

Session 2:

WHO SHOULD I VOTE FOR?

Who's name and which party do you tick on your ballot paper?

As we continue in our series looking at how to make our votes be an expression of faith, we wrestle today with how to make a wise choice of candidate and party.

Many of us, when we have discussions over politics, always ask, whose side you on? Which party do you back? As believers, we are not voting for someone, we are voting with God. We need to understand that no one party or candidate represents God. God stands alone. I like how one author puts it...

"God didn't come to take sides; he came to take over."

As believers we are to vote for the party, person, or platform that best represents God's heart to advance His kingdom. As a Christian, it is our job to promote God's kingdom heart, and stand in the divide without giving full allegiance to any one party. We are to model ourselves after God—the consummate independent who always votes for Himself. As such, we are to cast our votes according to that which most closely reflects, represents, and promotes the principles, values, and agenda of the kingdom of God.

We have a unique system here in New Zealand where we get to vote for both a party and an individual candidate. But to do this, we need to be informed. We need to make sure we understand what makes each party and candidate tick.

KNOW THE PARTIES CORE VALUES

When it comes to placing our party vote, it's essential that we know what core values or principles drive a political parties' policies and decision making.

This requires us to do some research. We need to know what is at the heart of political decision making. You can do this by researching out each party. We have provided links to help you in this.

So how well does each party align to God's Kingdom values.

When asked what was most important to God, Jesus replied:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

God desires us to have total love and devotion to Him. If we truly do love God with all of our heart and soul and mind, our entire person is focused on giving ourselves to him. We will not want to do anything contrary to his will. We will love our neighbours by giving ourselves to them, and if we truly love them, we will only do to them what is for their good.

Obedience to this twofold commandment fulfils the essence of the teaching of the law.

HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN VOTE?
WHO SHOULD I VOTE FOR?
WHO MAKES THE END OF LIFE CHOICE?
CANNABIS LEGALISATION AND CONTROL?

VOTING AS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH

A FOUR WEEK SERIES EXPLORING
HOW EACH OF YOUR VOTES CAN
BE REFLECTIVE OF THE GOD WE
SERVE.



CHECK YOUR WEDNESDAY EMAIL OR LOOK ONLINE
WWW.KINGSTONCOMMUNITYCHURCH.COM/VOLE-2020

Which parties underlying values best align to this kingdom value?

Take the time to explore on the page we have set up on our website, the values and underlying values of each party, lining them up against God's heart.

You might be surprised what you see.

Jesus is King. It is him who we follow. Let's make sure our party vote is not based on our desire to make a party king. Let's make sure it is to support a party that most fully aligns to the true Kings values and heart.

I appreciate that this is not an easy endeavour, so we must approach it prayerfully. Seeking the heart and mind of God. May we hear him speak.

KNOW THE CHARACTER OF THE CANDIDATES

When it comes to placing our candidate vote, its essential that we know both what core values or principles drive the political party they represent, but also their character and nature.

When God appointed David king, he "sought out a man after his own heart...". I wonder if we too are to be seeking a candidate after God's own heart.

What does this mean? Firstly, it's acknowledging that no one is perfectly after God's heart, but there is definitely a difference between someone who seeks after God's heart and who seeks after their own.

In [Matthew 5](#) we see a snapshot of what it means to seek after God's heart.

It's a person who desires what God desires. It's someone who's...

- poor in spirit -repentant and humble before God.
- mourns the presence of sin in their life and in this world.
- meek and shows passionate restraint and self-control.
- hungers and thirsts after righteousness - rightness not convenience.
- merciful – not revenge seeking.
- pure in heart – seek to be grounded in truth.
- peacemaker – desires people to work together rather than overwhelmingly competitive.
- persecuted for right – stands their ground for truth rather than popular opinion.

Obviously, this would make Jesus the best candidate to vote for, but with Jesus not on the ballot box, which candidate best reflects the nature and character of Christ?

Take the time to explore on the Voting 2020 page we have set up on our website, more about the character and nature of the candidates that are standing. Have a look not only what they say, but how they say it. Don't look at the strength of their debating skills, but the way they debate. How do they treat other people? How do they treat their opponents?

This will take time and maybe even interacting with the candidates.

I appreciate that this is not an easy endeavour, so we must approach it prayerfully. Seeking the heart and mind of God. May we hear him speak.

What criteria are you using to make your decision around both party and candidate?

Christians should support parties and candidates who's values and character are most consistent with biblical teaching.

Who is God guiding you to vote for? Let our votes be an expression of faith.