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VOTE WHOSE VALUES ?

Is it one of the great mysteries of our time? Why most of the most principled people in the country don't bother to cast their vote for their principles in the public square?

Polls reveal startling statistics. Only about 50% of Christians are actually registered to vote. Worse, only half of that 50% actually votes. Out of more than 60 million evangelical believers in this country, only about 15 million actually vote.

This means one of the largest voter segments in the nation does not represent their views in any given election. Only about one-fourth of people who believe most of the same things you do, simply do not put those principles into play in a political contest. This amounts to defeat by default.

A pertinent question - what right to complain about the state of the country do those non-voters have? Another - why does the "silent majority" not follow through with their actual beliefs?

Scholars note the concept of people choosing their rulers first shows up in human history over 3,600 years ago, in Exodus 18 verse 21. These civil servants (magistrates) were to be God-fearing, truthful, hating covetousness, able, wise, known and trusted on the local level. Historian Marshall Foster notes the history of the ancient Hebrews shows that having elections with local accountability restrained the human tendency toward despotism that dominated all other nations of the era.

One of the great results of the Reformation was the Bible translated into everyday languages. Those who settled and founded America did so according to principles of government of the people, elected by the people - at a time in history when it was not permitted in most of the world. Our unique three branches of government comes from Isaiah 33:22, "**For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; HE will save us.**" The Bible, not secular humanism, formed the basis for the moral and ethical positions which were voted into law. And that's how people wanted it.

If not for God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians, America would not have been founded on principles that give YOU the right and opportunity and responsibility to vote for the candidates of your choice. Indeed, the most influential people in colonial America were pastors. People understood voting as a necessary sober responsibility of civil and religious people, accountable to God for speaking out His truth.

Today, the latest Pew Forum poll shows 72% of Americans believe religion is losing its appropriate influence in American life. That's right. Most people want to see more religion, not less. In fact, 49% of Americans say churches should publicly express their views on social and political issues. Some 32% even think churches should endorse candidates for political office.

The Pew Forum shows 41% of Americans opposed to same-sex "marriage" and at the same time 50% of the public considers homosexuality a sin (up from 45% a year ago). And 49% of U.S. adults say that businesses such as florists and caterers should be allowed to reject customers, based on their religious beliefs. Another 4% "doesn't know." How will these issues be voted on?

Which candidates and parties hold values similar to yours? You can find out by consulting voter guides provided by groups such as TheFamilyLeader.com (877-866-4372), Faith & Freedom Coalition (ffcowa.com 515-225-1515), Christian Coalition (cc.org), National Pro-Life Alliance, American Family Association (afaaction.net), AmericanRenewalProject.org and many others.

One of the Bible verses most frequently quoted by America's Founding Fathers is Proverbs 29:2, "**When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.**" How true. And whose beliefs and principles will win at the ballot box? When only one-fourth of the people VOTE who believe the Bible informs the moral principles which should guide public policy on every level?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer declared, "*Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.*" I wonder, will you "vote" by not voting? Defeat by default?

It looks like it's up to you. Take someone with you, and vote your values - Biblical Christian values.