

PROVIDENCE CHURCH

Providence values being a light for Jesus in the midst of darkness. How we respond during any political season can draw people to the light of Jesus or repel them away.

-Pastor Phil Carnuccio

What does faithful political engagement look like as Christ-followers in the midst of a divisive, harsh, and acrimonious election year in the USA? Let's not allow the world's pressure to form us, but rather that we respond in a way that reflects and honors Jesus.

Here are 5 invitations for us in any political season.

1. **Be Kingdom-Minded.** This is our role with the government. Our first loyalty is to Jesus and His kingdom – not to any political party. If the government, for example, is on the right, we may find ourselves on the left. If the government is on the left, we may find ourselves on the right. As Christ-followers, we can never completely align ourselves with one political party. We must align ourselves with Christ and the truths of Scripture.

2. **Be Value-Driven.** We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and bear witness to issues on God's heart. God has a passionate concern for the poor and marginalized, the unborn, the aged, along with the mentally and physically challenged. So must we. Racism and injustice diminish human beings made in His image. We advocate for just laws, opportunities, and systems. Care for the planet, working for peace, and strong support for biblical, healthy marriages between men and women are on our agenda as well.

3. **Be Loving.** We love and value all human beings because they are made in the image of God. So we don't participate in gossip, name-calling, slander, and murder with our tongues or on the internet/social media. We seek to be a good gift to others as people who have been deeply loved and forgiven. In our discussions with others around "difficult" issues, we aim to season our comments with grace and generosity.

4. **Be Prayerful.** God commands us to pray for those in authority over us, regardless of their political views, that they might be filled with wisdom and they might experience God's blessings. So we discipline ourselves to actually do that, inviting others to join us in that process.

5. **Be Peaceful.** We invite people to not fear, offering a global, historical, and biblical perspective. "Things have never been worse," some say with fear and angst, but that is not true. World War II was worse (almost 60 million people died). So was World War I. Imagine living through, for example, Stalin's purges that killed millions, the Cultural Revolution in China, and the Black Death that killed ¼ of Europe in the 13th century! Our God is the Lord God Almighty. History is in His hands. We can rest in Him.

- Adapted from *Wise Political Engagement. Is it Possible?* by Peter Scazzerro, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*