

Why Virtue Trumps Policy

Proverbs 11: ¹⁰*When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.*
¹¹*Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.*

Proverbs 29: ²*When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

The axiom is true – *“However drab the world makes virtue to be, it appreciates the boon of it in public life.”*

The first and foremost consideration in choosing a public official is whether or not he/she will advance policies that uphold Biblical standards of righteousness and oppose policies that encourage sinful behavior. For this reason, issues involving righteousness *must always* take precedence over economic, environmental, health care, and energy issues. Now that’s not to say those other issues are not important, but Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 that if we would make the pursuit of righteousness our primary emphasis, then everything else would be provided. However, if the economy and energy become the primary focus of candidates and voters, then the nation will most certainly end up attaining neither prosperity nor righteousness.

Yes, the Bible talks about helping the poor, war, the environment, and health care. The Bible also speaks about immigration, taxation, property rights, and national sovereignty; but those matters haven’t seemed to have made it into the political foray this time around. All of those issues are addressed in the 613 laws of the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. But God has made it abundantly clear that some issues were definitely more important than others. In fact, in that expansive system of Jewish Law, God selected His “Top Ten” commands; and by doing so, He created a prioritization of what was most significant to Him. In Exodus 34:27-28, God specifically described the Ten Commandments as the core substance of all His laws.

Now in all the confusing rhetoric of political campaign speeches and debates, it is important for us as believers to note which ones of today’s contested issues made it in the Top Ten. Crucial to this conversation is the fact that protecting innocent life was #6 in the list. And right behind it, protecting the sanctity of marriage was #7. Interestingly, the issues of poverty, environment, and health care, were not in the list.

To elevate an issue above where God has elevated it, and to lower an issue below where God has established it, is to usurp His authority! Furthermore, for a voter to select a candidate who might be right on immigration, economy, and healthcare, but is wrong on the priority of issues of *righteousness*, such as abortion and marriage, is usurping the authority of God and His Word, too! The Bible establishes priorities in national righteousness and those priorities should be at the forefront of every believer as he/she heads to the polls.

Conclusion: As Benjamin Franklin once noted, *“Well done is better than well said,”* an adage that summarizes the Scriptural truth, *“By their fruit you will know them,”* or the modern version, *“Action speaks louder than words.”* One does not have to look very far to see how most political candidates have consistently voted in the past. It is prudent for every believer to conduct their due diligence and find out just how each candidate has voted on the issues that God has said is a priority.