

Peace & Harmony and Let It Begin With Me

The votes have been cast and, as we have heard, it may take some time to determine the final tally. With many of the contests evenly divided there are strong feelings on both sides. In many parts of the country political ads leading up to Election Day were very negative, increasing anxiety and despair among many people. That, on top of the ongoing pandemic, social unrest, protests and frequent natural disasters has put Americans on edge. I have no desire to comment on the results of any race, but only to pass on God's guidance on how we should move forward as people of faith. The real question is: how would Jesus want us to respond?



These are tough times for us but we need to remember that Jesus lived through even more tumultuous times. Listen to what He said: *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority (1 Peter 2:13).*

The Apostle Paul echoed that statement and also reminded us that God is the source of the governing authorities. God knows that governing authorities are necessary to manage the day-to-day business on earth. Paul said, *Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Paul continued: Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves (Romans 13:1-2).*

Our democracy is based on the Constitution and the rule of law. For people of faith there is another dimension. The Christian life is based on the Word of God and God's love for all people. God desires that His people would *live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:6)* and in peace. Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (John 14:27).*

Jesus set the perfect example for us to remember regarding our leaders. Even at the time of his unjust trials and suffering, Jesus did not rebel. He submitted to the authorities and He entrusted himself to God. *He did not retaliate when He was insulted, nor threatened revenge when he suffered. (1 Peter 2:23).*

Jesus had a higher purpose. The familiar verse from John 3:17 remind us, *For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.* With Jesus as our example we can be an instrument of peace, extending God's love to others.

During 2020 it is abundantly clear that we need a course correction. It certainly is not the first time that a course adjustment was needed in our world. Harmony is how we react in love to the world around us. One definition of harmony says: "the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect." When we work in harmony we are blending together with others to create something beautiful. We need people of faith to take the lead, act in love, and trust God with our long term future. Let us make the decision to submit to the authorities, as Paul said, for the Lord's sake. Then let us each do our part in the chord of the harmony God desires for us. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Question: How does Jesus want us to respond to our world going forward?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Our nation needs the healing that can only come from your love shared by us with others. Let us learn to submit to our leaders. You did not come to condemn the world, but to save it. We pray that we can help spread the Good News and love of Jesus Christ as we desire peace and harmony. Amen.