

“God and Civil Leaders”

Daniel 4:28-37

Introduction

Like a train barreling down the tracks, a nation's direction is tied to the conductor at its controls. In our country, it is easy to see why it is so important to choose not only the right policies but also those with the right character to represent us in our government. As our nation continues to divide itself further and further apart in its ideologies and political leanings, those in positions of power and influence with wrong policies and bad character create more conflict, confusion, and regression.

Kingdom Voters recognize the importance of considering both policy and character when making their choices on election day. They know each vote is a selection for representation – a principle found throughout Scripture – in which one is chosen to represent the whole. When we fail to consider both God's policies and His character when deciding who will govern on our behalf, we see our country suffer the consequences.

The Bible is clear on the importance of character in terms of leadership. Throughout Scripture, we see how nations were blessed or cursed depending upon the character and competence of those in charge. In Exodus 18:21, the qualities are clearly defined for what God wants in leaders: "able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain . . ." The leaders who God desires us to choose are to fear Him, take Him seriously, rule not by their own accord, but by the Lord's. The type of character that honors the Lord when it comes to representatives in our government is one full of integrity, even in the missteps that reveal their own humanity. Even in the midst of an unrighteous government, God wants leaders like Daniel – refusing to bow down to anyone but the Lord as they selflessly serve those they represent.

While the qualities of godly leaders are clear, so is the responsibility of those who choose them. As Kingdom Independents, we don't commit fully to either political party agenda, but rather a heavenly one. We submit ourselves to the governing authorities while also holding them accountable when they deviate from the path of righteousness God has laid before them. We honor, respect, and pray for those who hold any leadership position in our government, regardless of their political affiliation. We remember from Scripture that God can redeem and change even those who seem the farthest from Him, including politicians in our government.

As we enter the voting booth, we cannot separate policies and character when choosing who to hold office. We must prayerfully approach our decisions on the ballot with both (policies and character) in mind. We must choose to pray for our leaders to fulfill their duties in a way that honors the Lord and leads our nation well, no matter their political affiliation.

Getting Started

1. What would you say are the characteristics of a good leader?
2. Who are some leaders, past or present, that you would consider full of integrity even though they were imperfect?

Let's Get Personal

1. When it comes to government leadership, why is it so rare to find leaders who possess both the right policies and character? How could we encourage godly character in government in our country? What role does accountability play in producing more leaders pursuing integrity?
 2. How often do you pray for the leadership in this country? What keeps you from praying for politicians and elected officials? How might prayer change things?
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3. Do you find it easy or difficult to respect and honor leaders today? In what ways have you shown disrespect or dishonor? How can you honor a leader with whom you may disagree?

Take the Next Step

1. How can you find information about both the character and policies of those on your ballot? What are some reputable sources that can help you learn more about the candidates?
2. How can you hold your leaders accountable in both policy and character? What are some practical ways you can encourage leaders towards godliness in those areas?
3. It is easy to feel discouraged when it comes to leadership in this country. What is one truth from God's Word should you remember as this election cycle unfolds? Write it down and keep it somewhere you can revisit often.
4. Take some time to write down the names of some elected officials, either on the national or local level. Spend some time in prayer for them this week.
5. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at the following passages: Proverbs 8:15-16; 24:21; 29:2; Romans 5:12; 13:1-7; James 4:12; Daniel 2:21; 4:30-34; 6:1-10; Joshua 24:15; Deuteronomy 29:9; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Exodus 18:21-22; 22:28; Psalm 2:10; Ecclesiastes 9:10; 10:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-14; Acts 24:25.

Renew Your Mind

“ . . . for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

Daniel 4:37
