

How Should We Then Vote?

Series

Lesson #01

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Dean Bible Ministries

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How Should We Then Vote?

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

W H E N in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, enters a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has refused his Assent to Acts, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good, which were passed by the Representatives of the People, chosen for that Purpose, in the most free and regular Proceedings of a General Assembly, united by the same Oath of Allegiance, and united in the same Way of Representation, for the Assent of the People, unless that People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a right on which the Colonies are entitled by the immutable and inalienable Laws of Nature.

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Prov. 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation,

But sin is a disgrace to *any* people.”

Prov. 29:2, “When the righteous rule the people rejoice;”

צְדָקָה (ṣ^edāqâ) justice, righteousness.

Conformity to an ethical or moral standard.

Psa. 11:3, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

**צְדָקָה (*ṣ^edāqâ*) justice, righteousness.
Conformity to an ethical or moral standard.**

**Prov. 24:21, “My son, fear the Lord and
the king;
Do not associate with those given to
change;”**

“In contemporary political liberalism, in stark contrast, ‘reasonableness’ denotes a willingness not to pursue or invoke for vital public purposes what one believes to be the ultimate truth—a willingness based on the judgment that reason will not lead to convergence but will instead subvert a civic peace that can be maintained only if people agree not to make important public decisions on the basis of arguing about what is ultimately true.” [emphasis added]

Stephen Smith, *The Disenchantment of Secular Discourse*

Judges 17:6; 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Application

**Political/National or Individual
Decisions**

This is where
we talk and
argue.

**Ethics: What is right? What is
wrong? What is good or bad?**

**Epistemology (Knowledge):
How do we know truth? Right
from wrong? Just or unjust?**

**Metaphysics: Ultimate reality,
i.e., God, matter, energy,
nothing**

**Logical
Sequence**
These are
the real
issues,
usually
ignored.

Pressures of life

Foundation of *all* thought

Judges 17:6; 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Psa. 145:17, “The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.”

Deut. 32:4, “A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.”

For the Barna worldview survey:

- **believing that absolute moral truth exists;**
- **the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches;**
- **Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic;**
- **a person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works;**
- **Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth;**
and
- **God is the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the world who still rules the universe today.**

James Sire's Theistic (Christian) Worldview

- 1. God is infinite and personal, triune, transcendent and immanent, omniscient, sovereign, and good.**

James Sire's Theistic (Christian) Worldview

- 2. God created the cosmos *ex nihilo* to operate with a uniformity of cause and effect in an open system. Isa. 45:18–19**

James Sire's Theistic (Christian) Worldview

- 3. Human beings are created in the image of God and thus possess personality, self-transcendence, intelligence, morality, gregariousness, and creativity.**

James Sire's Theistic (Christian) Worldview

- 4. Human beings can know both the world around them and God Himself because God has built into them the capacity to do so and because He takes an active role in communicating with them. John 1:1–4, 14**

James Sire's Theistic (Christian) Worldview

- 5. Human beings were created good, but through the Fall the image of God became effaced, though not so ruined as not to be capable of restoration; through the work of Christ, God redeemed humanity and began the process of restoring people to goodness, though any given person may choose to reject that redemption.**

James Sire's Theistic (Christian) Worldview

- 6. For each person death is either the gate to life with God and His people or the gate to eternal separation from the only thing that will ultimately fulfill human aspirations.**

James Sire's Theistic (Christian) Worldview

- 7. Ethics is transcendent and is based on the character of God as good (holy and loving).**
- 8. History is linear, a meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God's purposes for humanity.**

A Judeo-Christian Worldview

- 1. God is the Creator of all things and He created human beings in His image and likeness, giving them value and purpose.**
- 2. The Bible is God's revelation to man and is completely accurate in all that it reveals to man, teaching them how to live wisely in God's creation marred by sin.**
- 3. Sin has corrupted the human race and God's creation.**

A Judeo-Christian Worldview

- 4. God has given principles and laws for the right conduct of the human race, because, as their Creator only He can do this.**
- 5. God continues to oversee and direct His Creation toward His perfect end.**