

Welcome

What top 3 traits do you look for in a candidate during elections? What makes those traits important in electing a public servant?

Review

What qualities make for a good leader?

1. QUALITIES OF GOOD LEADERS

Using the leadership standards set by the World Bank and the United Nations, a good leader should be effective, empowering and ethical. This criterion points to a good balance of CHARACTER AND COMPETENCE.

2. MINISTERS AND SERVANTS OF GOD IN THE GOVERNMENT

¹ “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.”- Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, we rightfully give the government our respect and submission because it is God who put it in place. Government leaders are given the responsibility to promote the two basic functions of governance: doing what is right, and to restrain wrongdoing. Listen to this admonition by the Apostle Peter:

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.” – 1 Peter 2:13-14 (NIV)

3. BIBLICAL CRITERIA FOR LEADERSHIP

On a piece of paper, write down your top 2-3 candidates for the presidency for the upcoming elections.

As you review the traits of a good and godly leader according to the Bible, rate your candidates using a 5-point scale, 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest. “5” means that they consistently exhibit this character trait, if you rate them “2”, that means they demonstrate very little of that trait.

A. CHARACTER

In the Bible, Joseph is an example of one who served in public office. He proved himself deserving of a high position as his life speaks of credibility and high integrity, of doing the right thing even if no one is looking. When he was being seduced by his master’s wife he said,

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“My master trusts me with everything in his house. He has put me in charge of everything he owns. There is no one in his house greater than I. He has not kept anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How can I do such an evil thing? It is a sin against God.” -Genesis 39:8-9

He served his human master with integrity and excellence, but more than that, Joseph knew that he was ultimately accountable to God for all that he does.

How are your candidates in terms of character, specifically in integrity? Do your candidates fear God and hold themselves accountable to Him? Have they been caught or at least been accused of lying and cheating? How would you rate your candidates on a scale of 1 to 5?

B. COMPETENCE

Equally important is competence, the ability to carry out the work successfully and efficiently. Again, Joseph serves as a great example who possessed this trait. In Genesis 41: 38-41, we witness how the Pharaoh lauded Joseph not only for his character but also for his competence:

So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

The Pharaoh identifies capability, fear of God, wisdom, and competence as benchmarks for such an important position.

Looking at their track record, how are your candidates in terms of competence? What have they personally accomplished as government leaders? Do you believe they can lead wisely? How would you rate your candidates on a scale of 1 to 5?

C. FAMILY

Righteousness and moral uprightness are important for the future of any nation, and the formation of these values begins at home.

“This is the commandment that the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you to keep His commandments ... so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God....so that it may be well with you ...” –Deuteronomy 6:1-3

Before leaders can assert Christian values in governance, their family life must demonstrate these values at home consistently. The same values should be lived out both in their private and public lives. How are your candidates in terms of family life? Are the values they promote seen in their families? Do they command respect from their spouse and children? How would you rate your candidates on a scale of 1 to 5?

D. JUSTICE

“Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.” - Deuteronomy 16:20

It is said that justice is how LOVE looks when done in public. Are the rich and poor treated equally in society? Do policies favor any group? The candidates may have all good intentions, but they need to know how to turn these good intentions into programs that promote justice in society.

Evaluate your candidates in terms of justice. What programs or policies have they implemented to address poverty? Are they known to tolerate or condone a culture of “palakasan”? How would you rate your candidates on a scale of 1 to 5?

E. ACCOUNTABILITY

Leaders must be held accountable for their actions, and this includes transparency and taking personal responsibility for decisions made. Even if leaders excel both competence and good character, if they do not have people to whom they are accountable, the dark side of politics can potentially lead them astray to compromises and corruption.

Here are some wise words from the Bible found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10:

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

Evaluate your candidates on how accountable they are to the right people. Who or what kind of people surround them? Are they surrounded by trustworthy people? Do they listen to wise counsel? How would you rate your candidates on a scale of 1 to 5?

Public service is a public trust. Our Philippine Constitution states:

“Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.”--The Philippine Constitution, Article XI, Section 1

Government officials are servant-leaders tasked to serve the common good and not their own personal agenda. They are not only servants of the people but also servants of God. Ultimately, they will answer to Him.

Make sure to pray for and choose government officials who are aligned with Christian values!

God bless you and God bless the Philippines! See you for the next session and together let's discover what we can do for our country as we talk about “My Responsibility”.



Discussion Questions

1. Why is character important in good governance? How will you influence others (family, relatives, etc.) to choose candidates based on God's leadership standards for the upcoming elections??
2. Why is competence important for good governance? In a non-ideal situation where you have to choose between character and competence in a political candidate you will vote for, will you put more weight on competence or the candidate's character? Why?

Action Points

1. Study the ratings of the candidate you have made in the Session 3 exercise. Consider the choices you have initially made and then research more about the candidates considering the traits discussed. Be humble and open-minded as you do this.
2. Encourage others to assess their candidates with the criterion we presented here! Invite them to sign-up today and learn from our materials! Visit our website: **cvm.com.ph** or download the app in the App Store (iOS) or Google Play Store, just search for "**Christian Values Movement**".