

Election: Our Responsibilities. . .

What are the Biblical responsibilities of a Christian in regards to our elected officials?

1. Our Responsibility for our elected/appointed officials.
 - a. **1 Timothy 2:1-2** *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*
 - b. The Bible makes it pretty clear we ought to pray for our elected/appointed officials.
 - i. Our ability to live lives of peace in godliness and honesty is dependent upon our prayers, what an awesome reminder of the power of prayer!
 1. These verses do not exempt Christians from persecution or government intrusion of Christian living; the accounts of the *Acts of the Apostles* clearly reveal the falsehood of that idea.
 2. However, it is our God given responsibility to pray for our elected and appointed officials.
 - a. **S** – (Supplications) – “a petition” (Strong’s #1162)//a need which is in earnest; a felt need//throughout our lives personally and in regards to government, circumstances arise which are heavy upon our heart which drive us to the Lord in prayer.
 - b. **P** – (Prayers) – an attitude of worship or reverence toward God in the mode of prayer//our prayer life in general and as it applies toward rulers is worship.
 - c. **I** – (Intercessions) – seeking God on the behalf of our rulers with confidence of God’s power//our rulers are incapable of ruling with wisdom and righteousness without the moving of God and we ought to intercede on their behalf before God.
 - d. **T** – (Thanks) – “gratitude; grateful language (to God, as an act of worship)” (Strong’s #2169)//we ought to express to God our thankfulness for his placing of individuals in these positions to accomplish His purposes.
 - ii. Through our prayers we truly can effect change in government!
 - iii. “What our civil leaders do is going to affect the kind of ministry [life] we can have; if we pray for the salvation of our leaders and that they have wisdom in the laws they make, it is directly going to affect what kind of external pressure we will have, which is in turn going to affect what kind of internal tranquility we will have.” – Dr. Hullinger
2. Our Responsibility to our elected officials.
 - a. **Proverbs 24:21-22** *My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?*

- b. When a person is elected/appointed to an office, our perspective of that person ought to be of due respect.
 - i. They are now deserving of the respect of the office they hold.
 - ii. Just as we are warned against acts of wickedness toward God (impiety), so we are warned of acts against lawful rule.
 - iii. We have a duty to follow the rule of law, which includes the laws and decisions made by those holding office; otherwise we face the sudden ruin of those who are under judgment for wickedness and unlawfulness.

- 3. Our Responsibility to our Savior. (Acts 5:29-32)
 - a. **Acts 5:29-32** *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.*
 - b. Our responsibility to our Savior, Jesus Christ, supersedes any law and ruler of man.
 - i. The preaching and teaching of the Gospel may never be rightfully restricted by the government of man.
 - ii. If government of man restricts the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, then we have the obligation and blessing of God to civil disobedience in the area of the Gospel.
 - 1. Just as the Apostles, disciples, and many throughout history have stood against governments and rulers for the Gospel, there will be consequences.
 - 2. However, we are in good company, as Jesus Christ also was persecuted, crucified, buried, and rose again with victory!
 - 3. Jesus said, **Matthew 5:44** *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*
 - iii. This would not be armed rebellion or insurrection, but spiritual rebellion and insurrection against the prince of this world, Satan, and his world system.

- 4. Let us remember our responsibilities:
 - a. Pray for our rulers using the acronym **S.P.I.T.**
 - b. Remember to give due diligence to properly respect the rule of law in regards to those who hold office.
 - c. Above all, never waiver from our supreme responsibility to our Savior in furthering the Gospel of Jesus Christ, regardless of any law of man.