VOTING

Intro: Should a Christian vote? There are serious disagreements concerning this matter as well as which candidate the Christian should vote for. Let us consider some matters about the Christian and voting.

I. SHOULD A CHRISTIAN VOTE
   A. The Bible does not state specifically the Christian should vote or should not vote.
   B. Some have held the position that Christians should not vote.
      1. Historians:
         a. Edward Gibbon in *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* wrote: “The Christians felt and confessed that such institutions might be necessary for the present system of the world, and they cheerfully submitted to the authority of their Pagan governors. But while they inculcated the maxims of passive obedience, they refused to take any active part in the civil administration or the military defence of the empire.”
         b. Phillip Schaff in *History of the Christian Church* wrote: “The conscientious refusal of the Christians to pay divine honors to the emperor and his statue, and to take part in any idolatrous ceremonies at public festivities, their aversion to the imperial military service, their disregard for politics and depreciation of all civil and temporal affairs as compared with the spiritual and eternal interests of man, their close brotherly union and frequent meetings, drew upon them the suspicion of hostility to the Caesars and the Roman people, and the unpardonable crime of conspiracy against the state.”
      2. David Lipscomb in *Civil Government* took this position (as did my grandmother).
      3. They hold that God rules the kingdoms of man and puts into office whom He chooses.
         a. Dan. 2:21 “And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:”
         b. Dan. 4:17 “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”
      4. Christians should leave the matter up to God and stay out of the political realm.
   C. God’s providence:
      1. God might providentially use Christians to set certain leaders in place.
      2. God gave Israel a king but it was through the people:
         a. Hos. 13:11 “I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.”
         b. 1 Sam. 8:5 “And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”
   D. Lesser of two evils?
      1. Sometimes that seems to be the only choice we have.
      2. We cannot go against our conscience if we feel we cannot vote for anyone.
   E. Ultimately, voting is a personal choice.

II. PRINCIPLES REGARDING OUR VOTING
   A. Party affiliation
      1. It should not matter regarding a particular candidate.
         a. Some vote for party no matter what.
b. Illustration of my telling a person they would vote for Satan himself if he were running as a Democrat. They laughed and said probably so. (Some Republicans are just as bad.)

2. Party platform is important.

B. Superficial grounds
1. Race, gender, etc.
2. Simply what the candidate promises us.
   a. We make the election about us.
   b. We have forgotten John Kennedy’s statement:
      (1) “Ask not what your Country can do for you but what you can do for your Country.”
      (2) Many have changed it to: “Ask not what you can do for your country but What your country can do for you”

3. Voting based upon superficial grounds is incorrect thinking.

C. Character
1. Does the candidate have any level of spirituality?
2. If he professes faith in God.
   a. Does he apply those tenants to his life?
   b. Do we really want an atheist, Hinduist, Muslim,
3. Does he say one thing and then do something else or is his voting record contrary to what he says?
4. If the candidate wins, do we want his ethic placed upon the American people?

D. Ethical issues versus economic issues
1. It is better to be:
   a. Poor financially than poor spiritually.
   b. Poor and good than prosperous and wicked
   c. Psa. 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”
   d. Pro. 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
2. Abortion, Euthanasia, and Stem Cell Research
   a. The sanctity of human life must be kept foremost:
      (1) Gen.1:26-27 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”
      (2) God hates shedding innocent blood and what is more innocent than a baby in the womb; Pro. 6:16-19 “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”
   b. Each of the presidential candidates have expressed themselves very clearly concerning abortion.
   c. There is no way a Christian can vote for someone who has the desire to keep abortion legal.
3. Marriage
   a. Heb. 13:4 “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”
b. God will not tolerate homosexuality.
   (1) Sodom and Gomorrah
   (2) Rom. 1:24, 26-27, 32 “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts
       of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:... 26For this cause God
       gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that
       which is against nature: 27And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman,
       burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and
       receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.... 32Who knowing the
       judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the
       same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

4. In the presidential race: the President might be selecting several judges for the Supreme
   Court.
   a. This will affect our laws for decades to come.
   b. It was one swing-vote since 1989 which has allowed the holocaust of abortion to
      continue.
   c. Gary Summers wrote: “Eisenhower, when asked if he had any disappointments
      about his two terms as president, said one of his deepest regrets was appointing Earl
      Warren to the Supreme Court. It was the Warren Court that could not define
      pornography, which opened the floodgates for the filth that now abounds. They also
      made the decision to curtail prayer in public schools, as well as restrict the use of the
      Bible. How much damage has come to this country because of that decision? To
      Eisenhower’s credit, he at least acknowledged the error.”

Conclusion: The Bible gives us the purpose for government: “For rulers are not a terror to good
works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt
have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil,
be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute
wrath upon him that doeth evil” (Rom. 13:3-4). “Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for
the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well” (1 Pet. 2:14). If we vote, let us
make sure we abide by the principles of God in our voting.