

## **Is God a Republican?**

The polls say most evangelical Christians are Republicans. Which brings up an interesting question: Is God a Republican?

I don't mean that literally, of course. But if most evangelical Christians are Republicans, and their political outlook is shaped by their faith, doesn't that mean that God at least generally favors Republican views? That Democratic views are somewhat suspect to a real, believing Christian?

Well, look at it this way. We know that God's ways are not our ways; that his thoughts are far beyond ours; that we cannot even begin to comprehend divine wisdom.

So which is more likely, that a single political party, whether Republican or Democratic, has managed to align itself with God's view on all major issues, leaving the other party, of course, opposed to God on all major issues? Or that one of the political parties more accurately reflects God's ideas on some issues, while on other issues the other party comes closer to God's thinking?

The second answer makes more sense to me. But that raises a further question. How should Christians decide which issues call for a Republican vote and which issues belong to the Democrats?

As in other areas of life, the Bible should be our guide. True, it doesn't say much, even indirectly, about many issues facing us today. But it certainly lays down some fundamental principles, and it even directly addresses a few current issues.

Without trying to be contentious, I would say that among the high biblical priorities are justice for the poor; respect for life; honesty and fairness in government; personal freedom; integrity of the family, including marriage; and care for the earth and its resources. There may be others.

What I do not find in the Bible is support for rule by the rich and powerful, including large corporations; aggressive use of armed forces; or a "sink or swim" or "pull yourself up by the bootstraps" mentality toward the poor and outcasts of society.

Looking over the previous two paragraphs, it seems obvious to me that the Republicans are closer to biblical truth on some issues, such as respect for life, personal freedom, and integrity of the family, while Democrats come closer on other issues, such as justice for the poor, care for the earth, rule by the rich and powerful, aggressive use of armed forces, and punitive attitudes toward the poor and outcasts of society.

Although all Christians may not agree with this allocation of issues, what is important is the process of applying biblical standards in the attempt to discern which political party comes the closer, on particular issues, to reflecting God's will as revealed in the Bible.

Of course, as soon as we engage in that process we have answered the question we started with: Is God a Republican? No, God is not a Republican. Or a Democrat either. He really seems to be pretty independent when it comes to politics.