



## Self-governing – a ministry and a duty!

### **1. All authority come from God – civil authority carries sacred and lethal responsibility.**

- a. God ordained governing authority and for a specific, limited purpose.
  - i. Romans 13:1 - 7
    1. Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God and those which exist are established by God.
      - a. “Do what is good and you will have praise from the same.”
      - b. “...a minister of God to for good.”
      - c. “...if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing...”
      - d. “...for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.”
  - ii. Matthew 28:18
    1. “...All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore...”
- b. Governing authority exists to protect the life, property and freedom of the innocent under its jurisdiction.
  - i. Correspondingly it uses the “sword” to take the life, property or freedom of those who commit crimes, with the punishment Biblically required to “fit the crime”.
    1. e.g. “eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth” – Exodus 21

### **2. Voting is the act of delegating governing authority**

- a. Governing authority in the Unites States of America exists in its citizens
  - i. As delineated in our “articles of incorporation” – the Declaration of Independence.
    1. *“We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...” (Preamble)*
  - ii. As defined in the organizing document, “bylaws” of the constitutional republic which delineates these principles.
    1. *“We, the People, in order to form a more perfect union...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” (Preamble)*

**3. Voting to delegate God’s authority should ideally be limited to those who conform to clear Biblical standards of corporate leadership.**

- a. “Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them *as* leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.” (Exodus 18:21)
- b. Compare to qualifications for elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3)
- c. Must be done in submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Col. 3:17)
- d. If we do not have an option of voting for someone who shares our faith AND Biblical values, we are obligated to choose the one who is closest to a Biblical standard.

**4. Voting, then is a DUTY of EVERY American citizen; DOUBLY so for Christian American citizens.**

- a. **Failing to vote at all is negligence and dereliction of duty** that results in the loss of life, property and freedom of the innocent we are charged to protect.
- b. **Failing to vote consistently is similar negligence** that surrenders the impact of Biblical Christianity to those who are diligent.
- c. **Failing to vote Biblically delegates** the “sword” to those who are at best unqualified and at worst evil.

SUMMARY: Whether voting for local city officials or President of the United States, the goal of Christians should be to vote in EVERY municipal, special, Primary and General election without fail. We should always remember that our objective is to choose the candidate and/or political party CLOSEST to the Biblical standard of priority issues based on a prayerful, informed study of available information about the candidate - the “perfect” candidate doesn’t exist. We are the stewards and are accountable to our God for how we perform as such.

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