Should A Christian Vote?

**Reading - 1 Timothy 2:1-10**

**Christians Are Responsible For Being Subject To the Gov't**

***(Romans 13:1-7) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. {2} Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. {3} For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. {4} For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. {5} Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. {6} For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. {7} Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.***

***(1 Peter 2:13-17) Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, {14} or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. {15} For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men; {16} as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. {17} Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.***

**Christians May Work Within the Laws**

***(Acts 25:11) "For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar."***

***(1 Peter 2:16) as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.***

What do we do when what God commands and what the government legislates contradicts? ***(Acts 5:29) But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.***

**Paying Taxes**

***(Matthew 22:15-22) Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him..{16} And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth… {17} "Tell us, therefore, Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" {18} But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? {19} "Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. {20} And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" {21} They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." {22} When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.***

Do you remember the incident about the fish and coin? **Matthew 17:24-27**

**Respect & Pray For Officials**

***(2 Peter 2:9-11) then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, {10} and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, {11} whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.***

***(1 Timothy 2:1-3) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, {2} for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. {3} For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,***

***(Ephesians 5:8-11) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light… {10} finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. {11} And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.***

***(Philippians 2:14-16) Do all things without complaining and disputing, {15} that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, {16} holding fast the word of life..***