

# **VOTE**

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## ***Your Values***

A small-group and church leader's  
guide to a true patriotic legacy:  
Investing in Your Nation

### ***2010 Citizenship Message Brief***

**FOR USE IN:**

Adult Sunday School Classes  
Small-Group Bible Studies  
Church Services



[CitizenLink.com/voter](http://CitizenLink.com/voter)

# How You Can Have Maximum Patriotic Impact

In Matthew 22:15-21, Jesus told the Pharisees that we need to render to Caesar that which is Caesar's and give to God that which is God's. Unlike the Roman Empire of Jesus' time on earth, Americans are blessed to have, as Abraham Lincoln put it, a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."<sup>1</sup> Our form of government requires our active involvement.

So how can we "give to Caesar what is Caesar's" in America today? Here are three things every Christian ought to give his or her government, and three things that every Christian can do to have maximum patriotic impact:

## 1 SEEK GOD FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

Focus on praying for our elected officials: We are to pray for all people, but rulers are singled out. Why? The passage says it is so we can have peace and quiet and live in godliness and dignity.

## 2 SUBMIT TO YOUR GOVERNMENT

**Scriptures:** 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17; Romans 13:1-5.

The Greek word for "submit" means to fall in rank under an authority. Government exists to keep order, and we must submit to the rule of law. Christians ought to be model citizens. According to 1 Peter 2, we do this for the Lord's sake. If we rebel against the rule of law, we are in fact rebelling against God who ordained it (Romans 13:1-2).

## 3 SELECT YOUR GOVERNMENT

There are many ways we can participate in our government, such as helping with a voter-registration drive, speaking out on moral and social issues, and running for public office. Perhaps the most basic form of participation is voting—selecting our government. When we vote, we help determine who will lead our nation, make our laws, and protect our freedoms.

Founding Father Samuel Adams said, "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote...that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."<sup>2</sup>

### Step 1: Register to Vote

Registering is easy to do. Fill out the Voter Registration Form provided in this kit and return it to your state's elections office, listed on the attached list of addresses.

### Step 2: Register a Friend

- Take your friend a Voter Registration Form and help them fill it out and send it in.
- Help organize a voter registration drive at your service club, your child's school or place of business.

### Step 3: Vote Your Values

Christians should seize every opportunity to vote their values as a way of fulfilling Christ's command to engage our culture as "salt and light" (Matthew 5:13-16) and participate in government (Matthew 22:18-21). Our faith should influence every area of our lives and be part of our decision making—

including when we cast our ballots. Simply voting is not enough; please vote for the men and women—and ballot issues—that best reflect your values. As Christians, the values of life, family and freedom are especially significant and should be protected:

**Life:** Life is precious and the gift of our loving God who makes every human being unique (Psalm 139:15-16). Life is a fundamental, God-given right.

**Family:** The family is the basic building block of society and the first institution created by God (Genesis 1-2). Christians should support efforts to protect the family and stand against efforts to redefine marriage and devalue family.

**Freedom:** Our freedom is based in the freedom Christ gave us (Galatians 5:1). Freedom must be nurtured, defended, and protected, which is the original intent of the 1st Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."<sup>3</sup>

**Imagine the impact Christians can have** on the direction of our government, the character of its leadership, and the health of our nation and families if we apply biblical principles to our voting decisions. Please register to vote, register a friend, vote your values, and pray for God to bless America!

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- 1 Abraham Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863.
  - 2 Samuel Adams, The Writings of Samuel Adams, Harry Alonzo Cushing, editor (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1907), 4:256, originally in the Boston Gazette on April 16, 1781.
  - 3 Founding Documents, 46.