

# Session 1:

## HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN VOTE?

This is the first in our series on voting as an expression of faith.

So how should a Christian vote? I wonder if too many of us, when it comes to politics and elections, are guided by family, history and tradition, culture, and personal preference rather than by what the Bible teaches us.

Before we go to much further, lets lay the foundation of any believer's involvement in voting and politics.

- God is in charge and has ultimate rule and authority over His creation He places in power those who rule over us in this world.

*The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. PSALM 103:19*

*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ROMANS 13:1*

- Our righteous God is the measure of justice. Biblical justice seeks to protect individual rights while promoting personal responsibility.

*So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. ROMANS 14:12*

*For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. MATTHEW 16:27*

- God sets the values and agenda of His people. Our responsibility is to understand the principles of God's Kingdom and His values. This becomes our way of evaluating decisions we make.
- Believers are citizens of heaven first and foremost. We get our instructions and directions from our King.

Ultimately in voting, we are not just voting for the betterment of our circumstances or New Zealand's, we are voting for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

## SHOULD A CHRISTIAN VOTE?

In New Zealand, we are legally required to be on the electoral roll, but it is optional to cast a vote. So, should we vote?

I believe YES!

Without Christian influence, governments will have no clear moral compass. As believers, we can stand as witnesses to the moral standards of the Bible, by which God will hold all people accountable.

We as Christian citizens have an obligation to exercise such influence. To influence government for good, based on the wisdom found in God's Word.

Our votes count as a voice, as a Christ-like influence in our country.

Our desire as believers to see God's love permeate the hearts and lives of our fellow kiwis. A long-term change in our nation will only happen...

HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN VOTE?  
WHO SHOULD I VOTE FOR?  
WHO MAKES THE END OF LIFE CHOICE?  
CANNABIS LEGALISATION AND CONTROL?

## VOTING AS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH

A FOUR WEEK SERIES EXPLORING  
HOW EACH OF YOUR VOTES CAN  
BE REFLECTIVE OF THE GOD WE  
SERVE.



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- If people's hearts change. This is through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- If people's minds change, their moral convictions align more closely with God's moral standards in the Bible. This is through the teaching and engagement in God's Word.
- If a nation's laws change to encourage good and punish wrong. This comes about through Christians seeking to have a significant influence in local and national government according to God's standards, in line with his purposes and plans as revealed in the Bible.

All three are necessary.

Under the leading and power of the Holy Spirit...

- We are called to share the gospel at every opportunity for heart change.
- We are called to be declare, proclaim, be shaped and transformed by God's Word for the transforming of the mind.
- We are called to be part of the voting process to have significant influence on our government.

## **SO WHERE TO START?**

If we are voting as citizens of God's Kingdom, then we start by asking the King. We need to immerse our voting opportunity in prayer. Prayer is the key to a growing relationship with our God. As we spend time invested in speaking to Him in prayer and listening to His voice in Scripture, we can align ourselves with His will and purposes.

We need to pray!

We need to pray for wisdom and discernment for ourselves and all voters.

*My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble.*  
**PROVERBS 3:21–23**

To help us in that, we have produced a daily prayer diary. A tool to help us seek God and hear God. You can access you copy on our website, in the church foyer, or contact Kerry. [kerry.r.rickard@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.r.rickard@gmail.com)

So, let's start both individually and corporately, praying for our election process. Praying for our politicians, our country of voters. Praying that God will speak and guide us as we vote.

We have an important event coming up, both as New Zealanders and as believers. We have the opportunity to see our votes as an expression of faith. Each of our votes can be reflective of the God we serve. Let's start praying.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION!**

- **What has guided your voting in the past?**
- **What place has prayer had in your past voting process?**
- **What place will prayer have for you this time as you prepare to vote?**