\*THE ROLE OF CHURCH\*

As recorded in the book of \*Joshua chapter 5:13&14,\* when the Israelites were about to conquer the land of Jericho, Joshua saw a \*"Man"\* holding a sword in His hand and he asked:

\*"Are you for us or for our enemies?"\* and
the"Man"replied:
\*Neither; "but as Commander of the Army of the LORD I have now come."\*

Similarly, in Nigeria; there have been a lot of anxieties concerning the elections in many quarters.

\*In the midst of the agitations, some leaders of the Church have also jumped into the arena of politics; fuelling the tension and the political debate about who should be elected between the two leading candidates.\*

However, the mandate and the word of God for the Church has always remained sacrosanct;

\*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."\*
Mark 16:15.

The question that has arisen now is: \*What is the role of the Church of God in politics?\*

The bible teaches us to :
\*"Avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless ".\*
Titus 3:9.

Every believer has the right to join any political party and vote freely without being coersed by any Church leader.

The Church in Nigeria has been bedevilled with pressing issues that should be of concern to every child of God;

\*Church attendance has dropped drastically in many churches, most worrisome is the social media attack on some Church leaders because of their penchant for luxurious lifestyle.\*

One would have expected that such critical issues affecting the \*sanctity\*  of the Church are well addressed.

\*Unfortunately, some of the Church leaders have heated up the polity by their utterances to the detriment of the body of Christ.\*

It reminds me of the adage: \*"You have left leprosy unattended to and you are now wasting time on cure for ringworm".\*

Apparently, the \*only business of the Church of God is winning Soul, Souls and Souls.\* Matthew 28:18-20.

\*"If we are not sure of where we are heading, we should at least remember how we got to where we are today".\*

Some of these Church leaders spoke in 2015, that God has ordained a particular candidate to win the election, but God discredited them.

They took the ploy to a rather shameful height, when they were raising prayers that a sick  President should not recover from his illness. \*What an aberration!\*

The last time I checked, the bible says:
\*" The LORD kills, and He gives life; He brings down to the grave and also raises up."\*
1Sam 2:6.

No man of God is empowered to threaten people in authority.

The bible says; \*"For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority whether the king as the head of state or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people".\*
1 Peter 2:13-15.

By the way, \*the Church of God belongs to Jesus and not to any man of God.\* Matthew 16:18.

May God forgive
leaders who use privileges and power they have gotten through the Church of God to \*meddle and take sides\* in partisan politics and are also dragging members into it arbitrarily.🙏🏼

\*Believers should know they are not under any obligation to follow the instruction of any man of God that is not Scriptural.\*

Apostle Paul said:  \*"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ".\*
1 Cor 11:1

My major concern when it comes to sensitive issue that affects the Church of God is usually about the \*"baby Christians";\* who are fond of saying: \*"My Pastor said, my Pastor said"\*🤭

The question is: \*does your pastor's opinion has any backing of the word of God?\*

In conclusion, just like \*God\* told Joshua in the book of \*Joshua chapter 5:14\*; I reckon the Church in Nigeria should be \*Neither for party A or party B. The Church of God is expected to pray and intercede for the peaceful conduct of our elections.\*

\*That's the role of Church in politics!\*
2 Chron 7:14

\*Prayer\*: Father, revive your Church to rise to the occasion and take her rightful place in Jesus mighty name.🙏🏼

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