christian advance archives

# the political ramifications of discipleship

**The Political Ramifications of Discipleship**

2020 was one for the record books in a number of ways. Obviously, it was a contentious political year with high stakes ramifications for whomever you voted for. What does making disciples of Jesus Christ have to do with the politics of 2022 or 2024? Discipleship or investing in other’s spiritual growth is the key to the future trajectory of any country including the United States. Jesus knew this would be true when proclaiming the Great Commission, but winning politics isn’t the object, transformation is.[[1]](#footnote-1)  Yet, discipleship invariably effects politics.

Depending where you look the vast majority of evangelical Christians voted for traditional morals and conservative candidates. The policy platform of one party appealed significantly more to the majority of Hispanic, Asian, Caucasian and African American evangelicals than the party platform of another. This is not a majority of Americans but it is 75-80% of evangelicals.[[2]](#footnote-2)

What are the actual numbers? Well, out of the 75 million that voted for conservative candidates, one out of five votes were evangelical. This means the total number would be around 15 million. This is where an active church comes in as being salt and light to a culture like the United States. If the Church took the Great Commission seriously and each evangelical who voted would disciple just one person, the odds are 80% of those folks are going to vote for one party over the other. Statistically, 20% of evangelicals are going to vote the other way.

Depending on your stance of progressive, liberal, conservative, libertarian this idea my make the hair on your arms stand up or bring a warm fuzzy feeling. If 15 million grew to 27 million in the next four years and if those Christians voted, the conservative wave would be overwhelming. This just if each discipled one person. Most folks who disciple are investing in far more numbers which would multiply the affect significantly. If the Church continued to obey the Great Commission the United States would not relinquish a pro-life, pro-second amendment, pro-free speech, small government, more freedom, less regulation, stronger military, law and order, strong boarders, religious freedom stance for the foreseeable future because that political bent would just continue to grow.

Universities and public schools would have to change the way they educate. Originalist Supreme court nominees would run the table and a strong adherence to the constitution as written would be a no-brainer in society. Abortion and Roe v. Wade would be overturned. Big Tech would be held accountable. Businesses, entertainment and advertising would have to mention Christianity and do so in an ever-increasing positive light. Life would change.

These are a small glimpse of secular life changes. Transformation of human lives goes way beyond these. An exponential grow of healing relationships could take place in society. Old and new alike would grow in loving God and loving their neighbor. Actual justice would take root. Neighborhoods and communities would help those in need who live in their towns and attend their churches. Addiction, abuse, divorce, bankruptcy would have a real chance of finding healing and help. Discipleship makes a difference. Elections have consequences and so does making disciples.

Now it is blatantly obvious that Jesus didn’t command Christians to make disciples so that they could have political clout or see politics as the answer to anything. My proposal is that this would be a natural outcome of followers of Christ making other followers of Christ. The very act of following Christ is to have Him lead in all circumstances including who you vote for and if you vote at all.

There are around 5,300 colleges and universities in the United States.[[3]](#footnote-3) In general, they are turning out students who see following Christ as the central point of human life. Some are. Sadly, most are not. As a result, disciples of secular humanism are being made. Disciples favoring politically liberal policies are being made. Disciples of the religion of progressivism are being made every day.[[4]](#footnote-4) There are around 380,000 churches.[[5]](#footnote-5) Some “liberal”, most “conservative” theologically and politically.

When a revival comes it changes things. Obedience to the Great Commission is never ending. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see that a movement from 15 to 27 million (taking into consideration the 80% – 20% divide) is a distinct possibility over the next four years. Then a very conservative estimate for 2028 would be 48.5 million.

When a society falls from Christian to post-Christian, it is the Christians who are at fault. Refusal to obey Jesus’ commands in day to day living and ignoring the Great Commission is a key factor to Christianity’s decline in America. It is the refusal to live Christ-like in culture. It is the refusal to speak boldly and be salt and light to a decaying society that allows a nation to crumble from within. Do not be under the impression that the secular world is not producing disciples who believe the doctrines of a secular world.

Is multiplication the kind of change on the horizon for followers of Jesus Christ? Is this the future of those who say they have been “born-again”? Or is persecution their future, especially because evangelicals are an obstacle in the way of progressives, who are currently at the helm, and their political goals?

All that being said, making disciples is Jesus’ command regardless of the political ramifications of a progressive or conservative, free market or socialist America. Regardless of persecution or freedom we must obey, if we say we are His followers. Make disciples and the let the chips fall where they may. Free from fear, we can live boldly trusting in an unfailing God.

1. The Great Commission is found in Matthew 28:16-20. Jesus commands His disciples to go make disciples. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Google the breakdown of the 2020 election at sites like NPR, The Guardian and Gallup. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Google, How many colleges and universities are there in the United States? (educationunlimited.com). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Rod Dreher, *Live Not By Lies,* Sentinel, 2020 (Chapter Three, Progressivism as Religion). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Google, How many Christian churches are there in the United States? (beaconjournal.com). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)