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## WHY Should I Vote in Elections?

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### 1. Because I can have a part in choosing the leaders God requires me to be subject to

Rom 13:1-4 <sup>1</sup> Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. <sup>4</sup> For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil.

### 2. Because I am to fulfill my duties as a citizen

"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," (from the *Declaration of Independence*)

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. (The Preamble of the *U.S. Constitution*)

Rom 13:5-7 <sup>5</sup> Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Matt 22:15-22 <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in *His* talk. <sup>16</sup> And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, *you* hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription *is* this?" <sup>21</sup> They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup> When they had heard *these words*, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – October 14, 2012

### 3. Because I am to be concerned about those in authority, and the impact they have on our lives

1 Tim 2:1-8 <sup>1</sup> Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. <sup>3</sup> For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, <sup>7</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. <sup>8</sup> I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

- **Priority** – First of all
- **Practice** – supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanks
- **Prayer Focus** – for kings, and for all in authority
- **Purpose** – that we lead quiet & peaceable lives...
- **Passion** – who would have all men to be saved...

### 4. Because I am to be busy influencing my culture

Matt 5:13-16 <sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- **Salty salt**
- **Shining light**
- **Good works** – Is not voting a good work, as a means of influencing culture? Our primary mission is to "make disciples" and to "be disciple-makers." Teaching those that believe the Gospel to follow Jesus will most definitely impact their politics.