

HELP FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH SENATORS

Biblically, what is the job of elected officials?

1. Uphold justice and righteousness as God's servant (Romans 13:1-4)
2. Be accountable to God and obey His law, recognizing a higher authority (2 Samuel 23:3)
3. Exercise limited, delegated, and specified authority from God (Romans 13:1)
4. Rule justly, as defined by God's Word, without compromise (Psalm 82:3-4)
5. Govern in the fear of God, prioritizing God's opinion over constituents (Proverbs 29:25)
6. Protect and commend those who do good (1 Peter 2:14)
7. Restrain wickedness and execute judgment on evildoers (Romans 13:3-4)
8. Administer the law fairly and impartially (Leviticus 19:15)
9. Fear God rather than man (Matthew 10:28)

Human wisdom versus God's wisdom: Only God is wise

- "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5
- "Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become 'fools' so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight". 1 Cor 3:18-19
- "So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power". 1 Cor 2:5
- "Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ". Colossians 2:8
- "Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil" Proverbs 3:7

Do not show partiality: God is impartial and expects us to treat even "the least of these" equally

- "You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike; you shall not be afraid of the face of man, for the judgment is God's." Deuteronomy 1:17
- "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." Deuteronomy 10:17
- "Do not deny justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." Deuteronomy 16:19
- "For God does not show favoritism." Romans 2:11
- "My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory." James 2:1
- "To show partiality is not good; yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread." Proverbs 28:21

Do not pervert justice: God is just and calls us to bring forth justice

- "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly." Leviticus 19:15
- "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice." Exodus 23:2
- "Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due to the alien, the fatherless, and the widow." Deu 27:19
- "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." Leviticus 19:15
- "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord." Proverbs 17:15

Do not murder: God made man in His own image

- "You shall not murder" Exodus 20:13. This commandment is also repeated in Deuteronomy 5:17.
- "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' Matthew 5:21
- There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19
- "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." John 8:44

Child sacrifice is an abomination: God abhors the practice of child sacrifice / abortion

- "And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD" Leviticus 18:21
- "You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods." Deu 12:31
- They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. Jeremiah 32:35

When punishment for evil is delayed: people become emboldened to continue in their wicked ways

- "Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil." Ecclesiastes 8:11
- "Though grace is shown to the wicked man, he does not learn righteousness. In the land of righteousness, he acts unjustly and fails to see the majesty of the LORD." Isaiah 26:10
- "But suppose that servant is wicked and says in his heart, 'My master will be away a long time.' And he begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards." Matthew 24:48-49
- Their feet run to evil and make haste to shed innocent blood. Isaiah 59:7

Magistrates are God's servants: appointed by God to seek justice, protect the innocent, punish wrongdoers

- Romans 13:1-4 describes magistrates as "God's servants" who are to be a terror to bad conduct, not good conduct. They are given authority to execute God's wrath on wrongdoers.
- Proverbs 8:15-16 states that by wisdom, kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just.
- Psalm 82:3-4 calls on rulers to defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed.
- 2 Samuel 23:3 emphasizes that those who rule over people must be just, ruling in the fear of God.
- Ezra 7:25 instructs the appointment of just magistrates and judges to administer justice to all people.
- Isaiah 10:1-2 God condemns unjust judges and those who create unfair laws that oppress the poor and deny rights to the needy
- Micah 3:11-12 Leaders who make decisions around personal gain while claiming to depend on God are rebuked.
- Jeremiah 22:17 Rulers who are greedy, dishonest, and oppress the poor face divine judgment.
- Isaiah 1:23 those who accept bribes and neglect the vulnerable, such as orphans and widows, incur God's wrath
- Jeremiah 23:1, Ezekiel 34:10 God holds wicked leaders accountable for exploiting and scattering His people