



## A Statement to American Christians on Our National Elections

Before ascending to heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to make disciples of all the nations and teach them to obey everything he has commanded us (cf. Mt.28:19-20).

As we engage in the Presidential election and the 100,000 other races at every level of government that comprise the elections of 2020, we are troubled to know that some 40 to 50 million Christian Churchgoers do not vote, and many of these are not even registered.

As ministers among God's people, we cannot find a justification for sitting on the sidelines, when numerous critical policy decisions are at stake in these elections, so many of which are determined by very slim margins.

Voting not only is a response to our Scriptural duty to participate as good citizens in this temporary earthly city (cf. Rm.13:1-7; 1Pt.2:13-17; Mt.22:15-22), but also is an aspect of caring for our families and our neighbors (cf. Gal.6:7-10) by shaping the kind of laws and court decisions that will affect their lives, property, and freedom.

The Church has a spiritual mission, which is distinct from the temporal mission of political structures. But when political structures oppress human rights, defy the law of God, or interfere with the very freedom of the Church to proclaim and live the Gospel, then we must address those challenges head-on, including through the exercise of our political rights.

In 2020, we in fact see that our electoral choices are not simply between different policies that implement the same principles; rather, they are between *different principles*. These choices are not simply between different ways of reaching the same goals; rather, they are between *different goals*. These choices are not simply between different ways of serving America; rather, they are between *different visions of what America is*.

The Christian voter has a duty to recognize which principles, goals and visions contradict God's laws and which do not. Throughout the Scriptures and throughout the ages, when civil authority has *violated the right to life* and *suppressed the freedom of the Church*, Christian prophets, pastors and ministers have risen up and challenged this abuse of authority.

*Allowing civil authority to veto human rights* is not one among several valid partisan political choices. *It is not a valid political option at all*. It is not part of the authority of government to suppress innocent human life and freedom. No human authority can authorize, for instance, the killing of a baby or force citizens to violate their conscience as they strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the face of an election that will shape our federal courts on these and other fundamental matters for decades to come, we urge Christians to **register to vote, inform themselves about the candidates and the parties,**

**assist others to vote**, and make their focus in this election *on policies rather than personalities, on accomplishments rather than accusations.*

In the exercise of our *religious liberty*, we speak as Christian ministers, acknowledging Jesus Christ as the Lord of every nation, the only way to salvation and freedom, and the only guarantee of human rights and dignity. We furthermore thank God for the United States of America as an exceptional nation, founded on the Biblical story and worldview, and providing us the opportunity to live out that Word with the inalienable freedom that is ours as citizens and children of God.

**National Pro-life Religious Council**  
[www.NPRCouncil.org](http://www.NPRCouncil.org)

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