

CHRISTIAN CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY

Excerpts from Building the Shining City

By: Robert Grant/Christian Voice

Additional comments by Gwendolyn D. Holz and CCRC

For information: 727 391 6972

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick: and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16)

America’s roots are deeply planted in the spiritual legacy of those pilgrims and early forefathers who established this nation “under God”. They were, almost to a man, professing Christians who came to America in search of freedom. Just for one exception, the signers of the American Constitution were Christians.

The idea that America might become a religiously secular country was not conceivable to those men. They did not even feel it was necessary to mention the word Christian in the Constitution.

Religious liberty has always been America’s most cherished freedom!

Christians wrote the Constitution. They ran for public office and served in the highest offices in the land. They established the schools, universities, hospitals and created a general climate of Christian influence throughout American history. In fact, it has only been in the last century that Bible believing Christians have retreated into piety, apathy, or indifference rather than practicing Christian Civil Responsibility. Less than 50% of Christians who are registered take advantage of their privilege to vote.

What has been the result of this apathy? Our freedom is being stolen from us which is tragic and unforgivable. The Constitution is perverted by a willful, religiously secular Supreme Court majority and is being used to erase all recognition of God from American public life. Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law, would begin making law...An oligarchy...the rule of few over many and that is exactly what has happened.

Unfortunately, many of us as Christians have ignored our responsibilities to be active and educated in our political process so America suffers from moral decay.

How can we as Christian citizens expect God to restore righteous leadership through us as his instrument unless we are willing to get involved? Citizenship in a free country is a blessing from God!

The great 18th century British statesman and political thinker Edmund Burke said, **“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”**.

The most effective way to restore righteous rule in America is to elect godly people into positions of leadership.

Christian Citizenship Checklist

Do I pray faithfully for a spiritual revival to sweep America?

Am I a registered voter and is it current?

Do I encourage fellow Christians to register and vote?

Do I become informed about issues that affect the morality of our nation?

Do I select and elect moral candidates for public office?

Do vote for the candidate with integrity regardless of the party or media?

Faith in our Lord implies obligation and duty to serve Him in all areas of our life including citizenship.

Duties as a Christian Citizen

1. Pray
2. Register to vote
3. Become informed
4. Help elect Godly people as public servants
5. Vote.
6. “The duty is ours, the results are God’s” (John Quincy Adams)

God Says, “If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven; and I will forgive their sin; and I will heal their land.” (II Chronicles 7:14) Our highest Christian Civil Responsibility is to pray that God will send a great spiritual awakening to America and that Christians will dedicate themselves to God for spiritual living and active service, and pray daily that men and women of God will be elected to public office at all levels of our government so that our land will be healed.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Ps 33:12a)

In order to practice our citizenship with accountability to God we must register as a qualified voter. We cannot vote until we have taken the necessary steps for registration. Millions of God’s people throughout America are not even registered to vote. Voting is a matter of good stewardship under God.

Organize and participate in a Bible study group to inform yourself and learn how to serve God by applying Biblical principles in the world and in the arena of politics.

The book of Proverbs states a timeless principle “**When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice, but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**” (Prov. 29:2)

Only when you cast your ballot do you fulfill your Christian responsibility in government. It is commonly said that decisions in America are made by a majority of the people. This is not so. Decisions are made by a majority of those who participate. As few as 16% of all eligible voters in a district can elect a member of Congress. Even presidents have been elected by an average of one-half vote per precinct nationwide.

James Madison, the fourth president, known as “The Father of Our Constitution” made the following statement, “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God”.

Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ”.

The very first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said “Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers.”