

Proclaim Jesus, not Your Political Candidate

While political pundits do their jobs in analyzing the presidential debate, I'll do my job as a faith leader and encourage us to keep our priorities straight. As I posted earlier this year, preach Jesus and vote for your presidential candidate of choice, based on biblical principles. But do not preach your candidate. To do so is to defile your witness.

All too often, we become better known for the candidate we support than the God we serve, declaring our allegiance to a party or a person much more passionately than we declare our allegiance to the Savior. And to what end? For what purpose?

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Better that we keep our priorities straight and our focus clear, not allowing anything to taint our testimony for our Lord. As responsible citizens, we then we get involved in the political process.

For all of us, this should mean informed voting. For some, it will also mean donating to worthy candidates. Or raising awareness about issues. Or working to get out the vote. Or even running for office. Everyone should find their place.

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But let none of us get so caught up with the elections that we allow our social media pages or other spheres of influence to become partisan political cesspools, filled with ugly attacks, mocking memes and hateful rhetoric. And all this side by side with our favorite Scripture of the day!

As Jacob (James) said, "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water" (James 3:9–12, NIV).

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