

GOD & SELF-GOVERNMENT

Did you know you are personally responsible for the quality of government in your life? This reality forces you to be serious about any election at any level. It will be a reflection of what you think government is, and how well you understand what God's Word says about it.

Too many Americans take our values of liberty and freedom for granted, and misunderstand both the concept and the cost of the sacred truths of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. What is the source of our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Consider five fundamental truths summarized by the World History Institute:

1- Individual Self-Government: Each person is personally accountable to the Creator. God created man and woman in His own image, to represent Him on earth, to steward and develop His creation (Gen 1). You were designed to govern yourself according to God's commands, which extend from His holy character. His laws are summarized as loving God with all your heart, mind, will, and loving others as yourself. Your human conscience reminds you when you disobey. And God's written-down Word spells out His expectations for all mankind.

2- Family Government: The family is the first institution created by God. Scripture presents family as the "driving engine in a self-governing republic." Husband and wife become one flesh (Gen 2) as they know God and love Him with all their being (Deut 6-7). Parents are to teach their children to do likewise, daily instructing them in God's truth. Education is foremost a family duty, not a government mandate. God's Word is the ruler by which all human rhetoric and knowledge must be measured. When God-fearing men lead their families so that people live according to God's principles, this yields divine blessing in their lives, homes, and enterprises.

3- Church Government: Scripture shows how like-minded people organize into communities that worship and serve God together, with gifted servant-leaders delegated to serve (Exodus 18,19) people who commit to God's ways. The church is God's "called-out people" who live and teach His Word so others embrace Christ as Lord & Savior. Christ-followers are commissioned by God to be "salt and light," make disciples, and care for one another's needs - reflecting God's character. When the state supercedes the church, people rely on taxes instead of tithes.

4- Civil Government: Every organization of human society exists under God's sovereign governance. Scripture sets boundaries of limited jurisdiction for family, church, civil and state government. God instituted limited civil government for specific responsibilities and to follow God's precepts (Gen 9). He tasks civil magistrates to "protect the righteous, approve good deeds, punish evildoers." Likewise, civil servants are to carry out God's principles through their limited sphere of authority (Rom 13, Deut 16, 1Sam 12). Every person is accountable to God, so in the same way, His people are held accountable for the welfare of their nation (1Chron 7:14). Scripture presents the concept of a republic, where people self-commit to God's laws, with elected representatives to guide them (Ex 24, Deut 29, Josh 8, 24, Neh 9,10).

5- Your Government: Self-government of godly people provides the starting point for building a free, prosperous self-governing society - without the tyranny of big government welfare or strong-armed force. But without God's intervention in individual lives, people are enslaved to sin, and to forms of government which keep people subservient, removing God-given inalienable rights. It happened to ancient Israel when they demanded a king, to be like other nations. Calamity!

All humans are born into a sinful state of selfish disobedience, inherited from Adam & Eve. Only being born again from above by the Holy Spirit (John 3) gives you right relationship with God, receiving Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior (John 1), to live according to His principles. God changes the world one person at a time, one family, one church, one community at a time. As we consider the future of our national, state and local government, it all comes back to YOU and your self-government. You are accountable to God for how you participate in government.

6- This Election: *"This is the issue of this election: whether we believe in our capacity for self-government, or whether we abandon the American Revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far-distant capitol can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves."* President Reagan's decades-old, yet timeless analysis hammers the anvil of today's struggle for more freedom vs more tyranny by ungodly governing. What's YOUR vote? ☐