

Having The Mind Of Christ During An Election

Contrasting How God & Politics Have Very Different Values

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“Do not conform yourselves to be like the people of this world. Instead be transformed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be **ABLE TO DECIDE** what God wants for you, and you’ll know what is good and pleasing to him, and what is his perfect will.” Romans 12:2

GOAL: For you to be able to say . . .

“We have conducted ourselves in the world . . . with holiness and sincerity from God. And we’ve been **guided by God’s grace, not by the human wisdom of this world.**” 2 Cor. 1:12

God: “I don’t think the way you think! And the way I work is very different from the way you work! For just as the heavens soar high above the earth, so the way that I work far surpasses the way you work, and the things I value are way beyond what you value.” Isaiah 55:8-9

“God has shown us that the world’s wisdom **is foolishness!**” 1 Cor. 1:20b

1. The World: Politics is the driving force in everything.

JESUS:

“God’s intent was that **THROUGH THE CHURCH** his manifold wisdom will be made known . . .” Eph. 3:10

“God has put **everything** under the authority of Christ, and he gave Christ this authority **FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS CHURCH!**” Eph. 1:22

Jesus promised: “**I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH**, and the gates of hell will not overcome it!” Matt. 16:18b

“Christ **LOVES THE CHURCH** and **GAVE HIMSELF FOR THE CHURCH** to make it belong to God. . . . **HE DIED FOR THE CHURCH** so that he could **GIVE THE CHURCH TO HIMSELF** as a beautiful bride.” Eph. 5:25b, 27

“The church is not peripheral to the world; **THE WORLD IS PERIPHERAL TO THE CHURCH!** The church is Christ’s Body, in which he speaks and acts, and by which he fills everything with his presence.” Eph. 1:23 (Mes)

2. Politicians: We’ll solve all your problems & save the world.

JESUS:

“Do not put your trust in princes, who are mortal men. They **cannot save you.**” Ps. 146:3 (NCV)

God: “Anyone who **turns away from trusting me to put their trust in a human being** will be cursed. They’ll dry up like a bush in the desert with no hope for their future.” Jer. 17:5

3. Politics: Votes & money come by creating division & fear.

JESUS:

“Make every effort to **preserve the unity** (in the church) which the Spirit gives us. **Bind yourselves together with peace. We are all one Body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future.**” Eph. 4:3-4 (NLT)

“I beg you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to **not argue among yourselves**. Let there be real harmony so there won’t be **divisions in the church**. I plead with you to be of one mind, **united in thought and purpose.**”

1 Cor. 1:10 (NLT)

“**Welcome with open arms** fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they **do or say** something you don’t agree with . . .” Rom. 14:1 (Mes)

“Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. . . . By persisting in divisiveness, he cuts himself off from fellowship.” Titus 3:10-11 (NIV & Mes)

4. Politics: Results matter more than character in a leader.

JESUS:

“A wise person’s **HEART** will lead in the right way. But the **HEART** of a fool will always lead in the wrong way.” Eccl. 10:2

“Some day there will be a king who rules with **integrity**, and national leaders who govern with **justice**. Each of them will be like a **shelter from the wind** and **provide safe covering** in storms. They will **refresh others** like streams flowing in a desert, and the cool shadow of a giant rock in a hot, barren land. Their eyes and ears will be **open to the needs of the people**. They will **NOT** be **rash and reckless hotheads**. Instead they will act with **understanding** and they will say **what they mean**. In that day, **ungodly fools** will no longer be called great and scoundrels won’t be given positions of honor. **A foolish leader speaks foolishly** and thinks up new ways to do mischief. **What he does AND what he says are BOTH an insult to the Lord!** He **never feeds the hungry** or gives thirsty people anything to drink. **The scoundrel’s methods are wicked**. He **constantly lies, is cruel and unmoved** by the pleas of the poor and hurting, and he **denies them justice and their rights**. But a good leader plans good things to do good, and those good things make him a good leader.”

Isaiah 32:1-8
(TEV, NCV, NLT)