

Decision '08

Pray Non-Partisan

"Stand with anybody that stands RIGHT. Stand with him while he is right and PART with him when he goes wrong." Abraham Lincoln

We should pray for our political leaders because...

1. God wants us to pray for them

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 NLT

- Pray for the President
- Pray for the Supreme Court
- Pray for state and local leaders

DISCUSSION: Who, in the public arena of authority, do you villainize? Look at Matt. 12:33-37. Are you speaking good or evil? How are your words a reflection of the state of your heart?

DISCUSSION: What is your outlook on our current political leaders? Do you find your attitude about this country's political leaders to be reflective of how you feel about our political system? What are those similarities or differences saying about your heart towards those with whom you disagree?

2. They have been placed there by God

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. Romans 13:1-2 NLT

Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority. Romans 13:7 NLT

...respect your leaders. Romans 13:7 The Message

DISCUSSION: In what way are you respecting those in authority over you? In what way are you NOT respecting them? What adjustments do you need to make in order to bring honor to Jesus through your attitude towards your political leaders?

3. They hold power that can bring harm to our lives

...They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. Romans 13:4-5 NLT

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven... Matthew 5:44-45 NLT

- *Pray that our leaders would make the best decisions possible*

DISCUSSION: How often are you praying for those in authority over you? How often are you praying for your political leaders, especially those with whom you disagree?

4. God can and does bless us through them

The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good... Romans 13:4 NLT

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD... Psalm 33:12 NIV

5. Leadership is a stressful line of work

- Pray that our leaders would grow in faith
- Pray for their marriages
- Pray for their kids
- Pray for their emotional and physical health
- Pray for those closest to them

DISCUSSION: To whom will you commit to pray? How often? In what way will you pray for them?

PRAYER PROJECT: Take 5-7 minutes to be alone and quiet with God. Talk to Him about the way in which you've been blessed by this country's political system. Talk to Him openly about the involvement political leaders have played in your blessings?

What did God bring up inside you? Discuss it with you group.