

Says Who?

The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them...Christians have been exceedingly guilty in this matter. But the time has come when they must act differently...God will bless or curse this nation, according to the course Christians take.

- Rev. Charles G. Finney (1792-1875), revivalist in the Second and Third Great Awakening, College President

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty – as well as the privilege and interest – of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.

- John Jay (1745-1829), Original Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court

The people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities....If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.

- Rev. James A. Garfield (1831-1881), United States President, Minister of the Gospel

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Christians Must Vote

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What May Pastors and Churches Do?

- Churches may host voter registration drives, be a host site for balloting, or host a forum where candidates address the congregation or answer questions from a moderator.
- Candidates visiting the church may be introduced, and political candidates may even preach in the pulpit so long as the pulpit is not used as a political forum to urge the members to vote in favor of the candidate.
- Churches may distribute objective voter guides that address the candidates' views on a broad range of issues.
- Pastors can preach on biblical, moral and social issues such as homosexuality and abortion.
- Pastors can urge the congregation to become involved in the political process and urge them to register and vote.
- Pastors can personally endorse or oppose political candidates, personally work for political candidates, and personally contribute to them. Also, a pastor's name may appear in a published ad or letter signifying the pastor's endorsement of the candidate, and the pastor's title and affiliation with the church can also be listed with the notation, "Title and affiliation for identification purposes."
- Pastors and churches may expressly oppose or support individuals for appointed office.
- Churches may devote between 5 and 15% of their overall activities directly to lobbying, promoting or opposing the passage of legislation or constitutional amendments.
- Churches may set up and promote registration tables or events to obtain petition signatures supporting state or federal constitutional amendments.

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