‘PLAYING GOD’

BY OWEN E. JACK

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY

Psalms 75:7 tells us that it is God who “putteth down one, and setteth up another.” It is God who sets up leaders in His church and takes them down. We should make no attempt to set up and take down anyone. Whenever we come up with a slate of persons we want to occupy different positions in the Church or Conference, and we manipulate the election process, we are playing God; we are doing the work that God accepted responsibility to do.

If we succeed in getting ourselves or who we want in office, we will be going against God’s will, and God will withdraw his presence and leave us on our own to handle our business, to function without His aid, because we are showing by our actions that we don’t need His help and guidance; we can handle our business our selves. We will not experience significant progress; we will only experience true success when God is with us, and we do things His way.

It is possible for individuals to be in office for years and run many good programmes, but God is not with them. Saul was in office for years after God rejected him as king, and the Spirit of God had left him. Eli was years in office after the glory of God departed from him, and his family. Whoever is not of God’s choosing, He will remove in His own time.

When members see us operate in the above mentioned ways, they lose respect for us, and confidence in God’s leadership of His church. We cannot love God’s church more than Him, nor have its interest and prosperity at heart more than Him. Let us give God a chance to do what He can do best. God does not need our help.

 When Abraham and Sarah tried to help God out, they only complicated things and created more problems for themselves. God told Samuel to go to the house of Jesse and anoint the son He will tell him to anoint. Samuel went down to Jesse’s house and anointed Eliab, because he was impressed with his looks and stature, but God said: “I have not chosen him”. Jesse let seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but God rejected them. When David, the son that Jesse and Samuel felt would never qualify, passed before Samuel, God said: “Anoint him for he is the one.”

 If we fail to learn from the past we are doomed to repeat it. There is nothing wrong with desiring to fill any office, nor is there anything wrong with wanting to see certain persons fill certain offices, but let God be the one to place His chosen ones into those offices. Only God knows who is best suited for an office for it is only He knows the heart, and who can be used to accomplish His will.

OUR ROLE IN THE ELECTION PROCESS

* We need to pray that only those who God wants on the large and nominating committee will get there.
* We need to pray that God will help the nominating committee to select men and women who are filled with the Holy Ghost, men and women of honest report, men and women who are wise, men and women who have the interest and prosperity of the church at heart, men and women of experience, men and women who will allow God to use them to move the church forward.
* We need to pray that God will destroy all the plans of men and demons to hijack the election process, and that He will allow only those whom he wants in office to be elected.
* God should be the only one to tell us who to select and vote for, if we are on a nominating committee.

QUALIFICATION OF PERSONS WHO SHOULD BE NOMINATED AND VOTED INTO OFFICE

* We should only nominate and vote for persons whose lives show evidence of true conversion. An unconverted leader is the most powerful tool in the hand of the Devil.
* We should nominate and vote for persons who have a passion for seeing souls saved in God’s kingdom and are personally involved in evangelism.
* Nominate and vote for men and women who cannot be bought or sold, men and women who will stand for the right even though the heavens fall.
* We should nominate and vote for men and women of faith and prayer.
* We should nominate and vote for persons who are good role models in deportment, dress, speech, healthful living and health reform.
* Persons who support Christian education and rule well their own house hold.
* We should nominate and vote for persons who have a good reputation from within and without the church.
* We should nominate and vote for experienced people who have a track record for getting things done.
* We should nominate and vote only for persons who cooperate with others and are good team players.

**Remember, the church will not rise higher than its leaders.**

 “We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world.” 1 SM p.122

It is my hope, that this article will help us to conduct all elections in God’s church, God’s way.