

“Religion and Politics”

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NIV Bible.

Religion and politics don't mix...

Religion and Politics have the same source...God!

“Obey the government, for God is the one who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by God” Romans 13:1 (NLT).

“For the Lord’s Sake”

1 Peter 2:13-14 “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.”

Remind people of what they are supposed to do.

Titus 3:1 “Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good...”

Christians are to pray for leaders of government.

1 Timothy 2:1-3 “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— or kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.”

Honor

1 Peter 2:17 “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.”

To believe “religion and politics don't mix” is to deny and discount that the divine origin of governments is from God.

Our Founding Fathers

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ!”
(Patrick Henry)

John Jay - The first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay, Henry P. Johnston, ed. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1890), Vol. IV, p. 365.

A Day of National Public Humiliation and Prayer

“Whereas the Congress of the United States, by a joint resolution of the two Houses have signified a request, that a day may be recommended, to be observed by the people of the United States, with religious solemnity, as a day of public humiliation and prayer...”

Proclaimed by President James Madison passed on July 9, 1812

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people...it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” President John Adams

1. All Christians have a responsibility to God to vote.

Let's go back to that Romans 13:1 text again. The Bible says,

“Obey the government, for God is the one who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by God.” (NLT).

Accountable to God and to your country.

“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual—or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.” Samuel Adams, The Writings of Samuel Adams, Harry Alonzo Cushing, editor (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1907), Vol. IV, p. 256, in the Boston Gazette on April 16, 1781.

“The penalty that good men pay for not being interested in politics is to be governed by men worse than themselves.” Philosopher Plato

“The church must take right ground in regard to politics. Politics are a part of a religion in a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as a part of their duty to God...He will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics.” Charles Finney

2. Vote on the basis of values not promises.

Exodus 18:21 “But select **capable men** from all the people—**men who fear God, trustworthy men** who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.”

“He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God” 2 Samuel 23:3 (KJV).

Noah Webster

“When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, ‘just men who will rule in the fear of God.’ The preservation of government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to

execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. Noah Webster, History of the United States (New Haven: Durrie & Peck, 1832), pp. 336-337, 49.

Proverbs 11:11 “Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.”

“The reason that Christianity is the best friend of government is because Christianity is the only religion in the world that deals with the heart.” President Thomas Jefferson

3. Vote according to biblical principles not a political party.

Noah Webster

“In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate--look to his character.” Noah Webster, Letters to a Young Gentleman Commencing His Education to Which is Subjoined a Brief History of the United States (New Haven: S. Converse, 1823), p. 18.

So do your homework...pray and seek God, make your decision, and vote.

President James Garfield

“Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.” “A Century of Congress,” published in Atlantic magazine in July 1877.

In every election, the future of our nation hangs in the balance. Let's join together in faith and prayer to our loving Heavenly Father, who loves us without end and who has promised to lead us into all truth, that His plans for America will be accomplished in this election. We pray that Christians will join together to protect life, and liberty and our freedom to worship and evangelize. May God bless America.