

How To Pick a President

Proverbs 14: ³⁴*Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people.*

Righteousness – according to the original Hebrew word, it simply means doing things right or correctly according to the instructions. If a nation’s people do things correctly according to the Word of God, then they will get ahead of others who do things incorrectly. Sin, on the other hand, can be defined as disregarding God’s right ways, and will ultimately cause any people to be put to shame.

American population is only 4% of the entire world’s population. Yet, it possesses by far the most patents, copyrights, and Nobel prizes than any other place on the planet. In fact, there are more inventions and discoveries each year in America than all the rest of the world combined! What would this world be like without American ingenuity? A blessed people prosper! A blessed people advance! A blessed people are also satisfied? Half of all the people on earth live on less than \$2/day. Half of those, 1.5 billion people, live on less than \$1/day. But in America, even the poorest, those on welfare, are still more likely to have a telephone, a television, an air conditioner, an automobile, eat more meat, and live in more square footage space than the average tax-paying wage-earner in the second richest region in the world, Western Europe.

According to President John Adams, it is incumbent upon all Americans to put into office only those who will foster satisfaction, prosperity, and advancement upon the rest of us. And once they are there, then the electorate must hold them strictly accountable. So how should we choose our leaders? Remember, we want leaders that will continue to position our nation to be blessed. When you go to the polling station, there are basically two things you need to be concerned about – character and worldview. Why not competence foremost? Because competence without virtue is dangerous. (Pol Pot, Stalin, Hitler, Amin, and Castro all had gifted leadership; but they lacked proper character and worldview; and as a tragic result, millions of people perished.)

Character: Character consists of two things: morality and righteousness. Morality is not doing what is wrong. Righteousness, on the other hand, is doing what is right. It is not enough to not do what is wrong, one also has to know what to do that is right, especially if he/she is in leadership. When we elect people to office, we must choose people of character; not charisma and oratory abilities. Although it can be confusing at times, we can’t let style trump substance. When leaders possess character, then their opinions are unwavering. They are consistent, regardless of the circumstances. They stand their ground even when it’s not politically expedient to do so. But if leaders lack character, then their opinions get shaped by those who make the most noise. And since the populous is so fickle, leaders without character waver all over the place.

Worldview: For this discussion, there are only two worldviews. And we will see here that once you identify the root source of a candidate’s worldview, then every policy, every speech, and every appointment flows out of that worldview. The first worldview is that man is at the center: *“I shall ascend to the throne... I shall be like the Most High.”* If that is the case, then we establish the standards by which we should live. The other worldview is that God is at the center. If that is the case, then there is Someone else outside of our context who has established the standards by which we should live.

Conclusion: So in a free society like ours, it is a stewardship issue. Will we use our freedom of election to install the right people? Or will we succumb to apathy, squander our opportunity, and absent ourselves from the process. If righteous people sit out because they feel they won’t make a difference, then who else will vote for God-honoring leaders?