

BIC Civic Engagement Through the Years

(the following is a shortened list from the longer one printed last week)

- 1780 BIC Confession of Faith forbids “bearing the sword” or “swearing pledges”
- 1880 General Conference prohibits joining political organizations
- 1882 General Conference exempts school board elections from the category of “political elections”
- 1894 General Conference cautions against holding public office to avoid involvement in political “strife”
- 1913 General Conference charges BIC to bear a clear testimony on moral issues of public interest (e.g., temperance and tobacco)
- 1939-1945 World War II: BIC in U.S. divided on loyalty to nonresistant position
- 1953 Many BIC vote for Dwight D. Eisenhower
- 1959 General Conference affirms voting as “a matter of individual conscience”
- 1986 BIC *Articles of Faith and Doctrine* read, “Selective involvement in the affairs of government is appropriate for believers if loyalty to Christ and the principles of His kingdom are carefully guarded”
- 2006 86.8% say that church leaders should try to influence government leaders on issues like war and poverty (*Church Member Profile, 2006*)
- 2006 88% of BIC members reported they voted in the most recent federal election (higher than the general population (*Church Member Profile, 2006*))

Remaining weeks in this series

- October 19 Sanctity of Life (Abortion)
- October 26 Sanctity of Life (War)
- November 2 Marriage and Homosexuality

When Kingdoms Collide: Christians and Politics (VI)

Pastor Alan Robinson, October 12, 2008

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

(18) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: (19) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (20) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 3:13-17

(13) Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? (14) But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." (15) But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (16) keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (17) It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 2:11-17

(11) Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. (12) Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (13) Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, (14) or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. (15) For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. (16) Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. (17) Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.