



Why It Matters What Leaders We Choose

1 Government has a shepherd

All of God's institutions have shepherds; government is no different. As pastors are shepherds of the Church, biblically, the "kings" are shepherds of government. And "kings" still shepherds our governments today. In the U.S., the "king" is no longer just one person, but at the state level is represented by legislators, judges, and the governor. Similarly at the federal level, the "king" is divided between members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, and the president.

2 But what kind of shepherd?

In John 10:7-18, Jesus describes three different kinds of leaders: the hireling, thief, and good shepherd. Every leader falls into one of these categories. In the realm of government, the hireling is the politician looking to please people and be liked. The thief is the tyrant whose aim is power and personal gain. The shepherd is the statesman who lays down their life – even and including their career – for the people they serve, just as Christ did for the world.

3 God's shepherds of government have a higher calling

Jesus is not only the Head of the Church (Col. 1:8); He is also the head of government. For throughout the Scriptures, Jesus is referred to as the "King of kings" (1 Tim. 6:15). In 1 Peter 5, Peter calls the elders of the Church to look to Christ as their example, as a sacrificial shepherd, who lays down His life for the sheep. Today's governing shepherds have the same calling – to look to the "King of kings," who emptied it all at the Cross (Phil. 2) for the sake of the people. Jesus turned the world's ideas of power and leadership upside down, for He is no less the King of government's kings than He is King of the Church.

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4 Good shepherds bring blessing to the people

Our communities today deeply need a shepherd’s heart. Our communities need the guardian, the protector, and the selfless example worthy of being followed that shepherds provide. And when shepherds look to Christ and His Word in order to govern, their leadership is marked with character, justice, and love. They pass righteous laws, judge with truth and mercy, stand against corruption, and put the needs of the people before their own. When government authorities lead as shepherds, entire nations are blessed.

5 We choose our governing shepherds

In America, we have the opportunity to choose who holds these positions of authority. The Church – perhaps better than anyone else – truly understands the high calling of a shepherd, and its voice is needed to determine who is best to shepherd our communities, our states, and our nation. As Paul stated, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ,” Christians must select leaders who look to Christ as their ultimate example.



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