

Out Of The Pews And Into The Polls

What is proposed and introduced here is a CHRISTIAN activity. The verse that seems to fit it best is Paul's admonition to Titus

Titus 3:2 "to slander no one, to be peaceful and considerate, and to show true humility to all men."

If this concept is something you wish to implement, please send an email to Bob Huck at bobhuck@JesusIsInvolvedInPolitics.com

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Here Is The Question: Is Your Christian Vote Important?

Benjamin Franklin said, “*He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of Christianity, shall revolutionize the world.*”

And so he *and the founders did exactly that* when they established the United States of America on Christian principles and declared with *monumental courage and defiance* that man can indeed govern himself yielded to the hand of God for guidance.

Consider also the words of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll: “Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, *the best security for the duration of free governments.*”

It can well be surmised from the above quotes, as well as many others, that the founders of America knew clearly the supreme place of God in the government of the United States of America.

But from that same period of history came the dark warning of Thomas Jefferson: “*...Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever.*”

This warning seems to have come to life today in America. Consider the following brief list:

- In 2002 it became illegal to say, “God Bless you” in public schools in New York.*
- In Maine a Christian group was fined \$4,000 for sending out a letter government officials felt to be anti-Islamic.*
- A Pastor in Phoenix, Arizona was sentenced to 10 days in jail and 3 years probation for ringing his church bells for more than 2 minutes on Sundays.*
- And in Philadelphia a great grandmother and 10 other Christians were jailed for exercising their First Amendment rights by preaching the message of salvation at a gay pride parade.*
- A man in Salem, Massachusetts was arrested for presenting the gospel to a crowd of raucous Halloween celebrants.*
- In Canada, England and Sweden pastors are being arrested for preaching Bible passages that declare homosexual acts are sin.

These are only a few of the thousands of examples of Christian values in America being assailed by courts which have dismissed morality in favor of perceived cultural changes. These examples do not reflect cultural values they reflect a grievous diminishing of Spiritual values. They clearly show that *either elected judges or judges appointed by elected officials* have simply dismissed the First Amendment to the Constitution and the rights granted therein.

*From “Jesus Was/Is Involved In Politics” by Neil Mammen; Rational Free Press 2010

Consider the text of Isaiah 59:14,15 NIV “So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.”

Do these verses portray the philosophical beliefs of many elected to public office in America today? Sadly, yes they do.

Do Christians and their supporters want to support and grow secular socialism in America? Do we want optional death of the unborn and murder of the born to be government sanctioned? Should we just accept the influence of atheist values as simply *an inevitable and acceptable change* in our cultural values? Should God be expelled from the public schools and any other public or government discourse?

Do we want God to be eliminated from the public square?

If the answer to these questions is “no,” then we must support and defend our God given inalienable rights, so courageously presented in the Declaration of Independence, by voting.

Our individual vote is important. It counts. Our prayerfully considered vote is critical in overturning and in some cases reversing amoral government policies developed by those in elected office who would and *have said “yes”* to the above questions.

Christians who can vote but do not must look beyond the excuses to the consequences of not voting. If they do not, their children and all future American generations will suffer those consequences.

We as a community of *independent and individual and freedom loving Christians* can, if we choose, exercise our right to vote and have a mighty impact on returning elected government at every level to its servant role. It is indeed still our choice to vote in our yet free nation. We have the power to reinstate Christian values into our government and our schools. We need only pray, become informed and then vote our conscience in order to restore our nation to the Christian foundations so profoundly recognized by its founders.

It would be good to recall the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “Silence in the face of evil, is itself evil.” Bonhoeffer was addressing Adolf Hitler.

Not voting is to be silent.

So Let's Get Out Of The Pews And Into The Polls

Here are some good reasons to do this:

In 2006 only 10% of freshmen Senators were pro-life and only 31% of freshmen Representatives were pro-life.*

During the 2006 election year 24 million evangelical Christians were not registered to vote. And of the 36 million who were registered to vote only 20.5 million voted. About one third of the 60 million eligible evangelicals voted. In short 40 million potential voters stayed home.*

We are now experiencing the consequences of these statistics.

In the 2010 elections more than 80% of the incoming freshmen congressmen were pro life and 30 million evangelical Christians voted. But still *30 million did not vote*.

The statistics for the 111th Congress, just ended, showed that 70 members of the House of Representatives were avowed socialists being members of the Democratic Socialists of America as was one U.S. Senator. Those numbers have not changed in any significant way. These numbers are even more startling when considering that one of the three founding principles of socialism is atheism. The other two are violence and propaganda. See The Communist Manifesto of 1848, the foundation of American progressivism today.

As a result America is under three branches of government that are each in some degree favoring ideology over revealed truth. We now have active government elements bent on defeating the Christian principles upon which The United States Of America was founded.

The Christian community can reverse that with its vote in one election cycle. We have the votes, if we but exercise our right to use them. Christ or chaos, it is in our hands.

Look at the numbers again. If 1/3 of those Christians who did not vote had voted, the current government in America would be vastly different. If that same 1/3 were to vote in the upcoming elections, America could return to its Christian roots. Men and women following or favoring Christian principles could be elected to the Presidency, the Congress and state and **local offices, especially school boards. The face of government would turn to the people for guidance, not away from them.** Bad laws could be reversed and the principles taught in God's Word would be restored to government and placed back in the public square where they are intended to be.

So what mechanism of social discourse can we use to encourage the Christian vote?

*From "Jesus Was/Is Involved In Politics" by Neil Mammen; Rational Free Press 2010

The Proposal

Suppose we start small Christian study/discussion groups nationwide meeting on a regular weekly schedule to address and discuss today's political issues from a Christian perspective and in a Christian manner (recalling Paul's admonition to Titus.) The meetings could be held around the kitchen table, in a willing church or in any other dedicated space.

The primary goal of each small group would be to get some of the 30 or 40 million potential Christian voters out of the pews and into the polls by enlisting their interest through welcomed participation. The other goal would be to spread the interest in these small groups to other interested Christians so that they might form their own groups.

Perhaps we could affect the change needed to return Jesus to our houses of government.

If it is God's plan, the number of groups would grow as would the number of Christian voters.

We could call it:

OUT OF THE PEWS AND INTO THE POLLS

Out Of The Pews And Into The Polls, Meeting Foundation

Here is a **suggested Preamble**

Our first action is prayer for God's guidance in the conduct of this mission. Our second action is prayer for those we are trying to reach and our third action is prayer for ourselves to be wise in the Word and fully recognize that the outcome is in the hands of God and His Son Jesus Christ. May His Holy Spirit fill us and guide us. And may we always yield to God's direction.

Here is a **suggested Mission Statement**

The mission is simply to bring Jesus to His rightful place in the American government by encouraging the Christian community to vote.

Here is a **suggested Meeting structure**

There is neither formal leadership nor are there elected positions. The meetings are free and open to all. There are no dues or fees for participation. We honor your presence and desire your input but do not record either. Finally, the only requirement for participation is the desire to reclaim America to its Christian roots.

Here are some **suggested guiding principles**

When discussion topics are supported by Biblical position(s) and/or Constitutional or historical references these positions and references should be presented in accurate context. Also, please speak in the first person, i.e. share your thoughts as your own. This has the effect of initiating more creative thinking. A spirit of servant leadership is the paramount principle. Mark 10:45(NIV) "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve...."

One Hour Meeting Model And Guidelines

Here is a **suggested model**:

1. Open with Prayer.
2. 1 to 5 minutes for a volunteer (meaning anyone present at the meeting) or invited speaker to present a topic. This could be as short as a single Bible verse (“Jesus wept” comes to mind right away), an issue of government, a personal experience, a topic taken from a selected book or recent news article or a prepared text.
3. Presentation of the topic – it will be the volunteer’s or invited speaker’s choice.

Some possible topics: Why vote to begin with? sanctity of marriage; abortion; gun laws; the environment; cap and trade legislation; politician’s stance on issues or a topic taken from a published article. Other questions for discussion might include: Who elected the current administration? How can we come along side the church? Why is the American church politically lukewarm? Can we get a church leader to one of our meetings? Should we approach the home schoolers? How do we encourage the nonvoters to vote.

4. 30 or 40 minutes of open discussion having everyone in the room who wants to participate. (Again remembering Paul’s admonition to Titus.)
5. A few minutes for a closing statement and prayer requests.
6. Close in prayer, go home and follow God’s lead for what to do with what we heard.
7. A few other thoughts:

Expect attack from Satan, if there is success.

Recall the words of Charles Spurgeon who said, “Wisdom is the right to use knowledge. We all have the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is truly all that we need. As it says in 1 Peter 4:10 “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

Facilitator Guidelines

1. 1 to 5 minutes for a volunteer (meaning anyone present at the meeting) or invited speaker to present a topic.
2. 30 or 40 minutes of open discussion having everyone in the room who wants to participate. (Again remembering Paul’s admonition to Titus.)
3. A few minutes for a closing statement and prayer requests.
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