

# A Christian Citizen's Responsibility – Part 1

*Living in the Spirit – Part 7*

Life Church St. Louis – October 30, 2016

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Acts 4:17-18 (NIV) But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*

*Acts 4:19-20 (NIV) But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*

## 1. Religious freedom is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God

*1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV) Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

### 1A. Vote for policies that protect the \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV) I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

### 1B. Vote for policies that allow \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV) This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

## 2. You are responsible to \_\_\_\_\_

*Romans 13:1 (NIV) Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

*Romans 13:7 (NIV) Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*

## 2A. Vote for the \_\_\_\_\_ candidate

*Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV) Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”*

## 2B. What your vote \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 22:39 (NIV) And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*

## 3. Vote for the best candidate who can \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalms 82:4 (NIV) Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

### 3A. Voting third-party is helping the \_\_\_\_\_ candidate

*Proverbs 24:10-12 (NIV) If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength! Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?*

### 3B. Vote according to \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 21:2 (NIV) A person may think their own ways are right, but the LORD weighs the heart.*

## Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing.
  - Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Sun
- Pray about the verses and teachings in the message. Share with others.
- Invite your friends, relatives, workmates & neighbors to our Sunday service.

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## Study Guide

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Intro. How did Satan attempt to use the government to stop the witness of the early church (Acts 4:17-18)?

What strategies does Satan use today to try to silence the witness of the church and believers?

What should be our response to government's attempts to silence our witness today (Acts 4:19-20)?

Why do you think there is confusion among some Christians about how to vote in this election?

In what ways is this election a pivotal election in our country's history?

1A. How is religious freedom a gift from God? How could religious freedom be lost in this country (1 Corinthians 4:2)?

1B. According to 1 Timothy 2:1-2, what should our prayers for government and voting be focused upon?

1C. Why are the government's policies towards the church important (1 Timothy 2:3-4)?

1D. Why is a political party's platform important in deciding what a candidate's policies are?

1E. Why should a believer's vote in 2016 be about the candidate's policies and not their moral character?

2A. Why is voting a right and responsibility of every Christian (Romans 13:1, 7)?

2B. How does Jeremiah's instructions to the exiles in Babylon lead us to the principles of voting for the best candidate (Jeremiah 29:7)?

2C. In what ways is voting for a candidate about loving your neighbor and not endorsing everything about the candidate (Matthew 23:29)?

2D. Why should believers not vote based on personal feelings, identity politics or personal offenses?

3A. How does Psalm 82:4 instruct us to vote for the best candidate who can win?

3B. How does voting for a third-party candidate help the worst candidate? What are the consequences according to Proverbs 24:10-12?

3C. Why are our consciences not a reliable guide for voting (Proverbs 21:2)?

3D. What three sources of guidance should direct a Christian's vote?