

Should We Vote?

Romans 13:1-4

Introduction: What can we do about the moral decline in America? Can we do anything? Should we do anything? Should we vote in the upcoming election?

Voting can place a few dilemmas before us that might prevent us from wanting to vote in elections. We are going to address two of these dilemmas for our consideration.

I. Should we vote knowing that God ordains governments?

A. This question originates from Rom 13:1-2. Since God ordains the governments, the concern is that we might be casting a vote against God's will. After all, God will put whoever He wants in office whether I vote or not (Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; 5:21).

B. Ordain means "to place in order, arrange, signifies to appoint" (Vines). The Greek word is *Tasso*. Young's defines it as: "to *arrange* in an orderly manner, that is, *assign* or *dispose* (to a certain position or lot):—addict, appoint, determine, ordain, set."

1. Notice that not one of these definitions included the word "select." Ordain means to appoint or arrange but it does not include selection.

2. For example, Acts 13:48 uses the same Greek word "*Tasso*." Does this verse mean God selected these Gentiles to eternal life before they died? No, it means they were appointed, assigned, determined, arranged to have eternal life. However, it is still conditional upon their obedience. In other words, the Gentiles chose to believe. They made the selection to be appointed to eternal life.

3. In Romans 13:1, God appoints or arranges the government. It says God arranges the authorities that exist. It doesn't say He necessarily selects them. That is not to say that God doesn't ever select our leaders because He certainly may. However, ordain does not include this meaning. Ordain means He sets the government up. He arranges it according to His purposes.

4. An excellent example of this is found in Acts 6:3. Here the Apostles did the appointing but the people did the selecting.

C. Matt. 6:11 tells us to pray for our daily bread. Does this mean that we should sit back and wait for God to deliver? Or do we get employment realizing God provides through our actions. So when 1 Tim. 2:1-2 tells us to pray for our rulers does that mean we should wait for God to deliver or should we vote realizing God provides through our actions?

II. Can I vote for an immoral candidate or one that promotes immorality?

A. Steven Yeatts, in an article entitled, “The Politics of Christianity,” asked, “Can it be acceptable in the sight of God for a Christian to disassociate himself from the Lord’s Way and cast a vote for a candidate who is openly supportive of the ideology that is destructive to righteousness and holiness?” Sadly, it happens.

B. Unfortunately, I have heard of such a Christian. A person who believes abortion is wrong but believes women should have the right to choose. A person who believes homosexuality is wrong but believes they should be free to do as they please.

1. Abortion: 1.65 million innocent unborn children are murdered each year! Since January 22, 1973, over 40 million legalized murders have occurred on U.S. soil. Millions of unborn babies (more commonly referred to as fetal matter) have lost their lives as sacrifices to the god of selfishness, via the barbaric practice of abortion - infanticide. Innocent blood has always cried out to God in the past and God has not sat idly by (Gen. 4:10; 2 Kings 9:26; Psalms 9:12; Rev. 6:10)! As a nation, do we think that God doesn’t notice this evil practice?

2. Homosexuality: It’s a growing lifestyle in our country. This evil practice is receiving support and protection through our government. Our country has legalized same sex marriages. The government is even trying to force an institution (the Boy Scouts) to accept them. Will the Church be next? The Bible is clear regarding homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:22-32)! Do we remember a place called Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:5)?

C. It is because of immorality in high places that we should vote. Consider these verses:

1. Rom. 1:18
2. Psm. 9:17
3. Prov. 14:34
4. Prov. 29:2

5. We can now understand the passages that state we are pilgrims in a foreign land (1 Pet. 2:11-17; Phil. 3:20).

Conclusion: There may be other reasons which prevent us from voting. It may well be that we cannot conscientiously vote for any candidate. Please, don’t violate your conscience. I hope these scriptures in regard to these two questions have helped us see our responsibilities to our government a little more clearly.

“I’m Steve Hamilton and I approve this message.” ☺