

## **Of Elephants and Donkeys**

I was wondering how the two major political parties in our nation came up with the symbols that represent each. Historically, the symbols came from political cartoons due to a popular phrase and an insult by presidential opponents for the 1828 election.

The elephant has been representing the Republican party since 1854. The idea of the elephant came about due to soldiers of the Civil War using the phrase “seeing the elephant” to mean that they had experienced combat. It became the symbol of the GOP when Thomas Nast, a political cartoonist, used it in an 1874 Harper’s Weekly cartoon.

The Donkey became the symbol for the Democratic Party as a result of an insult by a political opponent to Andrew Jackson. Jackson was running for office and during his campaign his opponents called him a “jackass.” Rather than being insulted, Jackson took the opportunity to use it on his campaign posters against John Quincy Adams. He ended up defeating Adams and Nast also popularized the donkey in his political cartoons about the election. Just a little history.

I was also wondering if there were any similarities between the symbols and the characteristics of the parties they represent. Believe it or not, all animals have traits or characteristics and can be found on the internet.

In looking at elephants, aside from being the largest land animal, they manifest a wide variety of behaviors, including those associated with grief, learning, mimicry, play, altruism, use of tools, compassion, cooperation, self-awareness, memory, and communication. Family groups are also important.

The Donkey also has its own behaviors; unlike horses, they are not easily startled and have a keen sense of curiosity. Donkeys have a reputation for stubbornness but this is due to their highly developed sense of self preservation. It is difficult to force or frighten a donkey into doing something it sees as contrary to its own best interest or safety.

Any similarities to folks of either party? I leave that to your opinion.

We also refer to both parties as the “right” and the “left.” There are actually biblical references we can read mentioning to both. “A wise man’s heart is at his right hand; but a fool’s heart at his left.”- **Ecc. 10:2**. “And he shall set the sheep on His right Hand, but the goats on the left.”- **Matt. 25:33**. Any similarities? Just a coincidence.

Well here we are again, smack dab in the middle of the most heated and certainly one of the most critical elections in our nation’s history. It seems like the storm of the 2016 election year has failed to abate in any form and only intensified.

President Donald Trump vs. Former Vice President Joe Biden, Republican vs

Democrat. U.S. citizens have not been so divided since 1861. “And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”- **Mark 3:25** Abraham Lincoln also made that quote but Jesus beat him by a few dozen centuries.

There is a concerted, no holds barred effort to disrupt the U.S. Constitution, erase our history, destroy our economy and our current Republic by a determined and focused Democratic Socialist movement. This is in no way an endorsement of either party, albeit, we all know where we stand.

As we read “Would Jesus Christ Vote?” we see that many professing Christians view everything from the perspective of this world, blindly assuming it is God’s world. They see certain forces of evil in it, which they feel they must oppose. In this vein, they see the Christian duty as working to make this a better world, but can we really? We know it is not God’s world...yet (**Matt. 28:18, Eph.1:20-22**).

But we can make changes within ourselves to conform to the image of Christ. **2 Cor. 4:4**- “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

As we move closer to the second coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, we are to watch, to be aware and make ready ourselves to be found worthy to receive the promises of eternal life in God’s Kingdom (**Prov. 8:34, Matt. 24:42, 25:13, 26:41**,

**Mark 13:34-35, 14:38, Luke 21:36, 1 Cor. 16:13, 1 Thes. 5:6).** We know these scriptures are referring to us to be prepared spiritually, not too concerned of where the temple will be built or where they find remains of Noah's Ark.

We have been called out from this world and set apart (**1 Peter 2:9, 2 Cor. 6:17**).

We do not need to become over involved or distressed over the election or who may occupy the White House. God ordains those in authority. Granted we do not wish to see a liar or one who supports the killing of the unborn in any public office, but as a nation our moral compass is severely damaged if it even still exists.

**Jeremiah 7:28** – “But thou shalt say unto them, this is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.” But God will not tolerate this conduct forever, quite the contrary. **Romans 1:18** – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;”

Regardless of the election or even its outcome, we are to maintain our focus and obedience in the transformation process of ourselves into the likeness of Jesus (**Psa. 17:15, Rom. 6:5**). We have the comfort, peace and assurance knowing that God will hold ALL of us into account for our actions. The fight is not ours and the victory has already been won.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”- **John 14:27**.

Relax, God’s got this.

BL/10-24-20