Dual Citizenship

**Dangerous Subject:**

What I’m teaching today is kind of a dangerous topic.

3 reasons I’m teaching it…

 1 – It’s Timely

 2 – It’s important – Revealing or confounding the identity & character of God

 3 – I think you can handle it. You are mature Christians that won’t fly off the handle.

So what is it that we are talking about today…

We had an election this past week.

* The most negative election
* A close popular vote – nearly 50%

How big of a problem was it? A quick glance at social media revealed a lot of turmoil. Social media gives a fairly authentic look into the lives of people…

My Facebook newsfeed gave an accurate portrayal of the negative 50/50 election.

50% Gloating and 50% Doomsdaying

50% Thank you Jesus & 50% This begins the end of days

50% God is blessing us & 50% God is cursing us

This divide was not simply Christian and Non-Christian. There is a divide amongst Christians…

Let’s take a look at some of these Facebook posts.

**<SLIDES>**

I understand being bummed that your politician lost.

I understand being excited that your politician won.

I understand looking to God and faith to understand these feelings.

Let’s go back to slide 1.

**QUESTION**

Does God decide the election? Does God appoint the ruler? Is it true what she said about 6 people voting vs 6000?

The scripture she is referencing…

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV) Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. **2**Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

It says that God establishes the authorities… Our facebook friend takes that to mean God chooses all our government officials. What a predestinists can of worms… Let’s play this out…

The worst leaders the world has ever had – God’s fault.

**<Slide 2>** This is the thought behind my other friends FB post…

What a slippery slope this is.

As is the case with predestination… it’s hard to argue… for or against

I once was asked to preach and I joked… I’ll plan to preach on predestination.. If it happens… it must have been God’s will…

If something happens… God wanted that. If something doesn’t happen… God didn’t want that. Do we really believe that everything that happens in this world is something God wanted? No way… Seems like faulty theology…

If Romney had 6000 votes and Obama only had 6 but God chose Obama…

This is a denial of free will right? Should we even vote then? How involved should we be in the political process if it’s all going to play to God’s design anyway…?

So does God choose? What is it? - Yes and No

**We want a king!**

There are places in your Bible where God hand-picked a King.

1 Samual 8:6-7 (NIV) **6**But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. **7**And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

Israel had no king but God. God’s Kingdom and their Kingdom were 1 and the same. They had no idea how good they had it. They lived in a Theocracy and demanded a Democracy.

Samuel tells Israel what they were really asking for. Vs 10 to 17 Samuel tells them everything this king will TAKE. There is literally nothing he will give… he will take.. The people resond..

1 Samuel 8:19-22( NIV) **19**But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. **20**Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

**21**When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before theLord. **22**The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”

So how would God give them a king? Donkeys (Not the democrat kind… not making a political statement.)

1 Samuel 9:3 (NIV) **3**Now the donkeys belonging to Saul’s father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, “Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys.”

Saul and his servant set out to find these lost donkeys. They can’t find these donkeys and their search lead them close to the village of the Prophet Samuel. They decide to go ask the prophet where the donkeys are…

1 Samuel 9:15-16 (NIV) **15**Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel:**16**“About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me.”

So Saul walks up to Samuel… Hey do you know where the prophet/seer is?

1 Samuel 9:19-20 (NIV) “I am the seer,” Samuel replied. “Go up ahead of me to the high place, for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning I will send you on your way and will tell you all that is in your heart. **20**As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them; they have been found.

Ok… Let’s sort this out. See if we can get some application.

This story starts with the will of the people. We want a King.

Then in this case God selected the King… He even created the circumstance that would bring Saul face to face with Samuel. HOWEVER there is no reason to believe that God predestined/predetermined this from the creation of the world.

When the people asked for a king – God set this plan into motion.

**God can and will get involved… pray. Prayer is more valuable than a vote.**

So God picked Obama over Romney… Not so fast…

It would be a mistake to take an instance or 2 where God clearly got involved in the selection of leaders and then declare that God always gets involved.

Can God get involved? Yes – He is God

Does God always get involved? No.

In the book of Judges there are a lot of crazy ugly stories… the last verse of the book of Judges…

Judges 21:25 (NIV) In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

The actions in this book weren’t God’s doing… everyone did as they saw fit.

**God gets involved…**

At times when we ask Him to get involved and are involved ourselves.

 We see him especially get involved when it involves His primary plan – Jesus/Prophesy

Sometimes his involvement is hand selecting a king/deliverer… sometimes it’s in turning away. Turning away is its own kind of involvement.

Sometimes he simply let’s the people have what they want… even if it hurts them…

4 points..

1. God has the ability and right to ordain them and their leaders

2. Man has the ability and right to set up leaders without even consulting God

3. To fulfill His Word, God will indeed appoint or ordain a nation or leader for His purposes

4. Every nation or leader is NOT ordained by God for they are not involved with His purposes

God can and does ordain governments as well as rulers of those governments. It is His privilege as Almighty God to do so. He can ordain whomever He wants for He is a sovereign God. But it cannot be accurately said that EVERY government in the history of this world was ordained by God. It cannot be said that EVERY president, governor, mayor and local policeman is ordained by God.

But what about Romans 13:1…?

Romans 13:1 (NIV) Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

In every situation God is the true authority…

There are other kingdoms of this world… Then there is God’s kingdom!

THEY ARE NOT THE SAME.

 Don’t Freak out. Don’t be overjoyed in these worldly kingdoms.

THEY ARE NOT EQUAL.

 God’s Kingdom is on top of the pile.

YOU ARE A DUAL CITIZEN

**Render unto Caesar… Render unto God**

**Mark 12:14-15 (NIV)** Is it right to pay the imperial tax**[**[**b**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24688b)**]** to Caesar or not? **15**Should we pay or shouldn’t we?”

V 17 Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

BE A GOOD CITIZEN Watch your political involvement

Do you want to know God’s will? Will for America? Was it Obama or Romney?

Neither!

His will is Jesus Christ.

What should our message be right now… Homosexuality, drug use, abortion, death penalty, welfare…

Our Message is Jesus! Although we are dual Citizens our primary allegiance is to God’s Kingdom.

Revelation 11:15 (NIV) The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."