

HENDERSON HILLS & POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

(August 2012)

Introduction

We are blessed to live in a nation in which its citizens can participate in the selection of their leaders and the formation of their laws. As Christians, we are free and encouraged to be involved in that process, whether by discussing or supporting candidates, parties, and issues, or by voting or running for office. However, the subject in question is not the citizen, but the Church, not the individual, but the institution. What role should the Church, as a corporate body, play in this, or any, political system? Should the Church behave as an action committee, endorsing candidates and parties? Should the Church play a role at all, or should it abandon the political arena altogether?

Protecting the Church

Henderson Hills will not endorse political candidates, platforms, or parties for these reasons:

- *To protect the Church from getting distracted from its divine mission*
The Church, as a corporate body, was established by God for advancing the Gospel¹ and edifying the followers of Christ,² not for the purpose of advancing a political agenda.
- *To protect the Church from false teaching and doctrinal impurity*
By endorsing candidates, the Church is, in essence, condoning their beliefs and behavior, which may or may not align with biblical teaching and which ambitious men may distort and use to their advantage.³
- *To protect the Church from being “unequally yoked”*
Christ and His Kingdom transcend all political candidates, platforms, and parties.⁴ Thus, it is unfitting and unwise for His Church to associate with them; such a union hinders the Church’s effectiveness to minister.
- *To protect the Church from placing its hope in human ability⁵*
By endorsing candidates or parties, the Church is putting its confidence in the abilities of men to transform the culture externally, when men should put their hope in God to transform the culture internally.

The Church has the most critical role to play in the political arena. The hope for society is the Gospel, and the Church is the pillar and support for that hope.⁶ The most powerful tools we have to change the culture is to propagate the Gospel and disciple the saved. We must not substitute politics for the power of Christ to change lives. Sin is the source of all our troubles; Christ, working in the hearts of individuals, is the solution.

At HHBC, we are committed to advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which includes the whole counsel of God for us today; yet, as we stand by God’s clear teaching in Scripture, in regards to life and godliness, we recognize that His standards of truth and morality will, in time, become political, as they confront the beliefs and practices of secular society. Therefore, it is impossible for the Church to operate in isolation from the political arena.

In summary, in order to protect the body of Christ at Henderson Hills, we are choosing to refrain from political endorsements on biblical grounds, and, instead, emphasize only what the Church can and should do -- promote the Gospel as the power of God for salvation,⁷ equip its congregants with a biblical worldview, and encourage them to glorify Christ in society, wherever God may choose to use them.

¹ Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 3:15

² Romans 12:10; 15:14; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

³ 1 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:14, 15; 5:6; Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 6:20

⁴ Matthew 28:18a; John 18:36; 19:11; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:11; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 John 1:6

⁵ Psalm 40:4, 118:8; Proverbs 3:5-7; Ephesians 3: 20-21; Colossians 1:27

⁶ 1 Timothy 3:15

⁷ Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18