

Parson to Person

WHY I AM A CONSERVATIVE AND YOU SHOULD BE TOO!

“The Church is the most powerful agency for political and civil leadership change in the United States. This is why the IRS has demanded that 501(c)3 churches agree to the following: *“No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.”*

Please notice that the regulation begins with the words “No substantial part...” This would be best understood as suggesting that the majority of the work of the church is not political or legislative. We would agree. However, most churches interpret this to mean “No part” not, “No *substantial* part.” Therefore, a portion of the activity of the church may *“be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.”*

The local church is (generally speaking) the numerically largest member body of organized persons in the country. The church is therefore an agency or group of people with the numerically largest group of voters in the nation. Therefore, a church with good information and strong leadership can literally change the direction of a city, state, and country – and we should.

We as believers can, in the most positive way, secure for our communities and for our nation, the greatest possible candidates for office: men and women who will hold a biblical standard and properly represent the people they are called to serve. However, many pastors and church leaders are afraid to use their God-given positions to influence legislation and leadership – as if it is an unimportant stewardship to the Christian.

One might suggest that the maintenance of truth and moral or Biblical principles should only apply *within* the local church, but where do we read this? I see no Biblical mandate that suggests that a country that was influenced and developed under the rule of a Judeo/Christian ethic should be allowed to deteriorate into a pagan or humanistic society simply to comply with a so-called prohibition enacted by the government that had already been neglected by Christians and their influences.

The second phrase in the agreed upon regulation says, *“and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.”* Herein note that the regulation does not say that a church cannot publish or distribute a voter guide that includes several or all candidates. It also does not suggest that a church cannot encourage voting or even help with voter registration. Therefore, once again, I suggest that church leaders should help the members of their congregations to obtain good information and act accordingly.

I believe that our stewardship in the political and legislative arena is a mandate – not an optional part of our faith. This may not be the case where believers are born or raised in a country that does not share our foundational principles, but it is here in America – and it certainly was in Israel. The fact that the leadership (and the people) in Israel neglected their God-given commands was the cause of great distress, tragedy, and discipline in their land. It has and will be the cause of demise in our land too.

Today we face unprecedented decline in the American culture. This is no time to walk away from our duty. We have a powerful voice, and we must act upon our moral responsibility. The Church is certainly the most powerful agency for political and civil leadership change in the country.

Therefore, today’s topical “Why I Am a Conservative and You Should Be Too” is designed to show you the Biblical and foundational reasons for our positions, our voice, and our vote.

I love you all, Pastor Paul