

God and Government

In the face of this stressful election season, we can avoid both panic and fatalism by grounding ourselves in the truth of God's Word. God sits above our human politics, but He cares about the government. We are called to faithfully represent Him in the world, but to recognize that He is ultimately in control of the world. We take those truths into the voting booth and into our community as we engage in every day acts of ordinary faithfulness.

God sits above our politics.

Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him."
—Daniel 2:20-22

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, "As for me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill."
—Psalm 2:1-6

God cares about the government.

[Government] is a minister of God to you for good...it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
—Romans 13:4

How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.
—Psalm 82:3-4

You shall not pervert the justice due to your needy brother in his dispute. Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty. You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just. You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt.
—Exodus 23:6-9

- Pray for wisdom.
- Consult God's Word.
- Give grace to those who disagree.
- Trust God with the results.
- Submit with joy.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.
1 Peter 2:13-17

God cares about everyday faithfulness (Luke 10; Acts 2:44-45).

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