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WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN A NATION?

With the present political drama throughout our country, I think we need to address the role that the true church leaders and Christians in general should be playing in our nation.

Jesus' last words in Matthew 28:19-20 give us some indication as to what our role as Christians is. He said, ***"¹⁹ Go ye (the disciples) therefore, and teach all nations (all ethnic groups), baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.***

When Jesus walked this earth there was great political oppression, but the greatest oppression that he encountered was the leadership of the Pharisees and Sadducees in the synagogue. Their rules and regulations had permeated the entire lives of those Jews that lived at that time. Don't do this. Don't do that. Wash your hands, etc. Jesus was constantly in opposition with their self-righteousness. Some didn't believe in the resurrection, while others were into ceremonial rituals. There was great pride among the leadership.

Jesus followers were common fishermen, farmers, shepherds, and beggars. He ate with sinners and had former prostitutes follow him. He gave them hope through his words, not by being a political activist. Judas was a zealot. The zealots wanted Messiah to come and set up his kingdom so that all the oppression from their "enemies" would be ended. They used violence to try to bring this about. There were many like them.

When Jesus was confronted about a coin and what it represented His simple answer was render unto Caesar (the government) what is due and render unto God what is due him. He paid his taxes and Peter's with a coin found in a fish's mouth.

What I am saying, is that he preached the Word of God that transformed lives and said little about the government. Many of those that had their lives changed through his ministry were in the government, like the centurion, and others. This changed those around them because they were changed from the inside out.

After Pentecost, the disciples became bold to preach the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. This gave many hope, and they repented. They didn't join a political party. They joined the body of Christ. Truly it turned the world upside down with the message they preached.

This is what the church is supposed to do. It is to preach the Word of God to bring men and women to conviction and salvation. Then they are to be discipled and trained in the things of the scripture to become strong Christians in their workplace, homes, marriages, school, the government and whatever they put their hand to. This is what changed the early church, and this is what can change nations today.

Yes, there are those called to government positions. Yes, there are those called to be leaders in communities and in the schools. The church's job is to equip them spiritually so that it reflects in all they do. We need Church leaders that get the basics into their "sheep" so they can reflect Jesus in their communities. Then and only then will a nation change.

You cannot legislate righteousness my friends. ***Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.*** (Proverbs 14:34)

Let us resolve to go into all the world and make a difference. This is doing what Jesus said, and it is being about the Father's business.