

## Christians In Secular Leadership

"The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it." (Proverbs 27:12, ESV)

Someone wrote to USA Today, "Some people seem to forget that old First Amendment idea of separation of church and state. When I see a political leader relying on the word of God to solve the nation's problems, I begin to question whether he or she has a real strategy in place. [ . . . ] We need leaders in this country who will not use hot-button topics to divide Americans, but who will focus on what will unite us as a nation. Citizens should revere the political leader who keeps his or her religion private, and who takes the time that would be spent in a church service to solve the nation's most pressing problems."

The New Testament describes the governments of the world as fellow servants of God. (Rom. 13:4) It is clear that as a separate servant, the government is not the church and the church is not the government. Christians may certainly labor for that government, but like all things this should be studied by each Christian. Each Christian has convictions which should be based on scripture. I share my strategy, but I do not legislate it for others. I am not the Lawmaker.

It is prudent to avoid a danger that appears ready to affect me rather than to suffer. (Prov. 27:12) Also, "Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears." (Prov. 26:17) These quarrels of the world are not mine. I would rather not meddle in their business and suffer. If I consider my secular vote an act of judgment on the world's leaders, I must consider, "For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. 'Purge the evil person from among you.'" (1 Cor. 5:12-13) If the Old Testament teaches anything, it is that one cannot make people moral through enacting laws. I cannot legislate morality to Christians or non-Christians. I can only attempt to preach sound doctrine and be a good example. I find it easier to avoid schisms in church by avoiding human parties, divisions, outside the church in secular government. (cf. 1 Cor. 1) The church which divides over hot-button topics imitates the politics of the world. What place does this have in the church of God?

The world chides one who relies on the Word of God. But if I were a secular leader, I would have no choice but to rely on God's word. Unity is based on truth and love. The Christian who keeps her religion private is like a soldier who refuses to wear her uniform. How could I show my faith by my works if my religion is private? Brethren, though we may disagree, I encourage you to choose your personal strategy wisely.