

Rev Roy Jenkins (Broadcaster, Baptist Minister)

Why bother to vote?

At a time of such cynicism about politics and politicians, I understand the temptation to call down a plague on all their houses. I hope that Christians in particular will resist it.

The right to vote, hard won, and coveted in many countries whose citizens have no choice over who governs them, expresses the Biblical insight that each individual matters - created in the image of God, the object of his love in Christ.

It presents us with the privilege of seeking to shape our society in conformity with our understanding of Christ's Kingdom, a voice on issues of justice, peace and the care of the most vulnerable. It also lays on us the responsibility of using that privilege, and supporting the many good politicians who deserve more than our cynicism.

We might have to pray and work very hard to discern where to put our cross. The democratic process is painfully imperfect. But it's the best we have. Refusing to share in it is always a little denial of faith.

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Roy Jenkins