

# Biblical Explicit and Applied Standards for Choosing Officials

*by Thomas W. Jacobson, Executive Director, Global Life Campaign*  
23 October 2018 (revised)

Wisdom comes from Almighty God and is available to all persons, in all nations, in all generations. This includes wisdom in choosing and electing candidates for civil government and other leadership positions. Some of the following are explicit, and some are to the best of my understanding properly applied, Biblical standards for electing officials. It may be rare to find a candidate who meets all the standards, but we are wise to choose those whose lives, integrity, practices, and policies most closely align with them.

1. Men who reverently fear God and seek Him for wisdom.<sup>1</sup> Anyone who does not fear God is less likely to respect religious liberty, human life, male and female as designed by God, marriage, the rule of law, or abide by constitutional limits of power.
2. Recognize that all legitimate authority comes from God, through the people, with accountability to the people, and ultimate accountable to God.<sup>2</sup>
3. Respects the rule of law, does not put himself above the law, is not a lawless person.<sup>3</sup>
4. Righteous and just, hating evil. “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of [God’s] Throne.”<sup>4</sup>
5. Honest, truthful, having integrity, and will be impartial.<sup>5</sup>
6. Will not take or give bribes—including offering money, benefits, programs for votes.<sup>6</sup>
7. Will keep oath to uphold the civil covenant, the Constitution.<sup>7</sup>
8. Will make righteous judicial appointments, who will uphold the Constitution and respect life.<sup>8</sup>
9. Will encourage those who do good, and punish those who do evil (not the opposite).<sup>9</sup>
10. Pro-life—understands that God creates human life, and recognizes civil government’s foremost duty to protect life. Whoever is pro-abortion/euthanasia/assisted suicide is not qualified for office.<sup>10</sup>
11. Will defund Planned Parenthood, public funding of abortion & pro-abortion groups.<sup>11</sup>
12. Does not oppress, but respects the people and their God-given liberties and rights.<sup>12</sup>
13. Pro-religious liberty, without which no other freedoms can be maintained.<sup>13</sup>
14. Pro-family, will protect marriage and family, and oppose same-sex unions.<sup>14</sup>
15. Pro-parental rights and opposition to government-imposed education.<sup>15</sup>
16. Pro-self-defense, including “the right to keep and bear Arms” (2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, U.S. Constitution).<sup>16</sup>
17. Would secure our borders and support lawful and respectful plan for immigrants.<sup>17</sup>
18. Pro-Israel—to be blessed by God as a close friend and ally to Israel, instead of being cursed.<sup>18</sup>
19. Financially responsible and will cut spending and work toward a balanced budget.<sup>19</sup>
20. Opposes government control and funding of healthcare for non-federal or military personnel.<sup>20</sup>

---

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> I Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22; I Kings 3:5-14; Proverbs 8:12-17, 20; 9:10.

<sup>2</sup> In Romans 13:1, the Greek word “exousia,” translated as “authority” or “power,” means the lawful and rightful use of power, in accordance with, and not in violation of, the Law of God. It is not arbitrary or lawless!

- Rulers chosen by the people: Exodus 18:21-22; Numbers 1:16; Deuteronomy 1:13-15; 16:16-18; I Samuel 11:15; II Samuel 2:4; 5:1-3.
- Accountability of rulers: I Samuel 13:13-14; 15:23; II Kings 21:1-18; Acts 12:21-23.

<sup>3</sup> King Saul put himself above the rule of law; God rejected him as king (I Samuel 13:11-14; 15:22-23; see Isaiah 1:23).

<sup>4</sup> Righteousness and justice are dual inseparable principles in the character of God, and in His commands and principles related to relationships and civil government, with such words and related words appearing about 1,700 times in the Bible (Psalm 89:14; 33:4-5; Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; II Samuel 8:15; Proverbs 8:13; 21:3; 28:5; 29:2, 4; John 7:24; Romans 13:3-4). See “Righteousness and Justice” study on home page (middle toward bottom) of [www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com](http://www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com).

<sup>5</sup> Proverbs 10:9; 20:28; 29:12, 14; Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 16:19; Proverbs 24:23.

<sup>6</sup> Exodus 23:8; Deuteronomy 16:19; Proverbs 14:31; 29:4; Isaiah 5:22-23; Micah 7:3.

<sup>7</sup> I Samuel 10:24-25; 11:14-15; II Samuel 5:3; Hosea 5:10.

<sup>8</sup> Exodus 18:21-22; 23:2-3; Deuteronomy 1:16-17; 16:18-20; Leviticus 19:15.

<sup>9</sup> Romans 13:3-4; Proverbs 24:24-25.

<sup>10</sup> From the Creator’s original authorization after the Great Flood, He made the legitimacy of civil government inseparable from its duties to protect innocent human life and execute lawful justice (Genesis 9:5-6). King Manasseh, and other kings whom God called “evil,” shed much innocent blood, especially through child sacrifice, and caused their people to sin greatly (2 Kings 21:16; 24:1-4; II Chronicles 28:1-7; Jeremiah 15:1-4).

<sup>11</sup> Stopping taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood is a God-honoring and life-honoring position.

<sup>12</sup> Proverbs 28:15-16; Isaiah 3:12-15; 5:20-23; 61:1; II Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1, 13; I Peter 2:16.

<sup>13</sup> Daniel 3; 6; Mark 1:15; 5:36; Luke 24:25-53; John 1:6-13; 6:29; 19:35; 20:30-31.

<sup>14</sup> Marriage and family pre-existed civil government (Genesis 2:7, 18-24).

<sup>15</sup> Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:4-9, 20-21; 11:18-21; 32:46; Psalm 78:5-8; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4.

<sup>16</sup> The Creator put within every creature the right or capacities for self-defense. He prohibited murder, but someone acting in self-defense is not guilty of murder (Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; 21:12-14).

<sup>17</sup> National border security: Deuteronomy 12:10; Joshua 23:1; II Samuel 7:1; I Kings 4:21, 24-25.

- How to treat foreigners in your land: Exodus 12:49; 22:21; 23:9; Leviticus 19:10, 33-34; 24:22; Deuteronomy 24:17-22; Jeremiah 7:5-7.

<sup>18</sup> Genesis 12:1-3; Numbers 24:1-9.

<sup>19</sup> Deuteronomy 15:6; 28:12-15, 44-45; Proverbs 22:7.

<sup>20</sup> Healthcare should be kept in the private sector; there is no Biblical authorization for government control or funding.