

## **Christians and the Political Process: How Should We Act and Respond**

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### **I. General Principles for Biblical Christian Citizenship.**

- 1) We should pray that God will bless all nations with leaders better than they deserve. We should pray that God would grant us mercy as he reigns and rules over all things, including this election.
- 2) We should pray that Americans will be motivated to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship, yet also that we will be stripped of an unhealthy and idolatrous confidence in the power of government to save us. God has given us the gift of rulers and governments in order to restrain evil, uphold righteousness, and provide for civil order. No human ruler can save. No government official or office holder can heal the human heart, solve the sin problem, or accomplish final justice. These powers belong to God and God alone.
- 3) We must pray that Americans will vote by conscience, not merely on the basis of celebrity or emotion or mere party affiliation. Christian citizens must vote to uphold righteousness and contend for righteous and just laws.
- 4) We must pray that Americans will vote to defend the least among us -- and especially those who have no vote. This starts, but does not end, with concern for the unborn and for the recovery of respect for the dignity and sanctity of every single human life at every stage of development, from conception until natural death.
- 5) We should pray that God will prick the conscience of the nation on issues of morality, righteousness, and respect for marriage as the central institution of human civilization.
- 6) We should pray that God will protect these candidates and their families. We should pray for their marriages and their children.
- 7) We should pray that all elections are conducted with honor, civility, respect, and justice.
- 8) We must pray that Americans will be prepared to accept the results of the election with respect and kindness. Christians should, they must be ready to respond with prayer, respect for office, and a gentle spirit. Others are watching.
- 9) We should pray that each and every election would lead to even greater opportunities to preach the Gospel, and that the freedom of the church will be respected, honored, and protected.
- 10) We must pray for the church, praying that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ would be strengthened in the truth, grounded in the faith, and empowered for witness and ministry. May the church, the sign of the coming kingdom, be faithful to declare the Gospel -- knowing that this is the only message that will save.

### **II. Responding to the 2008 election.**

- 1) Senator Obama's victory is a significant moment in history for *all* Americans -- not just for those who voted for Sen. Obama. Americans rich and poor, black and white, old and young, will look to an African-American man and know him as President of the United States. *Our* President.
- 2) The fight for the dignity and sanctity of unborn human beings would appear to have been set back by a great loss, and by the election of a President who has announced his intention to sign the Freedom of Choice Act into law. The struggle to protect marriage

against its destruction by redefinition is now complicated by the election of a President who has declared his aim to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. This will call for faithful and sustained opposition on our behalf. We must press on as advocates for the unborn, for the elderly, for the infirm, and for the vulnerable. We must redouble our efforts to defend marriage and the integrity of the family. We must be vigilant to protect religious liberty and the freedom of the pulpit. And, we must expand our agenda and be more biblically faithful in providing a truly Christian response to the poor, environment, uneducated and socially disadvantaged.

- 3) We should look for opportunities to work with the new President and his administration where we can. We must hope that he will lead and govern as a bridge-builder. We must confront and oppose the Obama administration where conscience demands, but work together where conscience allows.
- 4) Evangelical Christians face another challenge with the election of Sen. Obama, and a failure to rise to this challenge will bring disrepute upon the Gospel, as well as upon ourselves. There must be absolutely no denial of the legitimacy of President-Elect Obama's election and no failure to accord this new President the respect and honor due to anyone elected to that high office. Failure in this responsibility is disobedience to a clear biblical command. (See 1 Peter 2:13-17).
- 5) We must commit ourselves to pray for this new President, for his wife and family, for his administration, and for the nation (1 Timothy 2:1-5). We are commanded to pray for rulers, and this new President faces challenges that are not only daunting but potentially disastrous. May God grant him wisdom. He and his family will face new challenges and the pressures of this office. May God protect them, give them joy in their family life, and hold them close together.
- 6) We must pray that God will protect this nation even as the new President settles into his role as Commander in Chief, and that God will grant peace as he leads the nation through times of trial and international conflict and tension.
- 7) We must pray that God would change President-Elect Obama's mind and heart on issues of our crucial concern. May God change his heart and open his eyes to see abortion as the murder of the innocent unborn, to see marriage as an institution to be defended, and to see a host of issues in a new light. We must pray this from this day until the day he leaves office. God *is* sovereign, after all (Proverbs 21:1).

These principles for Christians and the political process are heavily dependent on two blog articles by Dr. R. Albert Mohler. They are "A Prayer for America on Election Day" (11-4-08) and "America Has Chosen a President" (11-5-08).