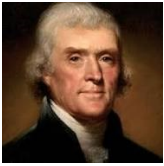


Should Churches Participate In The Election Process? and Is Pro-life The Issue Of Concern For Christians?



Thomas Jefferson — "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate... All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent"

The answer to the questions in the title of this article is yes and yes. Yes, churches should participate in the election process, and, yes, pro-life is the issue of concern for Christian voters.

Achieving A Proper Balance For the Church - The mission of the church, as stated in Matthew 28:19-20, is to make disciples and teach those disciples how to live the Christian life, how to be leaders in their homes and in their communities, leaders who make decisions based on biblical values.

Respect For Life - As pastors and church leaders choose what to teach, certainly, respect for life should be at the very top of the list because it is such a vital part of a proper biblical worldview.

Being Involved in the Civic Side of Our Communities - Another vital element of being a Christian, and one which is sometimes not emphasized, is being involved in the local, state and national government.

Looking back at the history of our great nation, local pastors and their flocks have been the leading influencers for good in our communities as they participated in elected offices such as school boards and other government positions on all levels.

Since the laws which are enacted by our elected representatives directly impact our lives, can we agree that it would be wise to have representatives who share our worldview making those laws?

Who Is Participating in Our Government - All those who are looking for a favor from the government are participating. Some want a project funded and some want legislation passed that will further their agenda. For example, **Planned Parenthood** looks for and supports those candidates who share their pro-abortion worldview. They are there at every election cycle.

Various LGBT groups are also there at every election cycle. Plus they, along with Planned Parenthood and other special interest groups, hire lobbyists who daily pressure our elected representatives to enact legislation which will, by force of law, require us to live under their biased idea of what is right.

Christians should also participate, at the very least, at election time. In the quote above from Thomas Jefferson, "... All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent"

Casting An Informed Vote - Many Christians would like to vote but don't know who to vote for. This is easy to remedy but it does take effort on someone's part to find out who the candidates are and where they stand on the issues.

Providing Election Information to Christian Voters - Pastors and church leaders can play a key role in providing voter information to their attendees.

First, the decision needs to be made about whether or not voter information will be made available at church and if so, in what form will that be?

In the not too distant past, many churches provided voter information for their attendees but stopped doing so, in large part, because of partisan disagreements among their attendees. Partisan fighting can be easily avoided if one simple guideline is diligently followed (see next paragraph).

Proper Guidelines for Church Voter Information - The number one guideline for providing voter information in a church is that it must always be non-partisan. It is not wrong to show which party each candidate is a part of but the concern for Christian voters is not what party the candidate represents but where each candidate stands on the issues, Christians should vote their biblical values, not party preference. A Christian's vote should be issue-driven, not party-driven. Pro-life truly is a non-partisan issue.

Additionally, every attempt should be made by those who provide the voter information to do so in an unbiased way.

A Person To Be In Charge Of Church Voter Information - Every church should have a staff member in charge of over-seeing the voter information that is made available for the church attendees. They in turn can choose to delegate the preparing of the voter information to a trusted layman or laymen. In some churches, this is called the Salt and Light Ministry and in others Watchmen, but regardless of what it is called, to be successful in the long term, this ministry, like any other area of church ministry, needs to be closely supervised by a trusted staff member.

Why Not The Pastor - How voter information is provided will depend somewhat on the size of a church but the general rule, or principle, is found in Acts. The widows were not being taken care of so in Acts 6:2 we see this, "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables." The answer was to choose men of honest report who would take care of this matter. The same is true for providing voter information in a church. While this is one of many important areas of church ministry, the pastor's time can be better devoted to pastoral duties such as preaching, teaching, counseling, etc.

Can Voter Registration Be Done At Church - Yes. Those who are in charge of providing voter information should also provide the opportunity for folks to register to vote, or perhaps re-register if they have recently moved or have just turned eighteen. Voter registration forms can be obtained from the local Registrar of Voters and should be made available at church.

Voter registration efforts should begin well in advance of the actual election day. It is good to remember that many folks prefer to vote absentee ballot and those ballots are mailed out approximately four weeks before the actual day of election, so, voter registration efforts should begin, at the minimum of, a couple of weeks before that, and preferably even longer.



Why Pro-life? - Abortion is the killing of innocent human life and the shedding of innocent blood,

something that God will not overlook. He will not prosper a nation that allows this practice but will bring judgment on that nation. Because God is patient that judgment may take some time to come but it will come.

Showing God That We Care - By voting pro-life we are showing God that we care about this issue. We are not just sitting on the couch saying, “Yes, I am against abortion” yet doing nothing about it. But by getting up off the couch and going to the polls we are speaking up for the pre-born by supporting pro-life candidates with our vote.

Providing pro-life voting materials for others is taking the next step.

Why A Pro-life Candidate - Those who interview candidates find that when a candidate is pro-life they are also good on all the other issues of concern to Christian parents and families because of a shared worldview.



Yes, churches should participate in the voting process.



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Yes, pro-life is the issue of concern for Christian voters.