

**Community Bible Church**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions: 19/20 & 23**  
**Pastor Ed Newton**

**Title:** Bible and Politics

**Text:** "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

**Target:** Our hope is not in a political party, but in Jesus Christ alone.

**I. Separation of Church and State, but NOT God and Government**

- A. **Separation of Church & State:** Important to Christians because this protects and provides religious liberty without government interference privately and publicly. (Ex. Prevents a State Religion, Protects from Religious Persecution, Allows Freedom of Speech)
- B. **God and Government:** "God is Sovereign over all rulers, leaders, and nations, and all authorities must reflect morality, justice, mercy, and righteousness, but when not upheld those who are spiritual must speak out." (Romans 13:1-7)
  - 1. **Biblical examples:** Moses, Esther, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, John the Baptist, Peter, John, Nehemiah, Amos, Jeremiah, Isaiah.
  - 2. **Modern examples:** John Bunyan, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, William Wilberforce, Sojourner Truth, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Question #1:** *How do you interpret the connection between righteousness and the health of a nation as mentioned in Proverbs 14:34? In what ways can we actively pursue righteousness in our communities?*

**Question #2:** *What does the separation of church and state mean to you personally? How can Christians engage in political discourse without compromising their faith?*

**Question #3:** *Reflecting on Romans 13:1-7, how does acknowledging God's sovereignty over rulers impact your view of political leaders? What role should prayer play in our engagement with government authorities?*

**II. Biblical Considerations in Casting a Vote:** Voting is about Civic & Spiritual Stewardship.

- A. **Seek righteous leadership:** Proverbs 29:2
- B. **Seek the sovereignty of a nation:** Acts 17:26
- C. **Seek advocacy for justice, law, order, protection of citizens:** Micah 6:8
- D. **Seek the welfare of ALL people:** Jeremiah 29:7
- E. **Seek Kingdom values:** Matthew 6:33

**Question #4:** *What qualities do you think characterize righteous leadership, as indicated in Proverbs 29:2? How can we discern these qualities in candidates during elections?*

**Question #5:** *Jeremiah 29:7 calls us to seek the welfare of the city. How does this principle influence your thoughts on social justice and community service?*

**III. Live as Kingdom Citizens:** If you are a Christian, you cannot leave God out of your decision to vote. (Philippians 3:20)

- A. **Identity is in Christ, not a political party or candidate:** 2 Cor. 5:17
- B. **We are to be ambassadors of Christ and His values:** 2 Cor. 5:20
- C. **Transformed by the Holy Spirit:** Galatians 5:22-23
- D. **Be salt and light:** Matthew 5:13-16
- E. **The Kingdom of God reigns forever:** Daniel 2:34

**Question #6:** *In what ways can we emphasize our identity in Christ over our political affiliations, as suggested in 2 Corinthians 5:17? How does this perspective shape our interactions with others who may have different political views?*

**Question #7:** *How can Christians actively be salt and light in the political sphere today, according to Matthew 5:13-16? What are some tangible actions we can take?*

#### **IV. What are Biblical Conviction Voting Considerations**

- A. **Sanctity of life:** Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5
- B. **Marriage, family, gender:** Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:3
- C. **Religious freedom:** 1 Peter 2:13-17
- D. **Justice, equality for all people:** Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:17; Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 25:35-40
- E. **Immigration, refugees and Borders:** Leviticus 19:34; Matthew 2:13
- F. **Integrity and character of candidate:** Proverbs 11:3; 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- G. **Stewardship of creation for resources and conservation:** Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 24
- H. **Support of law & order, public safety:** Romans 13:1-2
- I. **Education, curriculum, parental involvement:** Proverbs 22:6
- J. **Economic policies, taxation:** 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Proverbs 14:23
- K. **National security & foreign policy:** Romans 13:4; 1 Timothy 2:2

**Question #8:** *From the list of biblical conviction considerations, which one resonates most with you, and why? How can you advocate for this issue in your community?*

**Question #9:** *As we think about our votes as a means to expand God's Kingdom, what specific actions can we take beyond the ballot box to support Kingdom values in our communities?*

**Takeaway:** Your vote should seek to expand God's Kingdom values on earth through civic government.