

10.28.18 ~ Principles Really Do Matter...

It will soon be time to cast your votes for the candidates and measures found on your ballots. How do you decide who to vote for? How do you know whether to vote yes or no on the different measures?

I believe the Bible presents some very important principles for us to consider, and that we are responsible to find out how the candidates and measures line up with these principles, before we mark our ballots.

1. The dignity of human life.

All human life is sacred (**Psalm 139:13-16**); in fact, the Bible forbids murder, both as an act of the flesh (**Exodus 20:13**), and as an attitude of the heart (**Matthew 5:21-22**; cf (Psalm 14:1), "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'")

America once led the world in its efforts to protect the dignity and value of human life; but today it legitimizes the murder of innocent babies through abortion, and the death of sick and elderly people through assisted suicide.

By blatantly violating God's Word, we end up with a society that shows more concern for the protection of insects, animals, and plants than it does for human life.

2. Heterosexual monogamous marriages.

God ordained that marriage is the union between one man and one woman committed to God and to each other (**Genesis 2:22-24; Ephesians 5:22-25, 28-33**).

Common law marriage, same-sex union, and living together without being married, is accepted in our culture, but these are all detrimental to our society, as a whole.

3. Common decency.

The most basic act of common decency, modesty, and propriety, begins with covering of the human body parts associated with specific male or female sexuality, as is illustrated in the story of Creation (BTW, Genesis 1:27 says God made them male and female, there is no other gender option). **See Genesis 2:25; 3:7-11, 21.**

Humanity is "fallen" and the loss of innocence is clearly exhibited in American culture today: pornography is a multi-billion dollar business, our news stands, television shows, and theaters are filled with profanity, immorality and obscenity; God's people are called to a much higher standard (**Ephesians. 5:1-5, 15-17**).

4. The work ethic.

The Bible records that ever since the sin of Adam, all humanity has had to labor by the work of their hands and the sweat of their brows, in order to provide food for themselves (**Genesis 3:17-19**).

But you know, even life's mundane tasks and simplest pleasures can bring great joy and fulfillment to a person who is in a right relationship with God (**Ecclesiastes 2:22-25**).

There is a dignity in hard work, a dignity that the welfare system has stripped from millions of Americans (**2Thessalonians 3:6, 10**).

The free enterprise system in America was meant to encourage ambition, incentive, competition, and hard work; but without God's blessing no one will find satisfaction or fulfillment.

5. God's covenant people.

About 3500 years ago God told Abram that from his offspring would come a great nation, through which all the families of the earth would be blessed (**Genesis 12:1-3**). God made a covenant with Abraham, to be fulfilled through God's Son, by which all true Christians are eternally blessed (**Galatians 3:26-29**).

God's plan is to have a people of His own (**Ephesians 1:4-5; 1Peter 2:9-10**); but this could only be fulfilled by the Son of God's own death on the cross (**Hebrews 9:15, 27-28; 1Corinthians 11:23-26; John 1:12-13**).

6. God-centered education. [New England Primer]

God desires Biblical instruction for all children (**Deuteronomy 6:4-8; Proverbs 22:6**); but, God's Word and prayers to Him have been banned - secular humanism has replaced Biblical instruction in the public school system - resulting in moral decay, lower academic standards, gender confusion, sexual promiscuity, increased violence, and a drug & alcohol epidemic.

7. God ordained Home, Church, and Government.

The family is the basic unit of society; a village cannot raise a child, for God declares that a father and mother should bring up their own children in accordance with the principles and precepts found in God's Word (**Ephesians 6:1-4**). Society is only as strong as the individual families within it.

God established the church, a universal spiritual body through which all those who belong to God through Christ might serve Him together on earth (**Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Corinthians 12:12, 14, 18, 27**).

The church is under direct attack by Satan, the world system, and all those who reject Christ; but the church will succeed in carrying out God's plan, purpose, and provision in and through Jesus Christ (**Matthew 28:18-20; cf. 2Peter 1:3-4**).

God established human, civil government (**Romans 13:1; 1Peter 2:13-17**). We are to pray for our leaders and demonstrate respect for the positions of authority placed over us; but, we must obey God's Word first and foremost. Jesus said (Mark 12:17), "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's but give to God what is God's."

Homes, churches, and governments were established by God, for God's purposes, that He might be honored through them all.

Peter Marshall was elected Chaplain of the U. S. Senate, in January 1947, and in his acceptance speech he said, "The choice before us is plain: Christ or chaos, conviction or compromise, discipline or disintegration. I am rather tired of hearing about our rights and privileges as American citizens. The time is come - it now is - when we ought to hear about the duties and responsibilities of our citizenship. America's future depends upon her accepting and demonstrating God's government."

Before you fill out and cast your ballot, November 5, I encourage you to take the time to find out how the candidates and measures line up the principles we have looked at today; and then, go out and vote for those candidates and measures that more closely align with God's Word.

Pastor Mike
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