

Praying for Government

By Rob Parker

When we finally answered the call to establish the National House of Prayer, neither Fran nor I had a great deal of interest in politics. We knew that part of the church's mandate is to pray for those in authority (1Tim.2:1-3) and that was about it. Over the past six years of being in Ottawa; sitting in Question Period; through people like our associate, Richard Long and others, we have become much more familiar with how government works and how we can best intercede for them. Here are some of the points we teach when it comes to praying for government.

Pray for, Not Against the Government

As Christians we are not told to pray for only a Christian government or a change in government so that we could have a Theocracy in place. We are simply told to pray for all those in authority, whether they are Christians or not and whether we agree with them or not. God "sets up kings and he deposes them" (Dan.2:21), our role is to pray that whoever is in government will be given grace to fulfil their high calling. It sometimes shocks people to hear that our mandate at NHOP is not to Christianize the government but simply to pray for good government. Let's explain this a little further:

Government Is Established by God

According to Romans 13:1-4, government is God's idea to help bring order, justice, fairness, and protection to every citizen of a particular nation. Clearly the institution of government has a God-given mandate that is different from that of the Church. This mandate is not based on whether they happen to be Christians or not, it is simply what God expects of our leaders. When Paul exhorts us to pray for all those in authority, he was living under the emperor Nero, who regularly persecuted Christians, yet Paul was clear in his conviction to pray for those in authority.

We also need to pray for blessings on the institution of government which I believe are meant to be a gift of God to any nation. It is through government that God helps a nation to establish fair representation, clear justice and fairness to every member of that society, (see Deut.1:13-18). Of course any individual leader may become corrupt and oppressive, but God's purpose for that leader has always been to bless and not curse the nation.

Oh, by the way, yes, we are pleased to hear of anyone becoming a Christian, but our primary mandate at NHOP is to pray that our government will serve its' God-given mandate of bringing order and justice to our nation.

Non-Partisan

Because all government is established by God, we pray in a non-partisan way for each Member of Parliament, each Senator, and each Supreme Court Judge. It is our practice at the National House of Prayer to daily pray for one member of our Parliament that they would all be given the grace and wisdom they need to serve our nation. That doesn't mean that, like any other citizen that we don't vote according to our own individual preference; but we pray for all and do not use our position to influence others in how they may vote.

Influenced by Righteousness

Besides regularly praying for wisdom, health, and the families of our leaders, we need to also pray for the influence of righteousness. We commonly pray that our leaders will be kept from corruption and will choose the path of integrity and truth. That they would not be motivated by selfish ambition but will walk with the heart of one who is there to serve our nation, and not as one who is seeking the limelight.

Micah 6:8 – He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.