

Voting

No one in Israel voted for rulers. God's plan was that He would be their ruler and they would be His people.

Genesis 17:7-8

And **I will establish my covenant between me and thee** and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, **to be a God unto thee**, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; **and I will be their God.**

God did not talk to the people directly. He would give His Law and decisions to one man who would mediate between Him and the people. Moses was the first mediator between God and the nation Israel.

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and **it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.**

Moses was very busy ruling Israel for God by himself. His father-in-law, Jethro, told Moses to use others to help him rule. Notice, these men were required to be able, to fear God, be men of truth, and hate covetousness.

Exodus 18:19-22

Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: And **thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk**, and the work that they must do. Moreover **thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness;** and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

God would also let Israel know His will by telling them to cast lots. He would cause the lot to fall

to reflect His will. The Law provided for a way for priests to cast lots to know which goat to sacrifice and which goat to release into the wilderness.

Leviticus 16:6-10

And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. And **he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.** And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But **the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD,** to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

God did not envision a democracy (the will of the majority) for Israel, but there was a time that God did allow the elders of Israel to reject His rule. He would assign a king to them, as they requested.

1 Samuel 8:4-7

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when **they said, Give us a king to judge us.** And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for **they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.**

²²And the LORD said to Samuel, **Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.** And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

Casting lots, not voting, continued to be used to know God's will in Israel. The apostles cast lots to choose the apostle to replace Judas.

Acts 1:23-26

And **they appointed two**, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, **Lord, which**

knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And **they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**

After Pentecost, faithful Jews lived together and had all things in common. It became obvious that Jesus' disciples, the men who were preaching the gospel of "repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ," did not have time to govern the community of believers. They did not schedule an election, they appointed 7 honest men, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom to govern.

Acts 6:2-3

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, **brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**

Jesus told His followers to respect the right of government to make laws that citizens are required to follow.

Matthew 22:21

They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, **Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's;** and unto God the things that are God's.

Jesus told His disciples how people in authority should act. He used the Gentiles as an example of what NOT to do.

Mark 10:42-45

But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that **they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.** But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

When Jesus came to set up His government, His kingdom, long promised to Abraham, the Jewish leadership refused to recognize His authority to rule over them. They rejected Christ as their King. The Pharisees and Sadducees were allowed to rule the Jews, but Israel was ruled by the Romans. The Jewish leaders would have lost the authority they had from Rome if they hadn't kept Israel under Roman authority. They would have had to give up authority to God!!!

Luke 19:38-42

Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. **And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.** And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, **If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.**

Today, the Church, the Body of Christ is not one nation (like the Jewish in Israel.) It consists of everyone, all over the world, who accepts Christ's death, burial, and resurrection as payment for everyone's sins.

God saved all men, but only those who accept Christ's death, burial, and resurrection as payment for their sins, receive that forgiveness.

1 Timothy 4:10

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because **we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.**

1 Timothy 2:3-4

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved,** and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

God put governments as one of the jobs for members of the Church, the Body of Christ. This can be in the church or in the community. God lists governments as one of our gifts!

1 Corinthians 12:27-28, 31

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And **God hath set some in the church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, **governments**, diversities of tongues.

³¹But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

Members of the Church, the Body of Christ, live under every government on earth. Paul tells us that God has put government positions in place, but not necessarily the people who are in those government positions. Individual rulers may or may not be members of the Church, the Body of Christ, and they may try to serve God or they may serve themselves.

Christ created all things. This includes every government ever set up. These are the thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers Paul writes about.

Colossians 1:16-17

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

We are supposed to be subject to our government. Paul tells us how to act when obeying the principalities and powers. If the reality is that the government wants something different from what God wants, believers have to make choices.

Titus 3:1-2

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

Regardless of the individual in charge, Paul tells us that rulers are not a “terror” to good works. They support good works and punish people who do evil. We must take that to mean that if a ruler

does not support good, and does not punish evil, he is not the minister of God. We are to respect rulers because of their offices, their dues, not necessarily because of the individuals in those offices.

Romans 13:1-7, 31

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. **For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil.** Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: **For he is the minister of God to thee for good.** But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for **he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.** Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For **for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers,** attending continually upon this very thing. **Render therefore to all their dues:** tribute to

whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom;
fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

We are supposed to pray for our leaders, and all men, the believers and the unbelievers.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Paul tells us that it is reasonable to consider ourselves as a living sacrifice. We are not to be conformed to this world but be transformed by our faith. You may have been given the gift of government by the Holy Ghost, to serve God by holding a position in our church or in your community. God tells us to be honest with ourselves and not start thinking that we are better than the others we are supposed to serve, in any capacity.

Romans 12:1-3

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, **through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;** but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

We are supposed to make it obvious that we are different from the unbelievers in the world. We are not to put ourselves in a place where we are equal to the unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what

agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Jesus told His disciples that if they wanted to be great among men, they should be a minister and a servant, like Jesus' example.

Mark 10:43-45

But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And **whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,** and to give his life a ransom for many.

Paul tells us the same thing. We are to please God, and not men. We are servants of Christ and we should serve others from our heart. God is no respecter of persons and we are not to consider

some people more deserving than others based on who they are. Paul tells us that what we do to men, we will receive from the Lord! When we serve as elected leaders or vote for elected leaders, we need to keep Paul admonitions in mind.

Ephesians 6:5-9

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; **Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord**, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Voting is like everything else for us in the Church, the Body of Christ. There is no law that we must vote, mostly because we are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

And before we place much faith in being able to change the world by voting in Christians to become part of the government, we must acknowledge the Satan is the god of this world. All the kingdoms in the worlds were given to him.

Luke 4:5-6

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him **all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.**

The principalities, powers, and rulers of this world are not flesh and blood, people. They are spiritual, subject to the devil. By ourselves, members of the Church, the Body of Christ, will not be able to stand up against it. We need the armor of God.

Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

We are to be concerned about our fellow members of the Church, the Body of Christ. If we choose to participate in voting in our church or in our community election, we should keep in mind the characteristics the God would have us require of those who want to serve us. If we choose to run for office, we should remember what we will do battle against Satan and his followers.