

POLITICS JESUS/GOD STYLE

Christ tells us that the point of all Scripture is to love God with all of one's heart, soul, and mind, and to love one's neighbors as oneself (Matt. 22:37-40). In fact, followers of Christ are to even to love their enemies (Matt. 5:44-46).

To love others is, at the very least, to treat them as we want to be treated as per the Golden Rule, which is also the point of the Word of God (Matt. 7:12). This is foundational to engaging in politics.

This means, at the very least, treating even the most bitter opponents with the dignity that they possess because they are made in the image of God, knowing that as human beings they are loved immeasurably by God. They are loved so much that God the Son took on flesh to die for them and to invite them to live an eternal life with Him. Consider how the political landscape would be different if Christians were noted for love instead of being enmeshed in the politics of resentment, triumphalism, vilification, and tribalism.

Politics Jesus' style also requires civility, honesty, and truthfulness in all things. The follower of Jesus Christ knows that God hates lies and that lies are corrosive to any free nation. When politicians lie, it is the duty of the Christian to condemn the lie, especially if it comes from those who claim to be Christian. However, the correction must not be done in a hateful or self-righteous manner—to score political points. The correction is to be done out of love for Truth as such and for the person not telling the truth.

Humility is another virtue required in politics for the follower of Christ. Christians of all people should be aware of how limited, sinful, prone to error, and how biased we all are. We never have all of the facts. We all have our preferences and prejudices that contain sin.

As the follower of Jesus lives out the truth-in-love politics of Jesus, he avoids such things as name-calling, malicious stereotyping, mischaracterizations, vilification, pride, and hate.

The true follower of Jesus enjoys the freedom that the Lord and His truth provide. He avoids being manipulated by either political parties with respect to attitudes or positions on issues. The true follower of Jesus gets his view of the issues and attitude from the Lord. If you ask him what his position is on anything, he will reflect a position and attitude that mirror the Lord and the Word of God rather than those found in the divisive secular Right/Left tribes.