

The Christian's Civic Responsibility

Consistent Christianity and concerned citizenship go hand in hand.



1A. THE FACT OF THE BELIEVER'S DUAL CITIZENSHIP:

1b. The believer's heavenly citizenship:

****Colossians 1:12-13**

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

****Philippians 3:20**

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

****Philippians 1:27**

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

****2 Corinthians 5:20**

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2b. The believer's earthly citizenship:

1c. The situation:

The child of God has a dual citizenship. He is literally a man with two countries.

2c. The Scriptures;

Paul took advantage of his earthly, Roman citizenship:

Acts 22:27-28

27 Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. 28 And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.

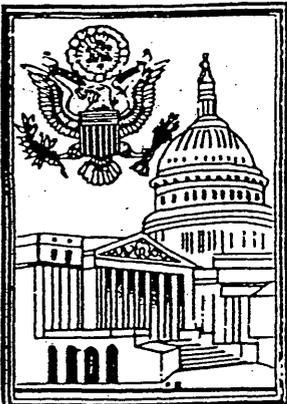
1d. It struck terror into the hearts of the Philippian Magistrates:

Acts 16:35-40

2d. It saved him from scourging in Jerusalem:

Acts 22:25

And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?



3d. It secured Paul a hearing:

Acts 22:27-28

27 Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. 28 And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.

4d. It supported a right of trial before Caesar: Acts 25:10-12

5d. It secured deferential treatment: Acts 22:25ff

2A. THE FOUNDATION OF THE BELIEVER'S CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY:

1b. The reality of the existence of earthly citizenship:

The believer is a citizen of his country. Certain rights and privileges as well as responsibilities accrue from this.

Acts 23:1

And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

Paul said literally: "I had lived as a true and loyal Jew." Rome was a heathen dictatorship but Paul was a loyal citizen.

2b. The revelation of the divine origin of human government:

1c. The three divine institutions:

1d. The home:

Genesis 2:24

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

1e. To realize full humanity

2e. To rear children

3e. To reflect Christ's love for the Church

2d. The church Acts 11:15ff

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1e. To evangelize

2e. To edify saints

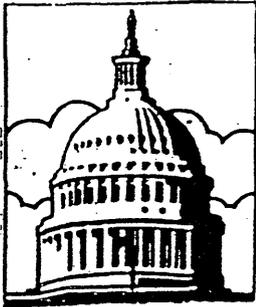
3e. To exalt the Savior

3d. Government:



Genesis 9:5-6

5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.



Romans 13:4

For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

1 Peter 2:14

Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

- 1e. To protect the good
- 2e. To punish the evil
- 3e. To pursue of order

2c. The O.T. revelation on human government:

1d. The revelation to Noah: Gen. 9:5-6

- 1e. Not the form but function is ordained.
- 2e. The responsibility is to preserve order.
- 3e. It involves power to protect innocent life by taking guilty life.

2d. The recognition by Daniel:

- 1e. God removes and sets up kings: Dan. 2:21
- 2e. Nebuchadnezzar is the one to whom God has given the kingdom, power, strength, and glory: Dan. 2:37
- 3e. The Most High rules in the kingdom of men: Dan. 4:17, 25, 35
- 4e. Nebuchadnezzar is called God's servant: Jer. 25:9; 27:6; 43:10

3c. The N. T. emphasis on human government:

- 1d. Civil authority is termed "The ordinance of God" Rom. 13:2.
- 2d. Civil authority is called "A minister of God" Rom. 13:4.
- 3d. Civil officials are "Ministers of God's service" Rom. 13:6.

Christian responsibility is based on the fact that God has ordained Christian government (2b) and that believers possess earthly citizenship under some government (1b). Civic responsibility is also clearly taught in the Scriptures.

3A. THE FORMULATION OF THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITY:

The Bible gives primarily general principles rather than specific details for civic duty. The order of responsibilities of the believer is a logical one.

1b. Respect:

1 Peter 2:17

Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

1c. The import:

Sometimes it is hard to honor an official as a man, but it is always possible to honor him for his position.

2c. The imperative:

Honoring the king involves constant attitude and continuous action, cf. Rom. 13:7.

2b. Obedience:

1c. The passages for commanded obedience:

Romans 13:1

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Titus 3:1

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

1 Peter 2:14

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

2c. The motives for commanded obedience:

1d. The fear of punishment:

Romans 13:2, 4, 5

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

2d. For the sake of conscience:

Romans 13:5

Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.



3d. Because it is the will of God:

1 Peter 2:13, 15

13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake:
whether it be to the king, as supreme;

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the
ignorance of foolish men:

Disobedience to government is disobedience to God.

3c. The problem of civil disobedience:

1d. The context of the Scriptures: everyone obeys

1 Pet. 3:22; 1 Pet. 5:5; Eph. 5:24; 1 Cor. 15:25; 1 Pet. 2:18;
1 Tim. 3:4; Col. 3:18; Heb. 13:7, 17



2d. The cases in the O.T.:

1e. Daniel's three friends: Dan. 3

2e. Daniel: Daniel 6

Subjection to the law of God takes priority over the laws of men.

3d. The cases in the N.T.:

1e. The preaching of the apostles: Acts 4:18-20

2e. The preaching of Peter and others: Acts 5:29

There is no place for resistance or rebellion but only for refusal to
obey.

3b. Support:

1c. The payment of taxes: Mt. 22:15-22 (Mk. 12:13-17; Lk. 20:19-26)

2c. The payment of duty: Rom. 13:7

dues—tribute—customs

4b. Intercession:

1 Timothy 2:1-2

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of
thanks, be made for all men;

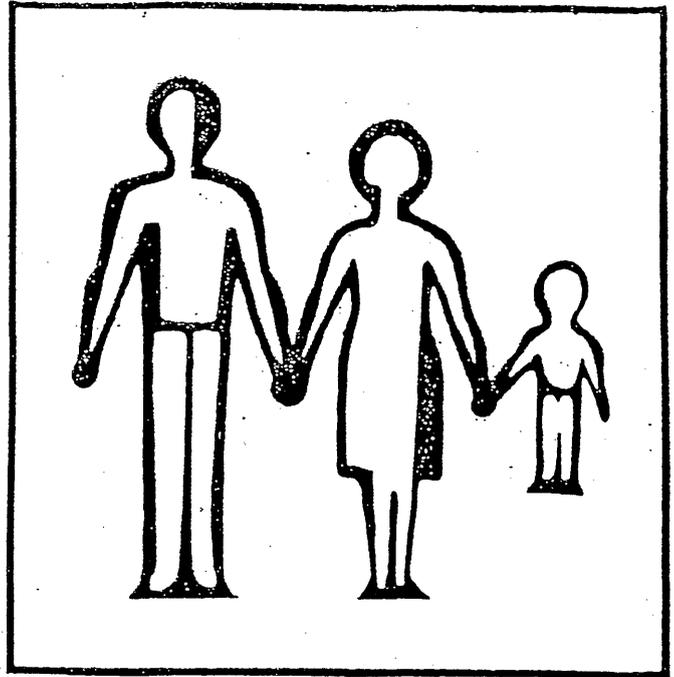
2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in
all godliness and honesty.



1c. Intercession is exclusively the duty of Christian citizens.

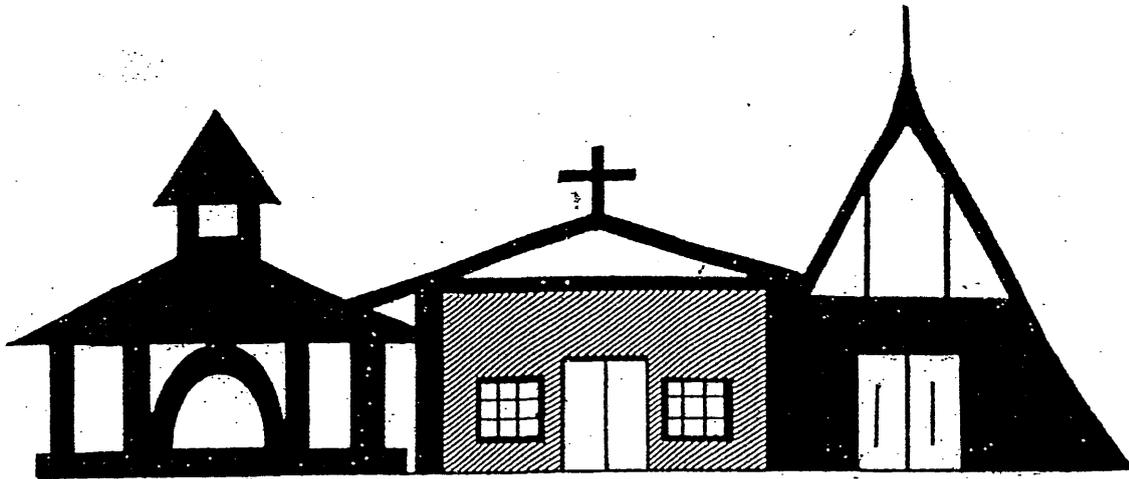
- 2c. If God expects us to pray, we may expect God to answer.
- 5b. Thanksgiving: 1 Tim. 2:1
- 1c. This is the most difficult duty because it looks at leaders from God's viewpoint.
- 2c. In faith we trust that a sovereign God has not erred.
- 6b. Evaluation:
- 1c. The believer is commanded to prove all things:
 1 Thessalonians 5:21
 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
- 2c. The Christian citizen has no right to criticize until he has prayed.
- 3c. Christ condemned the evils of society and government, not civil government itself (e.g. Herod "that fox" cf. Mk. 8:15).
 Luke 13:32
 32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.
- If God expected first century believers to obey (Rom. 13:1ff) and support Rome (Mt. 22:15ff), a heathen, totalitarian and aggressor state, should not we support the USA?

*The
Three
Divine
Institutions*



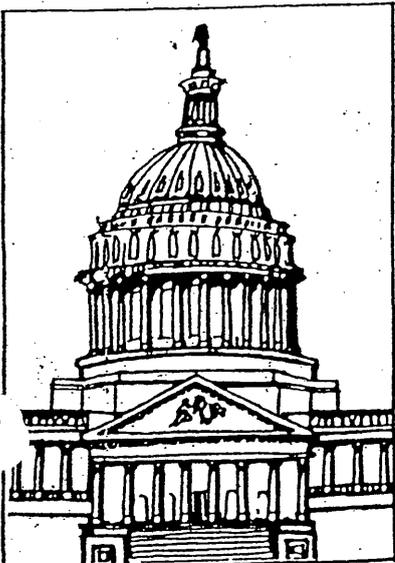
The Home

- To _____ CHRIST'S LOVE
- To _____ CHILDREN
- To _____ THE EARTH



The Church

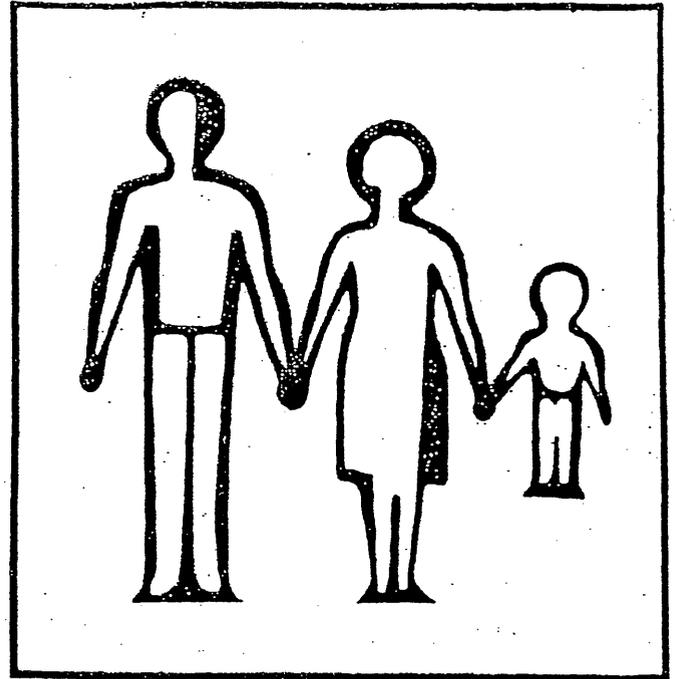
- To _____ THE SAINTS
- To _____ SINNERS
- To _____ THE SAVIOR



Human Government

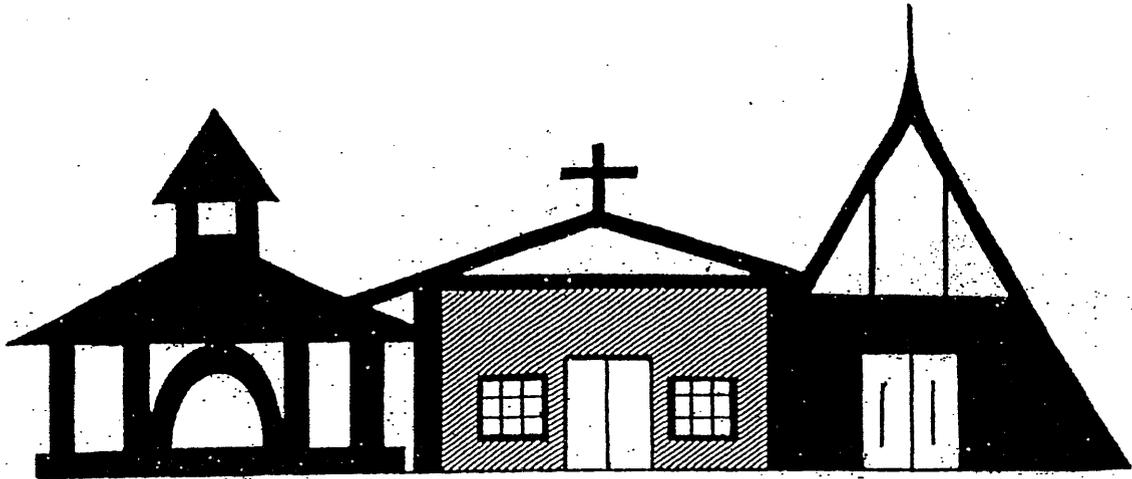
- To _____ THE GOOD
- To _____ EVILDOERS
- To _____ ORDER

*The
Three
Divine
Institutions*



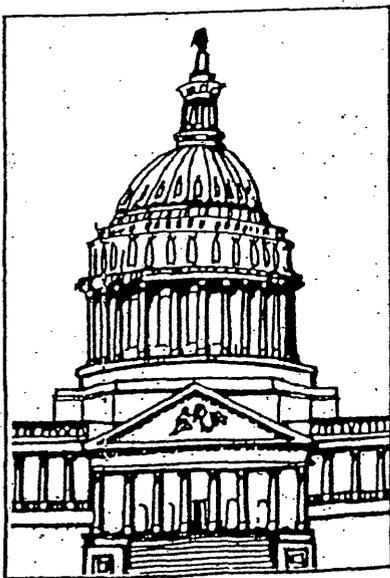
The Home

TO REFLECT CHRIST'S LOVE
TO REAR CHILDREN
TO REPLENISH THE EARTH



The Church

TO EDIFY THE SAINTS
TO EVANGELIZE SINNERS
TO EXALT THE SAVIOR

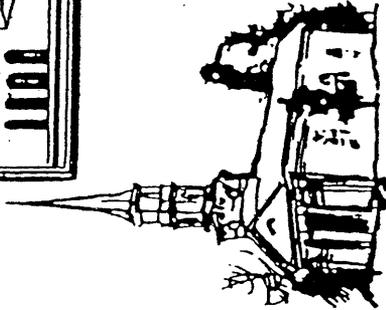
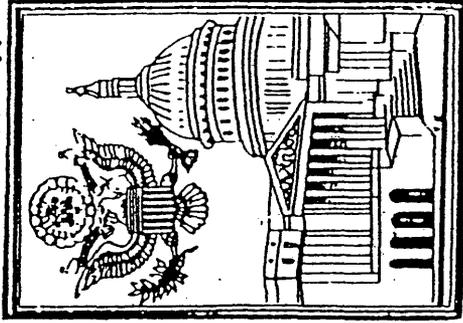


Human Government

TO PROTECT THE GOOD
TO PUNISH EVILDOERS
TO PRESERVE ORDER

WHAT IS A PROXY?

FUTURE



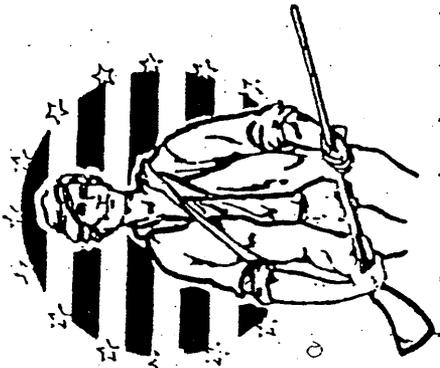
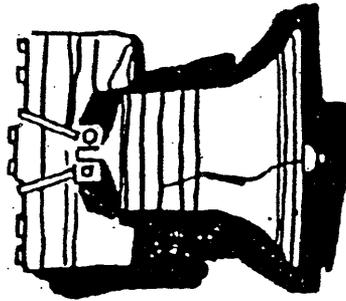
Dedication to America's
Future Prosperity

PRESENT



Discernment of America's
Formidable Problems

PAST



Devotion to America's
Founding Principles

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

AMEK

ELECTION

YEAR

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

SPIRITUAL PROFESSION

MORAL CONDUCT

GUN CONTROL

VIEW OF COMMUNISM

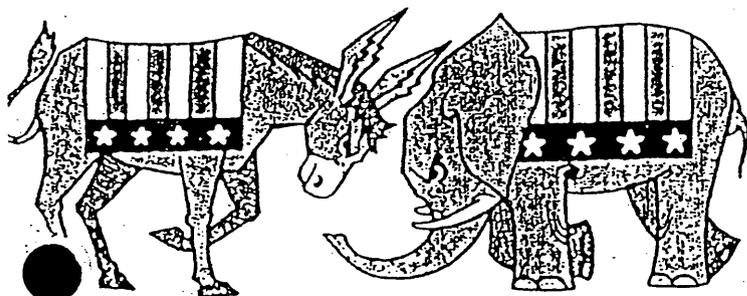
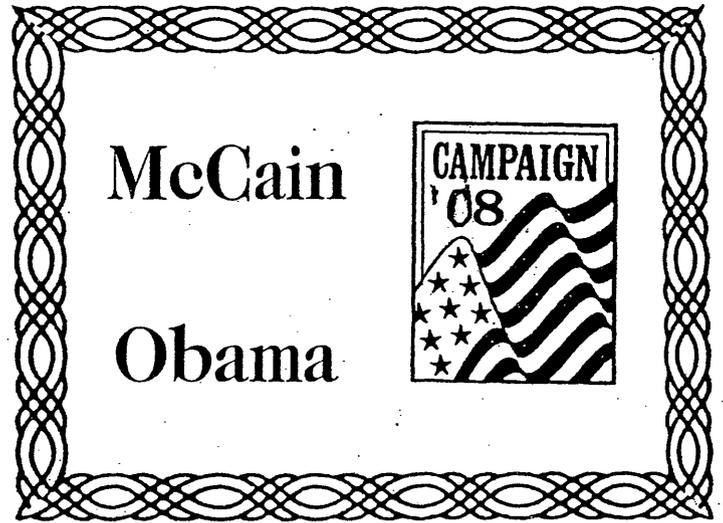
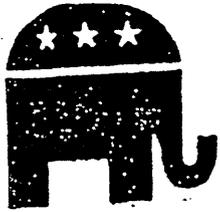
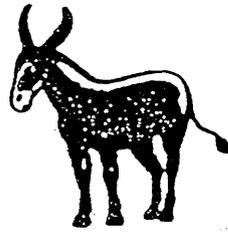
E.R.A.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

HOMOSEXUALITY

WELFARE

ABORTION



A matter of choice.



THE BIBLE BELIEVER AND THE BALLOT BOX

or FOR WHOM DOES A BELIEVER VOTE?

A Christian considers a candidate who:

I. Practices personal morality: Prov. 6:16-19

A. In conversation

B. In conduct

II. Provides national security: 1 Tim. 2:2

A. Discerns the danger

B. Deploys the defenses

III. Protects constitutional rights: Prov. 16:10-15

A. Stays out of private education

B. Supports the ownership of arms

IV. Promotes criminal justice: Rom. 13:4-5, 1 Pet. 2:14

A. Punishes criminals

B. Protects the innocent

V. Proposes ethical standards: Prov. 14:34

A. Objects to the ERA

B. Opposes homosexuality

VI. Protects personal property: 1 Thess. 4:12, 2 Thess. 3:10

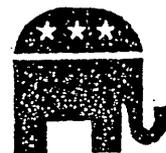
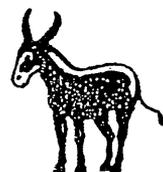
A. Commends the work ethic

B. Curtails welfare

VII. Preserves the sanctity of life: Ps. 94:20-21

A. Rejects abortion

B. Respects life



ELECTION
YEAR