“Is God Republican or Democrat?”
Politics and Social Justice in the Bible

The subject of politics is a tricky one to navigate, especially when combined with a discussion of the Christian faith. What does the Bible have to say about God’s opinion of politics, government, social action, and our responsibilities in these arenas?

I. **God Sits Above Human Politics**

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.
—Acts 17:24-27

Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.”
—Daniel 2:20-21

II. **God Values Justice and Holiness.**

a. He cares for the weak and defenseless (Ps 82:1-4; Prov 29:14).

God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah. Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
—Psalm 82:1-4

b. He values leaders of character (2 Sam 23:2-4).

“The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules
justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.
—2 Samuel 23:2-4

III. God Calls Us To Respond Appropriately.

Our Responsibilities:
• Pray (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
—1 Timothy 2:1-4

• Joyfully obey (1 Peter 2:13-17; Mt 22:15-22).

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
—1 Peter 2:13-17

• Participate wisely (1 Samuel 8-9; Dt 17:14-20).