CHRISTIANS AND POLITICS

David Lipscomb, co-editor of the Gospel Advocate and co-founder of Nashville Bible School, now Lipscomb University, believed that Christians should not participate in government or war. Others believed that Christians should participate in government and in war only in supporting roles.

So where government is concerned, from time to time my brethren have been all over the place.

I think it proper to participate in government and if necessary go to war to preserve the freedom we enjoy as Christians and as members of a free society. My college roommate was a “conscientious objector” a category designated by the government for people who objected to fighting but still wanted to serve their country.

Politically and governmentally we are in a mess in this country of ours. I decry the situation as much as any, but as I have always done, I will not allow that sentiment to spill over into the church. I allow others to believe as they like politically, but to keep it out of our pulpits and religion.

The apostle Paul’s attitude toward government should be our attitude. He said, “Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God…. For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. And wouldest thou have no fear of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same: for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience’ sake. For this cause ye pay tribute also; for they are ministers of God’s service, attending continually upon this very thing. Render to
all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.” (Romans 13: ASV)

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