

**“Believers and Political Parties”**  
**The Bible and Culture - NLPC Summer 2018 - Week 11**

- Finishing up our discussion from last time
  - What about our interactions with other nations?
    - ▶ Is one nation obligated to right the wrongs in another nation? (Are you obligated to right the wrongs in your neighbor’s house?)
      - ❖ Do these verses teach us any relevant principles?
 

*Psalm 82:1–4* - <sup>1</sup> God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers. <sup>2</sup> How long will you judge unjustly And show partiality to the wicked? <sup>3</sup> Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked. -

*Isaiah 1:10, 17* - <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah...<sup>17</sup> Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.
      - ❖ Those verses, specifically addressed to rulers, do seem to imply a responsibility to defend others that perhaps extends beyond individuals.
      - ❖ But were they necessarily a Biblical mandate for Israelite rulers to correct injustice in other nations?
    - ▶ What about one government intervening in another nation in order to defend *Christians*?
    - ▶ What about treaties and alliances?
      - ❖ The Bible generally frowns on such alliances (though for often religious reasons).
      - ❖ Many of our founders spoke against “foreign entanglements”.
      - ❖ Tucker Carlson: “Why should my son die for Montenegro?”

- Believers and Political Parties...
  - In the 80's and 90's, it seems that the vast majority of evangelicals identified as Republicans.
  - Today this is definitely *not* the case...
    - ▶ A significant number of people who would affirm evangelical principles (inerrancy, substitutionary atonement, Christ's bodily resurrection) vote Democrat.
    - ▶ Others lean towards third party options like Libertarian, Constitution, etc.
  - This reality shows us the following, at least:
    - ▶ Many believe that a vibrant Christian faith and life can find itself at home in a variety of political allegiances.
    - ▶ Biblically conservative believers have differing political priorities.
      - ❖ Small vs. big Government
      - ❖ Legislating morality vs. individual freedom
      - ❖ Heavy international intervention vs. non-interventionist
      - ❖ Empathetic governance vs. results based governance
      - ❖ Generous governance vs. America first
      - ❖ Constitutional vs. progressive
      - ❖ Moral character of candidates vs. leadership/policy strengths
    - ▶ How do believers with such similar religious and doctrinal beliefs wind up on such divergent political paths?
  - For those who are convinced of the need to vote w/in our existing 2-party structure, on what should our allegiances be based?
    - ▶ The morality of the party's platform?
      - ❖ Pro-life vs. LGBT rights?
      - ❖ Low taxation vs. social safety net?
    - ▶ The morality of the particular candidate?

- ❖ Immoral free-market guy vs. moral socialist?
- ❖ Racism despising marxist vs. openly racist capitalist?

- The meaning of a Vote

- It is hard to find a Biblical example of something that matches our particular voting structure.
- What is a vote?
  - ▶ Something like a vow that in which we promise our allegiance to the particular candidate should they win (w/in the confines of our system)?
  - ▶ Or is a vote a something like a prayer to God for the person to be elected?
  - ▶ Or is a vote something else entirely? Like a momentary comment on the state of our society?
    - ❖ Like that racism is our biggest problem...
    - ❖ Or that our welfare state is a failed experiment...
    - ❖ People who lean this way (or who lean toward one of the others), need to at least labor to develop a Biblical sense of priority...
      - What social ills are truly the most urgent?
      - Where in the scripture would you go to prove that?
      - Also, how does the Bible propose addressing that social ill and how does that compare to the way one's candidate or party does?