

# #1.Racism

## 1.What is a biblical response to racism?

**“We should not ever notice the color of a person’s skin”**

### **Biblical Statements:**

All of humanity came from one couple, Adam and Eve.

Acts 17:26

17:26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

1 Corinthians 4:7

4:7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

There is only one family of mankind.

Adam and Eve possibly possessed all the genes to produce black, brown, and white offspring (and everything else in between).

The Bible states that nations came from Noah and his family after the flood which destroyed the world.

Genesis 10:32 (NIV2011)

<sup>32</sup> These are the clans of Noah’s sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

The people were divided at the Tower of Babel when their languages were confused, and they divided up into groups.

Genesis 11:1

11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

Genesis 11:8-9

11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

11:9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Today the Lord states that there are Jews, Gentiles, and the church of God.

Ephesians 2:15

2:15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

Ephesians 2:19

2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,

**The Lord made all nations from one man, Adam.**

1 Peter 1:24

<sup>1:24</sup> For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

Luke 3:6

<sup>3:6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

Jeremiah 32:27

<sup>32:27</sup> “I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?

Genesis 9:17

<sup>9:17</sup> So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

Genesis 7:21 (NIV2011)

<sup>21</sup> Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind.

Deuteronomy 32:8 (NIV2011)

<sup>8</sup> When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.

Job 12:10 (NIV2011)

<sup>10</sup> In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

Psalms 33:13 (NIV2011)

<sup>13</sup> From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind;

Isaiah 66:23 (NIV2011)

<sup>23</sup> From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 32:27 (NIV2011)

<sup>27</sup> “I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?

**The nations into which we were born were determined by God so that we might seek Him.**

Acts 17:26-27

<sup>17:26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

<sup>17:27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

**There will be nations in the coming millennium.**

Revelation 21:26

21:26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

Revelation 22:2

22:2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. James 1:1

1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

Colossians 3:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Different racial features could have come from Noah's daughters in law who may have been different races.

Genesis 7:13 (KJV)

<sup>13</sup> In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

Genesis 9:1 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Genesis 9:17 (KJV)

<sup>17</sup> And God said unto Noah, This *is* the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that *is* upon the earth.

Another possible reason is the divisions according to languages at the Tower of Babel.

This may have encouraged genetic racial differences.

Some speculate that the changes came to enable people to survive in different ecologies and climates.

Some also believe in continental drift which would cause different peoples to come from a certain gene pool that others did not have

Genesis 10:25

10:25 Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan

1 Corinthians 10:32

10:32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—

Lt Gov. Dan Patrick also said laws can't fix racism, only Jesus and God can:

*"You cannot change the culture of a country until you change the character of mankind. And you can't change that unless you change the heart, and for billions of us on the planet, we believe you can't do that unless you accept Jesus Christ or unless you accept God. God has been left out of this equation through all of this and we need tremendous healing. We cannot heal through commissions and blue-ribbon panels and more laws."*

"You cannot love your fellow man if you don't love God," he said. "And we have a country where we've been working really hard, particularly on the left, to kick God out."

## Application:

1. Once Jesus was mistaken for both being demon possessed and being a Samaritan. It is interesting to note that he only responded to the charge of being demon possessed.

John 8:48

<sup>8:48</sup> The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

John 8:49

<sup>8:49</sup> “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me.

2. In the local church the Lord is making up one body of the church in which there is neither Jew nor gentile.

Colossians 3:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

3. I can only stop myself from being racist. I cannot stop someone else from being racist. I can watch my attitude toward others who are different from me.

Romans 2:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Proverbs 30:32 (NIV2011)

<sup>32</sup> “If you play the fool and exalt yourself, or if you plan evil, clap your hand over your mouth!

Matthew 22:39 (NIV2011)

<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Mark 12:31 (NIV2011)

<sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Luke 10:27 (NIV2011)

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Romans 13:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14 (NIV2011)

<sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

James 2:8 (NIV2011)

<sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

# A definition of racism:

Prejudice: Believers are told not to do that

Deuteronomy 1:17 (KJV)

<sup>17</sup> Ye shall not **respect persons** in judgment; *but* ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment *is* God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring *it* unto me, and I will hear it.

Deuteronomy 16:19 (KJV)

<sup>19</sup> Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not **respect persons**, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Colossians 3:25 (KJV)

<sup>25</sup> But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no **respect of persons**.

James 2:9 (KJV)

<sup>9</sup> But if ye have **respect to persons**, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

1 Peter 2:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> **Show proper respect to everyone**, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Deuteronomy 16:19 (NIV2011)

<sup>16:19</sup> Do not pervert justice or **show partiality**. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent.

Deuteronomy 1:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>1:17</sup> Do not **show partiality** in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.”

Colossians 3:25 (NIV2011)

<sup>3:25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no **favoritism**.

James 2:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>2:9</sup> But if you show **favoritism**, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

1 Peter 2:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>2:17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Discrimination:

Psalms 101:5 (NIV2011)

<sup>101:5</sup> Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV2011)

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group.

Rahab, Ruth, Luke, The Good Samaritan, Zipporah, Miriam

Typically one that is a minority or marginalized

Romans 2:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Romans 14:4 (NIV2011)

<sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Romans 14:10 (NIV2011)

<sup>10</sup> You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

James 4:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

James 4:12 (NIV2011)

<sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

James 5:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

## #2 Homelessness

2. What is our response to the homeless, vagrant, transient people?

“Ignore them. They are a drain on society”

### Biblical Statements:

In the Old and New Testaments, The Lord has said that there will always be poor in the world.

Matthew 26:11 (NIV2011)

11 The **poor** you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.

Deuteronomy 15:11 (NIV2011)

11 There will always be **poor** people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

Proverbs 22:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

No one can escape the curse of hard work

Genesis 3:17

<sup>3:17</sup> To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

Genesis 3:19 (NIV2011)

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

2 Thessalonians 3:10

3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall **not eat**.”

Those who are not poor are consistently instructed to be kind to the poor,

Proverbs 19:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

not to deny justice to them,

Proverbs 31:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 28:27 (NIV2011)

<sup>27</sup> Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.

Exodus 23:6 (NIV2011)

6 “Do not deny justice to your **poor** people in their lawsuits.

Psalms 82:3 (KJV)

3 Defend the **poor** and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

**not show favoritism to them,**

Exodus 23:3

23:3 and do not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit.

**and encourage them to give what they can to the Lord.**

Leviticus 14:21 (NIV2011)

21 “If, however, they are **poor** and cannot afford these, they must take one male lamb as a guilt offering to be waved to make atonement for them, together with a tenth of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil for a grain offering, a log of oil,

Exodus 30:15

30:15 The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives.

**Farmers were told to leave some of the produce in their fields for the poor to collect.**

Leviticus 19:10 (NIV2011)

10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the **poor** and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

**Israel was told to show hospitality to the strangers in their towns, and to open their hand to the poor.**

Exodus 20:10

<sup>20:10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any **foreigner** residing in your towns.

Deuteronomy 5:14

<sup>5:14</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey

or any of your animals, nor any **foreigner** residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do.

Deuteronomy 16:14

<sup>16:14</sup> Be joyful at your festival—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the **widows** who live in your towns.

Esther 9:22 (KJV)

22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor

Deuteronomy 15:8

<sup>15:8</sup> Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.

Deuteronomy 15:11

<sup>15:11</sup> There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

**God loves the poor and lifts them out of the dust, Believers are not to deny justice to the poor.**

1 Samuel 2:8 (KJV)

8 He raiseth up the **poor** out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

**and whoever mocks the poor also shows contempt for their maker.**

Proverbs 17:5 (NIV2011)

5 Whoever mocks the **poor** shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.

**The poor are not to be oppressed or have evil plotted against them.**

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV2011)

31 Whoever oppresses the **poor** shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Zechariah 7:10 (NIV2011)

10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the **poor**. Do not plot evil against each other.'

**Jesus said a proof of a person's allegiance to him is to give our possessions to the poor.**

Psalms 112:9 (NIV2011)

9 They have freely scattered their gifts to the **poor**, their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor.

Matthew 19:21 (NIV2011)

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

The church is told to help carry the crushing burdens of the poor.

Acts 9:36 (NIV2011)

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

Acts 24:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.

Galatians 6:2

6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:5

6:5 for each one should carry their own load

Proverbs 31:20 (NIV2011)

20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

Other factors true of those who are poor:

People may become poor as a result of famine, war, genocide, displacement, disease, failure, or death of fathers, economic collapse, theft and disinheritance, and personal illness.

These are all beyond their control. Such as the widow of Shunem, robbers of widows, cheating in business deals,

Mark 12:40 (KJV)

<sup>40</sup> Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

Job 22:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> And you sent widows away empty-handed and broke the strength of the fatherless.

Isaiah 10:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

Mark 12:40 (NIV2011)

<sup>40</sup> They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

Luke 20:47 (NIV2011)

<sup>47</sup> They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

On the other hand, some reasons a person can become poor is because of alcoholism, debt, crime, greed and rebellion to parents, immorality and laziness.

Luke 15:13

<sup>15:13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

Proverbs 21:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> Whoever loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and olive oil will never be rich.

Proverbs 23:21 (NIV2011)

<sup>21</sup> for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

Deuteronomy 5:21

<sup>5:21</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor’s house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

James 1:27 (KJV)

<sup>27</sup> Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Exodus 22:22 (NIV2011)

<sup>22</sup> “Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless.

Deuteronomy 10:18 (NIV2011)

<sup>18</sup> He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Job 22:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> And you sent widows away empty-handed and broke the strength of the fatherless.

Psalms 10:18 (NIV2011)

<sup>18</sup> defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.

Zechariah 7:10 (NIV2011)

<sup>10</sup> Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’

Malachi 3:5 (NIV2011)

<sup>5</sup> “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

## **Application**

We are to love our neighbor

We need to encourage the best for our neighbor

We need to care for those around us.

We are to treat them fairly

## #4. Living a conservative lifestyle

### 4. Should we live a conservative lifestyle?

“Why shouldn’t we just live it up and not be so stuffy”

### Biblical Statements:

We are to be content with what we have and be free from the love of money.

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV2011)

<sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you

Living in luxury and self-indulgence is condemned.

James 5:5

<sup>5:5</sup> You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

Luke 16:19

<sup>16:19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

Revelation 3:17

<sup>3:17</sup> You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

James 2:6

<sup>2:6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

1 Timothy 6:9

<sup>6:9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

In the local church there are not many mighty many or noble.

1 Corinthians 1:26

<sup>1:26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

It is possible to be rich and wealthy.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

<sup>5:10</sup> Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Believers who are in humble circumstances should take pride in their high position.

James 1:9

<sup>1:9</sup> Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position

Those who exalt themselves will be humbled..

Daniel 5:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them.

Daniel 5:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

Matthew 23:12

<sup>23:12</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Jesus became poor for us so that we might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

<sup>8:9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Believers are told to be on guard against all kinds of greed.

Luke 12:15

<sup>12:15</sup> Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

It is not good to eat too much honey, it will make you vomit.

Proverbs 25:16

<sup>25:16</sup> If you find honey, eat just enough— too much of it, and you will vomit.

Proverbs 25:27

<sup>25:27</sup> It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to search out matters that are too deep.

The full soul loathes the honey comb.

Proverbs 27:7

<sup>27:7</sup> One who is full loathes honey from the comb, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.

To the hungry everything is sweet.

Proverbs 27:7

<sup>27:7</sup> One who is full loathes honey from the comb, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.

Paul knew how to be abased and abound.

Philippians 4:18

<sup>4:18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

It is good to not desire to be too poor and forget the Lord or too rich.

The richest man in the world said that it was vanity to deny yourself nothing your eyes desire.

Ecclesiastes 2:10 (NIV2011)

<sup>10</sup> I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

The purpose of hard work and gaining wealth is to have something to give to the poor.

Ephesians 4:28 (NIV2011)

<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

The church is to beware of a man who comes wearing fine clothes and a gold ring, women in the church should not emphasize on outward beauty of wearing gold and elaborate hair dos and wearing of jewelry.

James 2:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.

1 Peter 3:3 (KJV)

<sup>3</sup> Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

1 Timothy 2:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, Amos 4:1

<sup>4:1</sup> Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!"

Isaiah 3:16 (KJV)

<sup>16</sup> Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing *as* they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

Isaiah 3:18 (KJV)

<sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of *their* tinkling ornaments *about their feet*, and *their* cauls, and *their* round tires like the moon,

Gluttons will eventually embarrass themselves and relationships with others.

Proverbs 23:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony.

We are to discipline ourselves and bring our body into subjection.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (KJV)

<sup>27</sup> But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Timothy 4:8 (KJV)

<sup>8</sup> For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Our emphasis should be on the inner man and not the outward show of wealth or position or personal beauty.

Ephesians 3:16 (KJV)

<sup>16</sup> That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

We are meant for the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:13 (NIV2011)

<sup>13</sup> You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

God looks on the heart not the appearance.

1 Samuel 16:7 (KJV)

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

## Application

Love people and use things.

Be a good steward

Love not the world or the things in the world

The world will pass but who does the will of God abides forever

We are not to judge one another

## #5, Police and military

5. What is our response to police authority? What is our response to joining the police force or military?

“There is so much abuse of power by them, you should distance yourself from them”

“You need to submit unless you don’t want to”

### Biblical Statements:

The police are an authority that is called God’s servant.

Romans 13:4

<sup>13:4</sup> For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

He has the authority to carry a weapon to punish the evil doer.

Romans 13:4

<sup>13:4</sup> For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Those who do no wrong should not fear them.

Romans 13:4

<sup>13:4</sup> For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

We are to be subject to authorities always obeying laws and doing what is good.

Titus 3:1

<sup>3:1</sup> Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,

The official needs to obey the laws himself.

Matthew 26:59-64

<sup>26:59</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death.

<sup>26:60</sup> But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward

26:61 and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’ ”

26:62 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?”

26:63 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

26:64 “You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Sometimes we are to remain silent against false charges and sometimes we are to defend ourselves.

Matthew 26:59-64

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We are always supposed to speak to officials with dignity giving them their proper titles.

Acts 24:3

24:3 Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude.

Acts 26:25

26:25 “I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable.

Acts 26:2

26:2 “King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews,

Paul’s example was that even if in prison for false reasons we still can be a witness to our captors.

Philippians 1:13 (NIV2011)

<sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

It is a sign of declension in society when people all do what they think is right in their own eyes.

Judges 17:6

<sup>17:6</sup> In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Judges 21:25

<sup>21:25</sup> In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

We can appeal to law and justice and use the government to our advantage.

Acts 25:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

Acts 25:21 (NIV2011)

<sup>21</sup> But when Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor’s decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar.”

Acts 25:25 (NIV2011)

<sup>25</sup> I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome.

In times of persecution and chaos the believer needs to look to the Lord for wisdom on how to act.

James 1:5

<sup>1:5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Sometimes we answer a fool according to his own folly and sometimes we do not answer a fool according to his folly.

Proverbs 26:4 (KJV)

<sup>4</sup> Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Proverbs 26:5 (KJV)

<sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Acts 23:3

<sup>23:3</sup> Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!”

Luke 13:32

<sup>13:32</sup> He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’”

Sometimes the apostle fled from his persecutors and sometimes he answered them in court.

2 Corinthians 11:33 (KJV)

<sup>33</sup> And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

Acts 9:25 (NIV2011)

<sup>25</sup> But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Acts 25:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

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**If any man needs wisdom, he should ask of God.**

James 1:5 (NIV2011)

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

**If you are a soldier you should be content with your pay and not extort money or accuse people falsely** Luke 3:14 (NIV2011)

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

Mark 6:17

<sup>6:17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married.

## **Application:**

We are to be submissive to authority and the one who bears the sword.

We are to pray for those who despitefully use us.

We can appeal to the law for justice.

We should defend the rights of the weak, the poor, the unborn the widow and orphan

As a policeman or soldier, you should be righteous in dealing with people

## #6 Civil War

6. What is our response to the Civil War in the U.S.?

“The memories of it should be erased.”

### Biblical Statements:

We all need to trust God in the circumstances that God had placed us in.

Philippians 4:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV2011)

<sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

We are not to blame others our situation.

Ezekiel 18:2

<sup>18:2</sup> “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: “ ‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

We are responsible before God to make a life for ourselves and not blame past wars, cultures, historical events for control over our lives.

1 Corinthians 7:21 (NIV2011)

<sup>21</sup> Were you a slave when you were called? Don’t let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so.

God in his kindness cuts off sins of the parents after the third and fourth generation.

Numbers 14:18

<sup>14:18</sup> ‘The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’

Things that happen in our society do affect us and we need to be like the widow who cast herself on God.

1 Kings 17:12

<sup>17:12</sup> “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

Throughout the centuries there have always been wars and always been slavery and genocide.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (KJV)

<sup>9</sup> For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

James 4:1 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Numbers 21:14 (NIV2011)

<sup>14</sup> That is why the Book of the Wars of the LORD says: “. . . Zahab in Suphah and the ravines, the Arnon

Matthew 24:6 (NIV2011)

<sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Luke 21:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

The only solution to us personally is to forgive and see how God wants to glorify himself in our situation.

Genesis 50:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

Numbers 14:19 (NIV2011)

<sup>19</sup> In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

Matthew 6:12 (NIV2011)

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:14 (NIV2011)

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:15 (NIV2011)

<sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

The Lord Jesus was hounded by a maniacal ruler in his youth and in his manhood was hounded by the Romans and the Jewish leaders.

Luke 9:9 (KJV)

<sup>9</sup> And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

Matthew 2:16 (NIV2011)

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Matthew 14:3 (NIV2011)

<sup>3</sup> Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,

Mark 15:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Luke 9:22 (NIV2011)

<sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Luke 22:52 (NIV2011)

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs?"

Luke 22:66 (NIV2011)

<sup>66</sup> At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

He spoke the truth to them and about them and called upon them to repent. Wrong is wrong and evil is evil.

Isaiah 5:20 (NIV2011)

<sup>20</sup> Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Vengeance is mine says the Lord.

Romans 12:19 (KJV)

<sup>19</sup> Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Any nation that considers one race above another as inferior and worthless has in it the seeds of their own destruction.

Obadiah 1:15

<sup>1:15</sup> "The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head.

Righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34 (NIV2011)

<sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.

Those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

Obadiah 1:4 (KJV)

<sup>4</sup> Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

Luke 14:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> For all those who **exalt** themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:14 (NIV2011)

<sup>14</sup> “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be **exalted.**”

**If you exalt yourself slap your hand over your mouth.**

Proverbs 30:32 (NIV2011)

<sup>32</sup> “If you play the fool and **exalt** yourself, or if you plan evil, clap your hand over your mouth!

**Following the word of God never makes things worse for a culture or an individual.**

Joshua 1:7 (KJV)

<sup>7</sup> Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Deuteronomy 29:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do.

1 Kings 2:3 (NIV2011)

<sup>3</sup> and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go

2 Chronicles 24:20 (NIV2011)

<sup>20</sup> Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, “This is what God says: ‘Why do you disobey the LORD’s commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’ ”

**False teaching never brings health to a nation or an individual.**

Amos 2:4 (NIV2011)

<sup>4</sup> This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray **by false gods**, the gods their ancestors followed,

Acts 19:26 (NIV2011)

<sup>26</sup> And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. **He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all.**

Revelation 18:23 (NIV2011)

<sup>23</sup> The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s important people. **By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.**

**The servant girl of the Syrian Captain Naaman brought deliverance to his house.,**

2 Kings 5:2

<sup>5:2</sup> Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife.

2 Kings 5:1-2

<sup>5:1</sup> Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

<sup>5:2</sup> Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife.

The Babylonian captives, Shadrach Meshach and Abednego and Daniel worshiped God in a far-off land and were faithful to him and were an example for years to come.

Daniel 1:3-5

<sup>1:3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—

<sup>1:4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

<sup>1:5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

Paul's instruction to slaves was that if they could be freed to do so if not, you are still the Lord's freed man.

1 Corinthians 9:19 (NIV2011)

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

1 Corinthians 7:22 (NIV2011)

<sup>22</sup> For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NIV2011)

<sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

## Application

It is an honorable thing to stand up for the downtrodden.

Each believer needs to see what part God wants him to play in these situations.

If you are a victim of a negative circumstance, turn to the Lord for help and guidance and find a way to serve him in it.

Ill: Clara Barton, "angel of the battlefield" was founder of the American red cross

## #7 Leaders

7. What is our response to living under a government leader who is immoral or corrupt?

“I don’t think that you need to follow the leadership of a leader you don’t agree with”

### Biblical Statements:

The king’s heart is in the Lord’s hand and he controls that king.

Proverbs 21:1 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> The king’s heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, *as* the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Daniel submitted to Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 1:18-20

<sup>1:18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>1:19</sup> The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service.

<sup>1:20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Paul lived under the Roman ruler who thought he was a god and ultimately beheaded Paul.

Acts 25:27 (NIV2011)

<sup>27</sup> For I think it is unreasonable to send a prisoner on to Rome without specifying the charges against him.”

Ephesians 3:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

2 Timothy 1:8 (NIV2011)

<sup>8</sup> So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

Philemon 1:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

The Lord Jesus lived under Roman rule and exalted his Father.

Acts 3:15

<sup>3:15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

Acts 3:17

<sup>3:17</sup> “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. Matthew 2:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 27:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied.

Matthew 27:29 (NIV2011)

<sup>29</sup> and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said.

Matthew 27:37 (NIV2011)

<sup>37</sup> Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

We need to give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.

Luke 20:25 (NIV2011)

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

Jesus even paid the temple tax when he did not need to.

Matthew 17:27 (NIV2011)

<sup>27</sup> “But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”

When man’s laws go against God’s laws we must obey the higher law and obey God.

Acts 5:29 (KJV)

<sup>29</sup> Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Herod and Pilate conspired together against Jesus.

Luke 23:12 (KJV)

<sup>12</sup> And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.

The Lord is capable of putting down a bad ruler any time he wishes.

Proverbs 21:1

<sup>21:1</sup> In the LORD’s hand the king’s heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him.

Psalm 75:6 (KJV)

<sup>6</sup> For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

Psalm 75:6

<sup>75:7</sup> It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

## Application

We are to pray for our leaders

We have the right to vote them into or out of office

No ruler can take our joy away or our love and service to Christ

Rulers come and go

## #8 Voting

### 8. Should a believer have part in the voting process?

**Why Vote? God knows the outcome already. All politicians are corrupt?**

### Biblical Statements:

**We live in a nation in which we can vote for the leader of our choice.**

Isaiah 10:1-4

<sup>10:1</sup> Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees,

<sup>10:2</sup> to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

**Every person has a vote.**

Ecclesiastes 8:3 (NIV2011)

<sup>3</sup> Do not be in a hurry to leave the king's presence. Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he pleases.

**Christians should vote, especially for moral issues.**

Isaiah 10:1-4

<sup>10:1</sup> Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees,

<sup>10:2</sup> to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

Deuteronomy 4:8 (NIV2011)

<sup>8</sup> And what other nation is so great as to have such **righteous decrees** and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

Leviticus 5:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> "If anyone sins because they **do not speak up** when they hear a public charge to testify regarding something they have seen or learned about, they will be held responsible.

Judges 19:30 (NIV2011)

<sup>30</sup> Everyone who saw it was saying to one another, "Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Just imagine! We must do something! **So speak up!**"

Job 33:32 (NIV2011)

<sup>32</sup> **If you have anything to say, answer me; speak up,** for I want to vindicate you.

**We will never have a perfect candidate but we should support those who are aligned the most with what the Bible says is right.**

Psalms 105:21 (KJV)

<sup>21</sup> He made him **lord of his house**, and ruler of all his substance:

Genesis 45:26 (NIV2011)

<sup>26</sup> They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is **ruler of all Egypt**.” Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them.

Exodus 22:28 (NIV2011)

<sup>28</sup> “Do not blaspheme God or **curse the ruler** of your people.

Psalms 82:7 (NIV2011)

<sup>7</sup> But you will die like **mere mortals**; you will fall like every other ruler.”

Proverbs 28:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but **a ruler with discernment and** knowledge maintains order.

Proverbs 28:16 (NIV2011)

<sup>16</sup> A **tyrannical ruler** practices extortion, but one who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long reign.

Proverbs 29:12 (NIV2011)

<sup>12</sup> If a **ruler listens to lies**, all his officials become wicked.

Proverbs 29:26 (NIV2011)

<sup>26</sup> Many seek an **audience with a ruler**, but it is from the LORD that one gets justice.

**We should take full advantage of the opportunity we have to cast a vote for good things.**

James 4:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

**Righteousness exalts a nation sin and is a reproach to any people.**

Psalms 2:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> Why do the **nations conspire** and the peoples plot in vain?

Psalms 9:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> The wicked go down to the realm of the dead, all the **nations that forget God**.

Psalms 18:49 (NIV2011)

<sup>49</sup> Therefore I will praise you, LORD, **among the nations**; I will sing the praises of your name.

Psalms 46:6 (NIV2011)

<sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, **kingdoms fall**; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Psalms 47:8 (NIV2011)

<sup>8</sup> **God reigns over the nations**; God is seated on his holy throne.

**The perfect candidate to rule the world came and the world crucified him.**

Mark 15:9-15

<sup>15:9</sup> “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate,

15:10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.  
15:11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.  
15:12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.  
15:13 “Crucify him!” they shouted.  
15:14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”  
15:15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The nations roar and eventually will turn against the Lord and his anointed. However, some nations will be in the millennium.

Psalm 2:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations **conspire** and the peoples plot in vain?

Psalm 9:17 (NIV2011)

<sup>17</sup> The wicked go down to the realm of the dead, all the **nations that forget God**.

Psalm 18:49 (NIV2011)

<sup>49</sup> Therefore I will praise you, **LORD, among the nations**; I will sing the praises of your name.

Psalm 46:6 (NIV2011)

<sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, **kingdoms fall**; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Psalm 47:8 (NIV2011)

<sup>8</sup> **God reigns over the nations**; God is seated on his holy throne.

It makes a difference what a nation does.

Isaiah 26:2 (KJV)

<sup>2</sup> Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

Moral issues that the Bible talks about are abortion, marriage, children, work, property ownership, worship, justice, taxes.

## Application

Vote knowing the moral issues

Issues that are important

- Abortion- sanction of human life
- Honoring of marriage

- Freedom to worship
- Train children
- Work- busy with own hands
- Ownership- let him that steals
- Freedom and rest-
- Justice-
- Safety- I appeal to Caesar
- Realistic taxes – give to Caesar