

Discipleship Red and Blue: The Christian's Political Philosophy
I Peter 2:9-17
October 12, 2008

2:9-10 I. Our primary citizenship is in the Kingdom of God.

"...a people belonging to God..."

cf. John 18:36

2:11-12 II. Our secondary citizenship is in this world.

"...as aliens and strangers in the world...live...good lives among the pagans..."

Genesis 1:28

Matthew 5:13-16

John 17:14-19

2:13-17 III. Our citizenship obligates us to political involvement.

A. Submit to governing authorities. 2:13-15

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men..."

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| 1. Pray for those in office. | I Timothy 2:1, 2 |
| 2. Obey the laws. | Romans 13:1-5 |
| 3. Pay taxes. | Romans 13:6 |
| 4. Show proper respect. | Romans 13:7 |

B. Promote the public good 2:16, 17

"Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God."

Some preliminary questions:

- ▶ What is the public good? Jeremiah 29:7

Shalom – quality of life – law enforcement, health, housing, jobs, education, family, spiritual life

- ▶ What is the proper role of civil government?

- Public order
- Protection from external threats
- Promotion of general welfare

Directly or Indirectly?

Law enforcement, family, health, spiritual life, housing, arts, education

- ▶ What is good public policy?

- Consistent with God's Word
- Consistent with historical experience
- Consistent with social sciences and economic theory
- Has adequate popular support
- Is enforceable
- Affordable
- Has good effect upon the poor

1. Develop solid views on public policy

- Prayerfully consult the Scriptures
- Read on the subject
- Talk with people with diverse views

2. Speak out

- Adopt whole biblical agenda
- Use "common grace" arguments
- Start with your own party
- Treat opposition fairly
- Communicate with elected officials

3. Vote for people with:

- Character – public, private
- Competence
 - Attracts strong people
 - Makes good decisions
 - Implements decisions effectively
 - Inspires vision
 - Networks well/builds consensus
 - Manages well
 - Has adequate experience
- Policy positions
 - Based on consistent, solid philosophy
 - Relevant to real needs
 - Realistic

4. Serve

- Volunteer
- Staff
- Elected office