



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 21, 2018

Heart to Heart...

As a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, I must teach/preach His word in purity and truth. Let me address something that comes up from time to time to teach us to re-think our approach in regard to politics. Too many (and I’m speaking in general terms within the church as a whole, not at any individual) say things or do things that aren’t “*Christ in me!*” It’s always been this way from my years on this earth. The social media and the 24-hour news cycle seems to create so much anxiety and fear that it drives us into things that do not help my brothers or sisters eternally. This reminder is to not allow your politics to be your Christian principles!

Whatever you feel strongly about in your stance and voting, you stand where you stand because you believe it to be a wise choice. You can cast a shadow on those who aren’t so wise in your estimation and exalt your wisdom. Let me ask you, what does real wisdom, God’s wisdom look like in politics?

Many think that wisdom is about having the best arguments or inside knowledge they have gained in non-other than the media outlets. Listen to God’s word: “***But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.***” (James 3:17) When it comes to your politics, do you approach things wisely in purity? In other words, knowing God has control and will control the events in the lives of men? Are you peaceable? Are you gentle? Reasonable? All these carry the idea of not attacking and a willingness to yield on behalf of others. Not harsh, brash and stubborn. One might make the best choice politically but that doesn’t mean you’re necessarily being wise how you express your views. We need to be using the wisdom from above when it comes to the political arena because we could be destroying the spiritual nature within God’s church.

It’s one thing to share with another your thoughts about news items or “*what the latest you heard*” but it’s another when you start pressing those on others to argue a point or tear down one another. Whether or not you like a political individual or like a policy or not, remember it’s the Lord Jesus we serve and are under His hand and guidance. “***King of kings, and Lord of lords.***” (Revelation 19:16) Do you believe Jesus is this?

Here is wisdom to help us in the political arena: ***“But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.”*** (Colossians 3:8) In Christ Jesus, as children of God, we have no right to talk maliciously about another, or spread rumors just because someone says something about another running for political office. We are called in holiness so we will be an example to the lost around us. The majority of those in politics do not care about slander and abusive speech but we should.

The church has too much division in it already and people express their opinions in politics about things as if they were factual (and they could be) but it creates hard feelings and causes problems for those in Christ Jesus. When things are expressed to make brothers/sisters to divide, you are not bringing about the unity of the faith in the bond of peace. (Colossians 3:12-15) Yes, we have a voice in the political arena and cast your vote but everything needs to be brought in line with the Lord Jesus Christ. If our voice is causing division, obstructions and creating hard feelings with our brethren, that’s not the wisdom from above. That’s not God! ***“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (Philippians 3:20) This is what we should be rallying our brethren around!

Seven things that are an abomination to the Lord and the seventh thing? ***“And one who spreads strife among brothers.”*** (Proverbs 6:19) Heaven is the goal for each of us. Politics are earthly and temporal as they will be gone one day. The church and your soul are eternal. Don’t allow the temporal to interfere with the eternal. Encourage one another toward the Lord. I want to see you in heaven!! Think about it!!!

Brent