

CHURCH CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2022



RENDER TO CAESAR

When Jesus said we should “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s” (Matt. 22:21), He put His stamp of approval on the need for government; but He was not approving everything Caesar might do. Later Paul would echo Jesus’ doctrine when he declared that the “powers that be are ordained of God” (Rom. 13:1). Again, Paul was not defending every decision of government, but only the necessity of government. Further, both Jesus and Paul taught we should submit to government as indicated by the word *render* and the phrase “be subject to.”

Most students of God’s Word understand the concept of government to be God-ordained. Sinful man needs government to constrain him, by punishing evil-doers and rewarding the good (e.g., Gen. 9:6, Rom. 13:1-7). Just as God entrusted the stewardship of creation to humankind, He has also entrusted the stewardship of governing well to humans. The problem with government is less an issue of its structure and more an issue of the fallenness of those in positions of authority.

So, what are we to do? Since government is God’s provision for our protection, we think it is good and right for believers to seek to influence government for good. In fact, love of neighbor seems to compel us to want to make a difference in how our government operates, since government impacts virtually every area of our lives.

In the US, we are blessed to get to vote for those who will govern us. As believers, our ultimate allegiance is to the

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STRENGTHENING,
PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**Tuesday, Nov. 8,
Election Day. Please be
sure to vote!**

Early voting begins on
October 25. For more infor-
mation visit myvote.wi.gov.

You’re Invited!

2022 Community Events!
“Your Backyard: Own It!”

Thursday, Oct. 6
Machine Shed
6-8 p.m.
Appleton

Thursday, Oct. 13
Pizza Ranch (Ashwaubenon)
6-8 p.m.
Green Bay

Thursday, Oct. 20
TBD
6-8 p.m.
Eau Claire

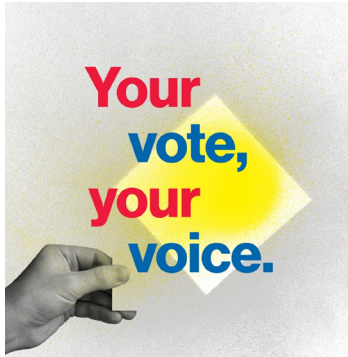
Thursday, Oct. 27
TBD
6-8 p.m.
Oshkosh

Scan to get
more infor-
mation or
to RSVP for
our events!



“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

Rom. 13:11-12



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Kingdom of God. While on earth, however, it is good and right for us to seek the welfare of our communities, even as the Israelites were expected to do while in captivity (Cf. Jer. 29:4-7). One way we do this is by being good stewards of our citizen privileges, which includes being a good steward of the right to vote.

In everything we do, we are to seek to glorify God (I Cor. 10:31). What does it look like to honor God with the stewardship of your vote? First, it means we should be involved in every election. Since those elected will be making decisions that impact every aspect of our lives, why would we neglect this opportunity to be salt and

light in our communities, our state, and our country?

Second, we believe it means that we vote for candidates who share values revealed to us in God's eternal Word. At a minimum, good candidates for elected office are those who will defend God's plan for marriage and family, human sexuality, the sanctity of life, and the rights of individuals to live their faith in the public square, or what we call religious liberty as guaranteed to us in the Bill of Rights. These issues are first and foremost biblical and moral issues, not political issues. The fact that they have become politicized is not our fault. As a well-known Christian leader has observed, Christians did not start the culture wars; but we cannot evade them either.

Our hope is in the Lord and not in any particular government, political party, or elected official. Nevertheless, by God's grace, let us as His people, commit ourselves to making a difference for the good of our families, neighbors, and ministries and for God's glory, by being good stewards of our privileges, as we "render to Caesar."

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

From time to time we like to recommend resources we believe are helpful. In this election season there are several that we believe are worth your time. *Biblical Principles for Political Engagement: Worldview, Issues, and Voting*, by David Closson is very helpful. A lot is packed into this 39 page booklet, which is available from our office. A longer work that many will find helpful is *The Good Citizen: A Four-Step Guide to Gospel-Centered Citizenship*, by Josh Hershberger. This 213 page work is both Biblical and practical. *How the Nations Rage: Rethinking Faith and Politics in a Divided Age*, by Jonathan Leeman, is another work we have found to be especially clear and engaging. A smaller but very helpful work is *One Nation Under God: A Christian Hope for American Politics*, by Bruce Ashford and Chris Pappalardo. Works like these will help you focus on the truth of God's Word in the midst of a culture deeply divided by partisan politics (I Thess. 5:21).

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers, and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

"Church Connection" is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

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