus came & elevated status. Jesus elevates the right of the neglected.
- **Diversity:** Until Jesus, only Jews could be right w God...Jesus changed so that ALL people have access to God through Jesus.Heaven diverse.
- **Unborn:** bible life begins womb. Killing baby = murder... some might have pain from past. God's mercy is for you. But, need to protect unborn.
 - (abortion = greatest injustice on earth today. In USA - 1M babies killed/ yr, mostly due to inconvenience. This is an ongoing holocaust in our own country, they have nobody to protest for them except us. hard to compare any other political issue to



this. I'll never vote for any candidate who is permissive or accepting of abortion... scared of having to answer to God for that)

- **Family unit:** Bible describes recipe for a healthy family unit. Man and Woman get married, raise their kids together. (Not always reality/best)

- Christians, we need to work for policies that uphold family values.....best for the family, best for society

How do you vote these issues?: read word, pray, ask HS to show you. longer you walk with Jesus, the more HIS issues become YOUR issues.

- As we go into election season, more tension and anger polarization

- I want to give you some words of wisdom to prepare heart & soul election

DON'T LOSE YOUR HONOR

- Throughout history, congressmen on opposing sides aisle...even most heated debates & partisan disagreements, address each other with respect & honor

- *"My friend from the state of AZ" "My esteemed colleague." "The distinguished gentleman."*

- Think about how different that is compares to the way we often talk about politicians, candidates, and civil leaders

- *Here's what we hear: "Trump is this. Biden's that. Clinton is this. Obama is that.*

Republicans are this. Democrats are that.... This guys a snake, that guys is worse than hitler, He's not my president, If he wins I'm moving to Canada."

Recent weeks we talked about how all the Bible is true...stand on his word.

- **Romans 13:1** Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. **2** So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. **3** For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. **4** The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be



afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. **5 So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.**

God appoints all authority figures. - presidents, emperors, dictators, governors, pastors, teachers, police, parents, even your boss.

- Rebelling against authority is rebelling against God
 - (some will struggle with this, because you've been hurt. I struggle with this still).
"surely God can't expect me honor abusive authority!" PAUL WROTE THIS - Christians arrested, tortured, killed, he was beheaded Roman gov't.
 - **1 Peter 2:19** For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment.
 - Peter wrote this. Was killed by authority figures crucified upside down.

Believe or not, it could be that your ungodly authority has been put in your life to specifically prepare you for your calling.

- **Joseph** - honored Potiphar when slave, honored jailor unfairly imprisoned, honored pharaoh.
- While serving under, learned manage household/kingdom. God elevated and honored Joseph, because Joseph honored authority.
- **Shad, Mes, Abednego** - King Neb ordered worship idol. Couldn't clearly a sin. Still showed honor.
- **Dan 3:16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. **17** If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. **18** But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."
 - Refused to obey sinful order.
 - Spoke with respect. They honored the king and God honored them by delivering them displaying power.
 - Authority figures, You don't have to like them, but you do have to honor them.



• 1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

— Christians who struggle with this, many who downright ignore this. .” —

“I’ll respect authority as long as I like what they’re doing. I’ll do what they say. As long as I agree with it. As long as it’s what I want.”

That’s not submission. That’s rebellion. It doesn’t matter if you like the person. God calls you to honor the position.

How do we Honor?

1. in what we say/ 2. What we do. (obey as long as it doesn’t contradict God’s word)

“President, Pastor, Officer, Mayor. Sir. Mr.” - As Christians, should talk about any governing leaders w/ so much respect, ppl can’t tell who voted

- Those who rebel against authority rebel against what God has instituted.
- When we dishonor authority, we dishonor God, and we LOSE our honor...

• 1 Sam 2:30 But now the Lord declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained....”

- King David’s son, Absalom stood city gates, he could do a better job, criticized his Father the king. went from honored prince to dead rebel.
- If you have lately been in a pattern of dishonoring authority with mouth- talk. Actions - breaking laws, rules, defying === REPENT
- I’ve had to repent...grateful for Lord’s correction, he’s merciful and patience, but eventually...

Reap what you sow, honor/dishonor. Next time tempted to bad mouth leader: “Don’t do it. You don’t want to lose honor.”

DON’T LOSE YOUR WITNESS

• *In our zeal to get one candidate elected, we start name calling, guilt tripping, yelling, demonizing people.*



- We get so focused on being right that we forget to be loving. Jesus was always right AND always loving
- If we misrepresent him to the world. We lose our witness for Christ
 - Phillipians 1:27 Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

During election season, Opinions > judgments // Frustrations > anger // Polarization > war.

Sometimes, we get sucked into fighting with people when we're supposed to be fighting for the faith.

It's ok to talk or post about who you support, but being argumentative and hostile causes you lose witness. You might be fired up issues, but if angry, judgmental, you could end up driving away the ppl who need you the most.

Let's remember, there lots of important issues: but the most important issue to Jesus is PEOPLE.

- When you go to post or share about your political social opinions, ask yourself. Does the world really need my commentary? (Truthfully, the people who already agree with you don't need it...and the people who disagree with you aren't likely to listen to it.)
- A lot of us, *"I just make a difference!"* If you're not careful, you can make the wrong kind of difference.
- Your candidate could you win the election while you lose relationships with the very people Jesus wants you to reach.

"Who you represent to the world is more important than who represents you in government."

- It IS important to vote, but remember, nobody gets into power without God's knowledge. He'll use whoever is FOR GOOD those who love him.



- Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of Gospel, so that when the election over, your mission field hasn't been burned to the ground.
- Get upset about to vent to the world: *"don't lose your witness. conducting yourself in a manner worthy gospel"*

You MIGHT be right, but you MUST love people.

- **Remember: ABOVE ALL, you're a citizen of heaven.**

DON'T LOSE YOUR PEACE

So many growing anxious... *"WHAT IF THE WRONG GUY / GAL GETS ELECTED!?*
Going to ruin country / lives."

- Rom 13:1b For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Let's Say things don't go according to plan... You don't have to worry. Everything IS going according to God's plan.

Sometimes we get so worried: *"if that guy gets elected we're all doomed. HE'S not good person....what are we going to do?!"*

– Throughout history, God has worked again and again through even wicked rulers to carry out his purpose.

When Hebrew people slaves in Egypt, God sent plagues display his mighty power.

Moses getting ready to lead people out...

- Ex 14:4 And once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD!"

Pharaoh was a bad guy, he murdered Hebrew babies / oppressed God's people. / Yet God USED him to display his glory!

Even when things don't seem to look good, remember... God will get the glory.

In 2nd century, as Christians were slaughtered by authorities. *Tertullian "The blood of the martyrs in the seed of the church."*

God was using the worst persecution to spread the name of Jesus like wildfire.



no matter how bad it looks on paper, We can have peace

It's ok to have a candidate your passionate about, and you can work passionately on that campaign...that's great...

But We can have peace no matter who gets elected...Even when it looks like a leader is potentially bad , we know God use that leader for HIS purpose.

God can use even the worst leader, boss, parent, teacher for HIS glory and His plan... He'll get the glory! "Don't lose your peace!"

We sometimes think if a certain candidate is elected, reform is passed, policy is changed...then world will be ok.

so when things don't go the way we wanted, it can shake us.

If you find yourself anxious and afraid, because your hope has gotten attached to the wrong person.

Remember: Our hope is anchored, not in a political candidate, but in a KING.

• Is 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

— Whose leadership are you trusting in? —

I've got bad news and good news. The US gov't can't save you from the problems of this world. But there is another who can

When God wanted to save the world, he didn't use a president who'd been elected.

He used a King who was crucified and resurrected! When you're worried about your country, seek His Kingdom.

When you're worried about politicians, trust in your king. He's Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

