

## **Week 1: Why a Series on This Subject? History of Governance**

### *Day 1: Introduction to Government's Role*

- Scripture: Romans 13:1 — “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”
- Reflection: In a world often divided by politics and governance, it is essential to revisit the biblical perspective on the role of government. The apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 13 that all governing authorities are established by God. This passage encourages us to respect and be subject to our leaders as a form of obedience to God. However, this respect has its limits, especially when human laws contradict God's commands. The essence of this scripture is not blind allegiance but recognition of God's sovereignty over all human institutions. Our primary allegiance is to God, and through this lens, we must evaluate our relationship with earthly authorities.
- Application: Consider how you react to government decisions that affect you. Do you respond with prayer and discernment, or with frustration and anger? This week, make it a point to pray for your Elected leaders and ask God to guide their decisions. Reflect on how you can be an example of respectful and prayerful citizenship in your community.

### *Day 2: Biblical Examples of Governance*

- Scripture: Daniel 6:26 — "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel."
- Reflection: Throughout the Bible, we find various examples of governance, from the judges in Israel to the kings and emperors who ruled vast territories. The story of Daniel in the lion's den shows how God can work through both faithful individuals and secular rulers to accomplish His purposes. King Darius's decree to honor the God of Daniel demonstrates how even pagan rulers can be used by God to uphold His sovereignty and truth. This example challenges us to see God's hand in unlikely places and to recognize His ultimate authority over all rulers.
- Application: Identify ways you can be like Daniel, living out your faith boldly in the public square. How can your actions and words influence others, including those in authority, to recognize the sovereignty of God? Commit to being a faithful witness in your workplace, community, or wherever you have influence.

### *Day 3: The Purpose of Government in Society*

- Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-2 — “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”
- Reflection: One of the purposes of government, as outlined in Scripture, is to create an environment where peace and order prevail, allowing believers to live lives marked by godliness and holiness. Paul's instruction to Timothy emphasizes the importance of prayer for those in leadership positions. Our prayers should focus on asking God to grant

wisdom and justice to our leaders, so that society as a whole can benefit from stability and fairness.

- Application: Set aside time each day this week to pray specifically for your local, national, and world leaders. Pray that they would seek justice, wisdom, and peace in their decisions. Reflect on how your own actions and attitudes can contribute to the peace and order of your community.

#### *Day 4: The Fallibility of Human Leaders*

- Scripture: Psalm 146:3 — “Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.”
- Reflection: Human leaders, no matter how well-intentioned, are flawed and limited in their ability to bring about lasting change or salvation. The Psalmist reminds us that our ultimate trust and hope must be in God alone. While we are called to respect and pray for our leaders, we must also recognize their limitations and the danger of placing them on a pedestal. This perspective helps us maintain a balanced view of political and social structures and prevents us from becoming disillusioned when leaders fail.
- Application: Reflect on areas where you may have placed too much trust in human institutions or leaders. Ask God to help you redirect your trust and hope back to Him. Consider how you can encourage others to find their security and peace in God rather than in worldly systems.

#### *Day 5: Historical Missteps in Governance*

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:19-20 — “But the people refused to listen to Samuel. ‘No!’ they said. ‘We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.’”
- Reflection: The Israelites' insistence on having a human king, despite God's warnings through Samuel, illustrates a common misstep in governance: the desire to conform to worldly standards rather than God's design. This decision led to a long history of both good and bad kings, showing the mixed results of human leadership. It serves as a warning to us not to seek security or identity in any form of human governance but to remain faithful to God's guidance and commands.
- Application: Reflect on times when you have sought solutions in human systems instead of turning to God. How can you seek God's direction and wisdom in your involvement with governance and politics? Ask God to help you prioritize His kingdom and values above all else.

#### *Day 6: Lessons from the Prophets*

- Scripture: Isaiah 10:1-2 — “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees.”
- Reflection: The prophets of the Old Testament were not only messengers of God's will but also vocal critics of unjust systems and leaders. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, and others called out the social and political injustices of their times, urging rulers and the people to repent and return to God's ways. Their boldness and clarity provide us with a model for

engaging with our own political and social systems. We are called to speak out against injustice, advocate for the oppressed, and hold leaders accountable to God's standards of righteousness.

- Application: Identify an issue of injustice in your community or nation. Pray for wisdom and courage to speak out and take action in a way that honors God and reflects His love for justice. Consider partnering with others who are working towards godly solutions to social and political problems.

#### *Day 7: The Kingdom of God vs. Earthly Kingdoms*

- Scripture: John 18:36 — “Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.’”
- Reflection: Jesus' statement before Pilate underscores the fundamental difference between His kingdom and the kingdoms of this world. Earthly kingdoms are often characterized by power struggles, conflicts, and the pursuit of self-interest. In contrast, the Kingdom of God is marked by peace, righteousness, and selfless love. As citizens of God's kingdom, we are called to live by a different set of values and priorities. This means that our ultimate allegiance is to God and His kingdom, not to any earthly nation or leader.
- Application: Consider how you can live as a citizen of God's kingdom in your daily life. How do your values, priorities, and actions reflect the teachings and example of Jesus? Commit to being a faithful representative of God's kingdom in your interactions with others, especially in the realm of politics and governance.

### **Week 2: Choosing Your Compass - Political Ideology & Idolatry**

#### *Day 8: Aligning Our Hearts with God's Will*

- Scripture: Matthew 6:33 — “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
- Reflection: In a world where political loyalties and ideologies can be divisive, it is essential for believers to remember that our primary loyalty must always be to God and His kingdom. When we prioritize God's will and His righteousness, everything else in our lives, including our political views and actions, will align accordingly. Our focus should be on seeking God's direction in every aspect of our lives, allowing His truth to guide us rather than being swayed by the shifting winds of political trends.
- Application: Spend time in prayer today, asking God to reveal areas of your life where you may be prioritizing worldly ideologies over His kingdom. Reflect on how you can actively seek God's will in your political views and actions. Consider practical steps you can take to ensure that your decisions are aligned with God's truth.

#### *Day 9: The Danger of Idolatry in Politics*

- Scripture: Exodus 20:3 — “You shall have no other gods before me.”

- Reflection: Idolatry can take many forms, including the elevation of political leaders or ideologies to a place of ultimate importance in our lives. When we place our trust and hope in political figures or systems, we are in danger of replacing God with an idol. This misplaced allegiance can lead us to compromise our values, ignore injustice, or even justify unethical behavior. As followers of Christ, we must be vigilant in guarding our hearts against idolatry in any form.
- Application: Reflect on your political engagement and consider whether you have allowed any person, party, or ideology to become an idol in your life. Ask God to help you keep Him at the center of your heart and mind. Commit to evaluating your political beliefs and actions through the lens of Scripture, ensuring that they align with God's standards.

*Day 10: Finding Our Identity in Christ, Not Politics*

- Scripture: Galatians 3:28 — “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
- Reflection: In a world that often defines people by their political affiliations, it is crucial for believers to remember that our identity is found in Christ alone. We are not defined by our political party, nationality, or social status, but by our relationship with Jesus. This understanding helps us to see beyond the divisions that politics can create and to embrace our unity in Christ. Our ultimate allegiance is to God and His kingdom, not to any earthly entity.
- Application: Take time to reflect on your identity in Christ and how it shapes your perspective on politics and governance. How can you prioritize your identity as a follower of Jesus over your political affiliations? Consider ways you can build bridges with others who have different political views, focusing on your common identity in Christ.

*Day 11: Navigating Political Conversations with Grace*

- Scripture: Colossians 4:6 — “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”
- Reflection: Political discussions can often be tense and divisive, but as followers of Christ, we are called to engage in these conversations with grace and wisdom. Our words have the power to build up or tear down, and it is essential that we use them to reflect Christ's love and truth. When we approach political conversations with a spirit of grace, we create opportunities for understanding and reconciliation, even in the midst of disagreement.
- Application: Think about your recent political conversations. Were they marked by grace and understanding, or by tension and conflict? Ask God to help you use your words wisely, reflecting His love and truth in every conversation. Commit to listening actively and responding thoughtfully in your future discussions, seeking to build bridges rather than walls.

### *Day 12: Balancing Conviction and Compassion*

- Scripture: Ephesians 4:15 — “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”
- Reflection: As followers of Christ, we are called to hold firm to our convictions while also demonstrating compassion towards others. This balance can be challenging, especially in the political arena, where strong opinions often clash. However, it is through this balance that we can truly reflect the character of Christ, standing for what is right while also showing love and respect to those who may disagree with us.
- Application: Reflect on how you can maintain a balance between conviction and compassion in your political engagement. Are there areas where you may need to adjust your approach to better reflect Christ's love? Consider practical ways you can demonstrate compassion towards those with different political views, even as you stand firm in your convictions.

### *Day 13: Political Ideology vs. Biblical Truth*

- Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 — “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
- Reflection: In a world where political ideologies often clash with biblical truths, it is essential for believers to ground their beliefs and actions in the Word of God. Scripture is our ultimate guide and authority, providing us with the wisdom and direction we need to navigate the complexities of politics and governance. By evaluating our political ideologies through the lens of Scripture, we can ensure that our actions align with God's standards of righteousness and justice.
- Application: Take time to study Scripture and reflect on how it informs your political views and actions. Are there areas where your political ideology may conflict with biblical truth? Ask God to help you align your beliefs and actions with His Word, and commit to seeking His guidance in all aspects of your political engagement.

### *Day 14: Putting God Above Politics*

- Scripture: Matthew 22:21 — “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”
- Reflection: Jesus' response to the Pharisees' question about paying taxes to Caesar reminds us of the importance of keeping our priorities in order. While we have responsibilities as citizens of earthly nations, our ultimate allegiance is to God and His kingdom. This perspective helps us navigate the challenges of political engagement without losing sight of our primary identity and purpose as followers of Christ.
- Application: Reflect on how you can put God above politics in your daily life. Are there areas where you may be prioritizing political concerns over your relationship with God? Ask God to help you maintain a healthy balance between your responsibilities as a citizen and your commitment to Him. Consider ways you can keep your focus on God's kingdom, even as you engage with the political issues of our time.

### **Week 3: Truth & Tone Matter - When Our Morality Differs from the World's**

#### *Day 15: Upholding Truth in a Confused World*

- Scripture: John 17:17 — “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”
- Reflection: In a world filled with confusion and conflicting ideologies, it is essential for believers to uphold the truth of God’s Word. Jesus prayed for His followers to be sanctified by the truth, reminding us that the Scriptures are the ultimate source of truth and guidance. As we navigate a society that often blurs the lines between right and wrong, let us commit to being grounded in the unchanging truth of God’s Word.
- Application: Reflect on areas of your life where the world’s values might conflict with biblical truth. How can you ensure that your actions and decisions are aligned with God’s Word? Spend time in prayer and Bible study today, asking God to help you discern truth from falsehood in the messages you encounter daily.

#### *Day 16: The Power of Words*

- Scripture: Proverbs 18:21 — “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”
- Reflection: Our words carry immense power. They can either build up or tear down, bring life or cause harm. As believers, it is crucial to recognize the impact our words can have, especially when engaging in discussions about morality and ethics. Let us strive to use our words to reflect Christ’s love and truth, bringing encouragement and hope to those around us.
- Application: Consider the way you speak about sensitive topics, particularly those where your morality may differ from the world’s. Are your words encouraging and life-giving, or are they harsh and critical? Ask God to help you use your words wisely, speaking life and truth in all your interactions.

#### *Day 17: Responding to Moral Differences with Love*

- Scripture: Romans 12:18 — “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”
- Reflection: When faced with moral differences, our natural tendency might be to argue or become defensive. However, God calls us to respond with love and strive for peace. This doesn’t mean compromising our values, but rather approaching disagreements with a spirit of love and understanding. By doing so, we can reflect Christ’s love even in the midst of conflict.
- Application: Think about a recent situation where you encountered a moral difference with someone. How did you respond? Reflect on how you can demonstrate Christ’s love and pursue peace in similar situations in the future. Pray for the wisdom and grace to respond with love, even when it’s challenging, and let’s remember God is not insecure or defensive.

### *Day 18: Standing Firm in Faith*

- Scripture: Ephesians 6:13 — “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”
- Reflection: In a world that often challenges our faith and values, it is essential to stand firm in our beliefs. This requires being prepared and equipped with the full armor of God, which includes truth, righteousness, faith, and the Word of God. By relying on God’s strength and guidance, we can stand strong in the face of moral opposition.
- Application: Reflect on the areas of your life where you may be facing opposition or pressure to compromise your values. How can you prepare yourself to stand firm in your faith? Commit to spending time in prayer and Bible study, equipping yourself with God’s truth and strength to face the challenges ahead.

### *Day 19: Embracing Humility in Political Engagement*

- Scripture: Philippians 2:3 — “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”
- Reflection: Humility is a crucial virtue in all aspects of life, including our political engagement. When we approach discussions and debates with humility, we are more likely to listen and understand others’ perspectives. This doesn’t mean abandoning our convictions, but rather valuing others and their opinions, even when we disagree. By embracing humility, we can foster healthy and respectful dialogues that reflect Christ’s love.
- Application: Reflect on your attitude and approach to political discussions. Are you approaching these conversations with humility, or are you driven by selfish ambition or a desire to win arguments? Ask God to help you cultivate a spirit of humility, valuing others above yourself and seeking to understand their perspectives.

### *Day 20: Navigating the Tension of Truth and Tone*

- Scripture: 1 Peter 3:15 — “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”
- Reflection: Truth and tone are both essential in our interactions with others. While it is important to stand firm in the truth, the way we communicate that truth can either open doors or shut them. By speaking with gentleness and respect, we can create opportunities for meaningful conversations and build bridges of understanding. Keep in mind that people are more willing to listen to you if they feel listened to by you.
- Application: Consider how you can navigate the tension between truth and tone in your interactions. Are you communicating truth with gentleness and respect? Reflect on ways you can improve your communication, ensuring that your tone reflects Christ’s love and grace.

*Day 21: The Ultimate Authority of God*

- Scripture: Isaiah 33:22 — “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.”
- Reflection: In a world where many voices compete for authority, it is crucial to remember that God is the ultimate authority. He is our judge, lawgiver, and king, and He alone has the power to save us. As we navigate the complexities of morality and politics, let us keep our focus on God and His sovereign authority, trusting in His wisdom and guidance.
- Application: Reflect on how you can keep your focus on God’s authority in your daily life. Are there areas where you may be relying on worldly authorities or opinions rather than God’s Word? What may you need to release to God and trust Him regarding? We change the changeable and leave the unchangeable in God’s hands. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you recognize His authority in all aspects of your life and to trust in His guidance as you navigate the challenges of the world.