

POLITICAL PARTIES ARE FALLIBLE BECAUSE THEY ARE RUN BY HUMANS

As long as human beings are running something whether it is a business, organization or a country, there will always be problems.

THERE ARE PARTS OF THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC AGENDAS THAT JESUS WOULD BOTH SUPPORT AND OPPOSE

1. Republican Support (Supporting the rights of the unborn).
2. Republican Opposition (Greed-centered capitalism).
3. Democratic Support (Taking care of the poor and needy).
4. Democratic Opposition (Defending pornography as free speech).

JESUS DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH ANY POLITICAL GROUP IN HIS DAY

There were many political parties (both social and religious) in Jesus' day, but He never associated Himself with any of them. As a matter of fact, not only did He not associate with them, he began His own movement.

1. Pharisees (Matt. 23:23-26; Mk. 7:1-13; Lk. 11:37-42; 18:12) –A Jewish religious group which practiced strict adherence to the

Jewish Old Testament Law and the interpretations of it by the elders.

2. Sadducees (Matt. 22:33-34; Mk. 12:27) – A Jewish religious group that adhered to the Law of Moses but rejected the tradition of the elders and their interpretation of the Law.
3. Essenes – A Jewish religious group who exercised strict discipline and isolated themselves from those who did not practice their way of life.
4. Herodians (Matt. 22:16; Mk. 3:6; 12:13)– A Jewish political party who supported the policies of the Roman government especially that of the Herodian family.
5. Zealots (Matt. 10:4; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:15; Acts 1:13)– A Jewish political party that believed in strict adherence to Jewish law and opposed the Roman rule over Palestine. They also believed in using military power to fight for their freedom.

“Jesus Christ didn't come to take sides, He came to take over.”—Tony Evans

JESUS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A REPUBLICAN ELEPHANT OR A DEMOCRATIC DONKEY HE STARTED A NEW MOVEMENT AND HIS SYMBOL WAS A LAMB

WHERE IS THE LAMB? (GEN. 22:7-8)

“And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”

WATCH THE LAMB (JN. 1:29, 36)

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (29).

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!” (36).

WORTHY IS THE LAMB (REV. 5:12)

“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”

BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE LAMB'S POLITICAL PARTY

Below are ten biblical guidelines to assist Christians to engage in politics.

1. Don't equate the biblical kingdom of God with any human political party or nation. We must maintain the distinctiveness between God's kingdom and the kingdoms of this world. We must never fuse the two (John 18:36; Matt. 6:33).
2. Don't elevate a politician to messianic status. People often falsely think a politician can single-handedly produce supernatural social results. We have one Lord, and we

must resist any attempt to exalt politicians to unrealistic heights (Matt. 7:15; 1 Pet. 3:15).

3. Don't just vote, but pray for the leaders of all political parties. Christians can be tempted to bless the politician of their choice, and curse his or her opponent, but remember, we must pray even for our enemies (1 Tim. 2:1–2; Matt. 5:44).

4. Don't forget that your ultimate security is in the unshakeable kingdom of God. Many Christians often elevate the outcome of presidential elections to an apocalyptic status. If a particular presidential candidate does not win, we begin to think or act as if the world will end. In so doing, however, we express an unbelief in the active sovereignty of God over human affairs (Heb. 12:26–29).

5. Don't bring the polarization of partisan politics into the family of God. Every Christian has freedom of conscience before God, and we must guard against allowing political perspectives to divide the church (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 1:11–12).

6. Don't demonize anyone. Every person has been created in the image of God, and Christians must not demonize or dehumanize other people, whether we agree with them politically or not (Col. 3:8; James 4:12).

7. Don't engage in angry, hostile confrontation. Present your political convictions through civil debate and rational dialogue instead. Confrontational arguments demonstrate an ugly pride that demeans Jesus Christ (James 1:19–20; 2 Tim. 2:14).

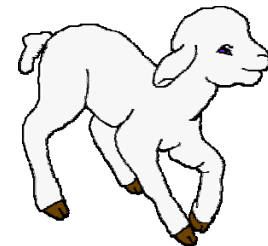
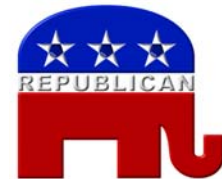
8. Don't become so intertwined with one political party that you forfeit your independence. When you do, you lose your right to be heard and to speak and clarify

biblical truth to all politicians and political parties (1 Tim. 3:15; Rom. 3:4).

9. Don't allow yourself to support attempts to divide races, male and female, rich and poor, or young and old. Partisan politics often divides society into voting blocks, and separates society instead of uniting it. Christians should function as peacemakers and reconcilers in the public square and should resist every temptation to join the game of dividing people for political gain (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:18–19).

10. Don't simply curse the darkness, but constructively engage it. The cultural and missional mandate of kingdom Christians is not to curse the darkness in our world, but to act as illuminating light and preserving salt. We must share the light of God's truth and work to maintain the common welfare of our nation by overcoming evil through doing good (Matt. 5:13–16).

POLITICS AND THE BIBLE



by
Dr. William R. Glaze

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One of the great things about being an American is having the right to vote. This can also be a curse when we consider all that is associated with this right. It begins with the efforts of the politicians to get our votes; the accusations, character assassinations, negative campaigning, and the ad counter-ad commercials. Even mild-mannered Christian voters are transformed into a hideous political creature. As a part of this transformation they vilify other believers who do not agree with their political choice. They engage in hostile confrontations where they put their Christianity on a shelf. In addition to all this, they elevate their identification with their political party above their identity with Jesus Christ. Elections are times when our faith is put to the test. It provides us an opportunity to demonstrate self-restraint and demonstrate the love of Christ for those who do not share our political point of view.

POLITICAL PARTIES ARE MADE UP OF MAN AND RUN BY MAN

Romans 3:10-18 gives us a frightening picture of fallen man. *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open*

sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.” As we consider many of the financial and sexual scandals that have occurred in the political field, this passage in the book of Romans gives us an indication as to the root cause. This reminder that politicians are human beings should help us to keep things in perspective. We should not anoint political parties to be God-ordained institutions neither should we look at political figures as saviors of the world who can supernaturally solve all the problems.

JESUS DID NOT ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH ANY POLITICAL GROUP

There were many political parties (both social and religious) in Jesus’ day:

1. Pharisees (Matt. 23:23-26; Mk. 7:1-13; Lk. 11:37-42; 18:12) –A Jewish religious group which practiced strict adherence to the Jewish Old Testament Law and the interpretations of it by the elders.
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When Jesus began his public ministry He did not commit to any political group. Even though He could identify with some parts of each agenda, He could not line up with their whole political platform. Jesus serves as a good role model for us in this area. If a believer affiliates himself with a political party, he must be careful not to become so interwoven into it that he goes along with the ideals of the party even when they oppose Biblical truths. If Jesus took up residence today in a human body, He would probably agree with certain agenda items in each political party, but He would not accept the entire agenda of any group. For instance, He would certainly embrace the pro-life platform of the republican agenda while also identifying with the democratic agenda of caring for the poor.

There is an interesting verse in John’s Gospel which says, “Jesus did not commit

himself unto [man], because he knew all men” (2:24). Jesus knew the hearts of men and did not trust them because it could change according to the direction the wind was blowing. Even in our political system we see politicians changing their views and even their political parties.

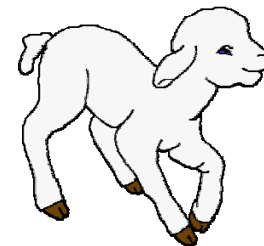
We see that Jesus not only didn't associate with a political party but He actually started His own movement. Dr. Tony Evans says, “Jesus didn't come to take sides, He came to take over.” He established a theocratic system which later became known as Christianity. A system which focuses on God's kingdom and not the kingdoms of this world. This Kingdom is to be identified as separate from any political party or nation. This is a Kingdom whose emblem is not an elephant or donkey but the Lamb (Jn. 1:29, 36; Rev. 5:12).

**CONCLUSION:
BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR
THE LAMB'S POLITICAL
PARTY**

1. Pray for elected official and for candidates who are running for office (1 Tim. 2:1-3). Sadly, some Christians struggle with the idea of praying for a politician who does not line up with their values, but God's Word says “pray for all...that are in authority.”
2. Become an informed voter, get a voter's guide to see which candidate most lines up with the ways and values of God (Jer. 9:23-24).

3. Realize that some issues should carry more weight than other issues for Christians (Matt. 23:23). For instance, when considering a candidate, the pro life issue should carry more weight than giving students school vouchers.
4. Even if the politician we would like to see elected does not get into office, we must remember that “*promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, or from the south. But God is the judge; he putteth down one, and setteth up another*” (Ps. 75:6-7).
5. Do not lose your Christian testimony by getting into hostile confrontations and heated arguments over politics but exhibit the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
6. Do not allow politics to disrupt the unity between you and a fellow believer (Ps. 133).
7. Exercise wisdom (Prov. 1:2-5); don't vote straight down the party ticket. If a candidate is opposed to some critical Biblical value, don't vote for that individual even if he or she is a member of your political party.
8. Believers should vote for candidates who are God-fearing, qualified, moral and trustworthy (Prov. 29:2).

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