



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leaders: Who is Your Audience?

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Our recent studies have addressed reform, cleaning up our communities, our state, and nation. There is always resistance to reform whether addressing the life of an individual or the culture of a society. The purpose of this study is to help us keep our focus when we are criticized, even attacked for helping people to flourish in life and win the favor of Almighty God.

INTRODUCTION

Most of our readers have just gone through a most difficult primary election ordeal. You have practiced communication tactics like making eye contact with the audience, the prospective voters, even when it is the moderator who asks the question. Leaders get a variety of feedback. The challenge is to separate that which requires our attention from which is merely noise. The questions are these: who are you accountable to, and who is in a position to judge your performance?

BE CAREFUL IN CRITICIZING

Romans 14:4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.¹

“We the people” establish civil government in the USA. Elections put in place those leaders who serve for a season. We are obliged to treat our elected and appointed officials with the respect due their position. The Scriptures require us to pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Are we faithful to honor our leaders and pray for them? Jesus said: ***“Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and give to God the things that are God’s”*** (Mark 12:17). Are we faithful to honor God? His Ten Commandments can be divided into four that are “vertical” and six that are “horizontal” (Deuteronomy 5:6-21). Jesus was asked which were most important. He answered, ***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*** (Matthew 22:37-41).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Your local newspaper management and staff endorsed the candidate who lost the election. Now they publish mostly negative stories about you, the voter’s choice, being critical while barely touching on accomplishments. What Scriptures deal with this?
2. You did not get enough votes to win, and the campaign was harsh. You wonder how the people and your Lord failed you. What Scriptures help you cope?
3. Your public praise and prayer acknowledging Jesus bothers some critics who suggest you keep such private, or give equal provision to other religions, sects, and cults. Are there Scriptures that address this?

DISCUSSION SCRIPTURE

The people have spoken, and God has honored their choice. ***Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed*** (Romans 13:7). ***Respect for the Lord will teach you wisdom. If you want to be honored, you must be humble*** (Proverbs 15:33).

We do not need to know why, but only to trust God. ***Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him*** (Psalm 91:14-15).

In issues of faith, the Lord is our audience. ***“Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand”*** (Romans 14:4).

A PRAYER

My Lord and my God, please help me through these difficult days. I do not understand but look to You. Help me to trust You and Your ways in this period of uncertainty and loss. Increase my faith. I pray in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (Good News Publishers) 2001