



A Guide for Spiritual Believers

Surviving the Political Chaos

Political Guidance for Followers of Christ

In today's highly volatile political atmosphere it's easy to jump on the many political bandwagons but as spiritual people of God we have to be careful of what we follow.

If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. Rev. 13:9,10

By Sister Sharon Roach

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I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Every citizen has the right to vote and to cast their support for the political candidate of their choosing but for spiritual believers in God there is more to this than political parties and candidates; there is a responsibility to be a representative of the love of God and the teachings of Christ. We cannot allow our defense for political positions to ever overshadow the flow of redemption and salvation towards even those whom we might consider undeserving. We must balance our civic duty with our spiritual duty. God's grace extends to all lives, the person you perceive to be your enemy on the other side of the political equation is also worthy of God's love. The candidate whom you perceive to be evil and corrupt is also worthy of salvation and redemption. The love of Christ supersedes all political animosity.

As spiritual believers in God during these chaotic times we are being called upon more than ever to become a good example for God. Those who are spiritually inclined will understand when I say that all of what we are seeing and experiencing in our world today is more than us against sinners/evil. As spiritual lights to the world through our Lord Jesus Christ we shine on both sides of the aisles to those who are in the wrong and those who are in the right. We are a motivation for those who are in Christ and for those who are caught up in the world we are a way out. We lead by example not by our words and so we have to pay attention to the things we do.

I will tell you this right now, you cannot survive the current and growing political cesspool by allowing yourself to drown in it, your mission should always be to help pull others up and out of it. You can't become one of the crowd or one of the followers because you are first and foremost a light for God. You are a life-line to many who are caught up emotionally in the political chaos doing and saying things that are not becoming to a follower of Christ. Will you take this opportunity to shine your spiritual light or will you do a nose dive and plunge right into the chaos yourself? Take the highroad at every opportunity.

SPIRITUAL CONDUCT IN POLITICAL HEAT

When you take political sides you will be persuaded to view the other side as the enemy because they don't agree with you, there is a temptation to judge and become disrespectful towards them but this is not the way of the Cross. In Luke 7:27,28 Jesus teaches us ***"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which spitefully use you"***. These are the words of Christ which mentions nothing about doing disrespectful things to others because they don't

agree with you. Just because people of the world are calling others names, lying on them and conducting themselves in an ungodly manner does not mean you have too. Herein is the danger of choosing sides because it's easy to get caught up in the emotional hype. If you are of Christ, conduct yourself as he prescribes. How can you say you are a follower of Christ if you are cursing, calling people names and taking pleasure in exchanging negativity? You cannot be a verbal punisher and a follower of the Prince of Peace at the same time.

In the growing political chaos many unspiritual people will come against you because they have allowed their emotions to override their reason. In the coming 2012 Presidential elections there will be violence and many innocent people will be the victims of others foolish chaotic actions. The world will tell you to fight back, pick up something and bash them in the head but Jesus clearly tells us in *Luke 7:29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.* We are to overcome violence with love. We are not to allow ourselves to be provoked into reactionary violence this is what Satan wants. When you find yourself in a potentially violent conflict as a spiritual person you should remove yourself. Always remember, as a spiritual believer in God you are an example of the love of God and Christ, how can you be an example if you are throwing sucker punches at others over political disagreements?

The Bible speaks of the followers of Christ as a peculiar people because our ways are different than the world. Regardless of what people around us are doing and saying we who call ourselves spiritual have a higher responsibility and standard upon us. We cannot be brawlers one minute and spiritual the next either we are one or the other. As spiritual believers we should be a light and example for others to follow during these politically charged years. We should refrain from speaking of others in derogatory ways never shutting the door of redemption to anyone, not even the vilest of political candidates because we are not so all knowing that we know the will of God for that person. God can take the worst of people and make them His mouthpiece. Stick to the facts and stay away from the hype and propaganda.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE POLITICS OF TODAY

When Jesus walked the earth he had to cope with a several religious/political parties such as the Pharisees, Sadducees and Zealots to name a few but he never allowed himself to become involved in their differences or choosing one over the other. Jesus entire ministry was to promote the Kingdom of heaven because too many Jews had become entrenched in the political chaos of his day. Their political infighting among each other and their hatred of the Romans distracted them so much they not only dismissed but played a part in the death of Christ.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT INTO THE POLITICS OF MAN

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. Jer. 17:5-7

In the present and growing political activity many hopeful leaders will come forth who will seem to speak the word of God. In politics the power of the spoken word is a necessary skill. Political staffs have skilled speech writers who write speeches that touches the hearts of different audiences. The name of the game is to speak what the people want to hear and many believers are falling for leaders who talk a good talk but who have ulterior motives. Jesus knew that such false leaders would come to fool his flock and so he left us with a valuable tool we can use to measure those who come before us in the world of politics. In **Matthew 7: 17,18** we are taught that we should look at what the leaders are producing instead of relying on speeches *“every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit”*. Behind the carefully produced images and strategically wrote speeches what is the person producing, what fruits have they produced in their personal and public life.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition 2 Thess. 2:3

We are coming upon the end times when many false leaders will rise up and lead people astray from God. When we think of people being led away from God we tend to picture Hitler type despots forcing people to abandon God but the truth is the opposite. People will not be lead away by cruel despots but by men and women who seem to be of God, who are seemingly loving, friendly and for the people. Many will fall for these false leaders thinking they are champions for the people but instead they are secretly working against God. You can look for these leaders to rise up in the political arena a place that is ruled by Satan and corruption.

God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 2 Thess. 2:11,12,13

Through lies and deception politicians rise up in the political game. Politicians will speak to what is in people's heart because this is how they win elections. If there is hate in people's hearts the politician will speak to that hate, if there is greed in the people's hearts the politician will speak to the greed, if there is decency, love and God in the people's hearts the politician will speak to these things. In the politician's heart will be ambition, desire for power and the willingness to say and do whatever it takes to get into office. The goal is to win the game by whatever means is necessary.

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Rom. 5:19

Through one persons corrupt agenda millions of believers can be led astray. This is why I constantly preach that believers should learn to analyze research and verify the things people are trying to have them believe. In today's corrupt world a spiritual person must be willing to lead themselves to some degree in order to avoid being led astray. Christ never asked for blind followers, he taught his followers the truth and gave them wisdom and knowledge. History is full of people who believed the lies of a leader, believed in their agenda only to find out that the person they were following was misleading them all the time. Do your homework, analyze the facts not your emotions.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. John 8:44- 47

The political arena is a corrupt place that gets worse with each passing year. You cannot rise up in the political ranks without telling lies. When a person enters the world of politics they knowingly engage in the works of the devil. Lies and deception are a natural part of the political game. Remember this the next time you hear a soaring oratory by an aspiring politician.

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. John 17:13- 17

We are reminded that we are not of the world; we are of God sanctified in truth. We have a civic duty to vote and we have the freedom to support candidates of our choice but we also have to keep ourselves from being drawn into the

arguing and bickering of politics. In the political arena, parties and politicians are seeking to establish their rule and personal empires but for us there is only one empire and that is God's. In **Mark 12:14-17** Jesus draws a clear and distinct line between what is God and what is Caesar's. In politics we must remember to do the same. It is okay to vote and cast your support but when it comes down to the name calling, disrespecting, dissension and possible violence that is where we must make our exit. Those who are not mature in the spirit will become emotionally involved with political sides and before they know it they are part of the name calling, disrespect dissension and possible violence. However, Jesus gives us guidance on how to conduct ourselves in politics.

More Lessons from Christ

Jesus walked the earth during a time when leaders were authoritative despots whom required those under them to serve at their every command and pleasure. Some of the things committed by these rulers were atrocious such as when Herod served John the Baptist head on a platter. Yet, Jesus in his teachings espoused a radically different type of leadership which required the leader to be the servant of the people and whomever considered themselves greatest would be the least and likewise the least would be the greatest. When looking at leadership today in the political arena it is highly doubtful you will see this type leadership in practice but you will hear it being conveyed in speeches, the proof is the in the pudding.

Conclusion:

I realize that those who choose to follow the non-violent path of Christ as opposed to the secular politics of our day will often be misunderstood, marginalized and rejected by many but remember Jesus suffered the same and worse. However, in the end it will not be the name calling, derogatory remarks and negative activity that are remembered it will be those who called for calm, peace and who held to higher standards, these are the ones who will come out on top. During Jesus' walk to Calvary people became caught up in the hype and those who spat at Jesus, hit at him and called him names were at the time cheered on received the support of their peers but at the end of the day they were forgotten about and those such as Joseph of Arimathea who went against the sentiment of society and gave his burial place to the body of Christ will forever be remembered.

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 1 Tim. 4:1,2



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