

SHOULD I BE A DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN OR INDEPENDENT?

By Phil Arms

Many Christians applaud the revival of political conservatism now sweeping the nation. Its effect is being felt in elections from coast to coast and will very likely impact the national midterm elections in November. The move to the political right by an increasingly larger segment of the voting public is a reaction to the aggressive, socialistic and radical agenda of the Obama administration and the one- party bullying majority in the United States Congress.

For the record, I applaud the political awakening that is being experienced across America. However, I strongly urge true believers to remember that our only hope as a nation lies not in America's promotion of particular politics alone, even right wing politics cannot stop this nation's rush to self destruction.

Good Roots Produces Good Fruit

America's greatness was the natural result of the fundamental, Biblical convictions of our Founding Fathers and our Nation's founding documents.

Any intellectually honest study of most of America's Founders prove without doubt that these men and women were possessed by the Spirit of God and held Biblical convictions in high regard. These convictions are clearly evidenced in our Declaration of Independence, our Bill of Rights and our Constitution.

Had the writers and signers of these documents not been godly men with a clear Biblical agenda, America, as we have known it, would have never come into existence. The American Revolution would have failed and gone down in history as yet another armed rebellion of a people against their British Sovereign.

It was the fire in the hearts of Christians that drove the American Revolution, not as the liberal revisionists of history would have you believe, a simple economic reaction to being overtaxed.

Those who fought for American Independence which any reading of the Declaration of Independence will prove, were a people who were passionate about the Biblical ideals of personal human rights, freedom and liberty. These profound convictions demanded a release from the tyrannical, oppressive and godless King whose ruthless conduct toward his American subjects was diabolic and intolerable. Any government adrift from the principals based on God's rule of law and personal freedom will always evolve into an authoritarian, dictatorial political body that is hostile toward Christianity.

What About Separation?

The concept of separation of church and state, contrary to the liberal revisionists, is a concept not found in our Constitution. The idea that Christian convictions should not play any role in the governing of nations and peoples was introduced and is promoted by a God-hating segment of society that longs for man to be his own god.

George Washington once said, "It is impossible to rule a nation without God and the Bible.

Christianity, by its very nature, compels its adherents to live Christocentric lives whether they be plumbers or politicians or blue collar or white collar. In other words, they live "Godward lives." When such people must make decisions their first consideration is **not** what people might think about it or if it will professionally or economically advance them. This first consideration is rather, "What would God have me do?" Such a people search out what God's Word says concerning the matter.

By the nature of their relationship with Christ believers cannot check Biblical convictions at the door when they enter the voting booth. They cannot divide

their lives into one area where God is allowed pre-eminence and other areas where they exclude His participation.

Lordship And Politics

Our Founding Fathers understood the concept of Lordship. They knew they could only produce a free nation by implementing Bible-based concepts into the governing laws of the nation.

They understood the Lordship of Christ was fundamental and necessary not only for their personal salvation but in the governing of their personal lives and their politics.

This in no way means that these godly Founders were trying to establish a religious utopia led by a church state. They had enough of that in England where the despotic King was not only “Head of State” but also head of the Church.

Nor were they looking to create a theocracy, where God, through some corrupt, man-appointed aristocrat represented God on earth and to whom all others must submit.

The goal was to lay a foundation based on a Biblical worldview and upon godly values. They had a vision of building “one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all,” not just avowed Christians.

These Founders had no desire to build a Christian state. They understood the fallibility of man and politics. So they laid out a system ruled by scriptural ethics and Biblical principles that were to guide the legislative and judicial process and it was beautifully framed in a law based Republic rather than a pure democracy ruled by popular vote. Therefore, while the people could debate the details of

implementing its Bible based constitutional republic, the fundamental issues of personal liberty, individual sovereignty and the guide for governmental and social conduct, were cast in the absolutes of God's Word.

A Christian's Goal

As Christians, whose worldview and convictions are under sever attack by liberal forces who would pervert and deny our Founder's Christian intentions, we must aggressively involve ourselves in influencing public policy and exposing the ambitious intentions of antichristian politicians and bureaucrats.

At the same time, as believers we understand that the only hope of national survival is for America to return to the graces of God that made this country "a Shining City on a hill."

We must hold our leaders in Congress, in the White House, and in our judicial system accountable not to social liberalism or even simple conservative politics.

The nature of politics demands compromise, which means no matter who is in leadership, be they liberal or conservative, most end up seduced by the system to which they sell their convictions for power and money.

Hence, Christian's first concern should be to use their resources and time to reach people for Christ and to influence the world around them to embrace the truth of God's Word. Christ alluded to us as "the salt of the earth." Salt is a preserver and a healer. So, our purpose as believers is to be salty, not only in our church lives but in every facet of our lives, including our political positions and activity.

Understand

Please understand that only to the degree that any political position, be it conservative or liberal, is redemptive is the degree to which embraces the truths of God's Word.

It is those truths, those values and those absolutes by which we must judge whether or not we should support any politician or party.

Finally, Christians must not be intimidated by flaky liberals who whine about mixing church and state and who insist that Christians should concern themselves only about matters of morality.

We must inform them that every political issue America faces today is ultimately a moral issue. Whether it is freedom of speech, abortion, national debt, balancing our nation's budget or defending our freedom, they are all addressed in the Word of God.

It is to that Standard, God's Word, that our allegiance must go and it is that Standard that should be honored in all our decisions, especially the political.

Focus

How I pray daily that our friends would realize that while their involvement in politics is needed, our main focus, as citizens of the Kingdom of God must be on reaching people for Christ, in proclaiming Christ is King and in living lives that make those around us hunger for God.

Thus, the ultimate question that one must answer is not "Am I a democrat, republican or independent?" but rather "Do I know Jesus and am I allowing His life to be lived through mine?" If I am, then His Life will manifest Jesus in all I do, including my politics.

Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalm 33:12