

I. Introduction

A. Paul had Kingdom influence in Caesar's house:

"21 Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. 22 All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household." (Philippians 4:21-22, NIV)

B. We want to have meaningful influence with our political leaders, seeking opportunities to make an impact for the greater good. When Paul spoke of greeting those in Caesar's household, it was akin to us today in the church extending greetings or building relationships with those in Prime Minister Trudeau's household or inner circle. Just as Paul recognized the value of connecting with individuals in positions of power, even within a secular government, we too should see the importance of engaging with and praying for leaders and their teams.

C. Paul demonstrated a remarkable ability to carry the political leaders of his time with honor and respect. Throughout the scriptures, there is no record of Paul or the other apostles complaining about or disparaging the government, despite facing significant challenges and injustices under their rule. While they remained steadfast in their mission to preach the gospel, even when it led to imprisonment or death, they maintained an attitude of respect toward those in authority.

D. Our posture as a church should be one of actively radiating the gospel toward our political leaders. This means intentionally engaging with them in a spirit of love, humility, and respect, ensuring that the message of hope, truth, and redemption found in Christ shines brightly through our words and actions. Rather than retreating from the political sphere or approaching it with criticism and negativity, we are called to be a light, offering encouragement, wisdom, and the transformative power of the gospel to those who hold positions of authority. By doing so, we fulfill our role as ambassadors of Christ, influencing the culture and leadership around us with the grace and truth of the kingdom of God.

II. Engage with Those in Government

A. Pastors, take the initiative to meet with your Member of Parliament and share the incredible things God is doing in your neighborhood. These meetings are an opportunity to highlight how the church is actively contributing to the well-being of the community—whether through outreach programs, support for vulnerable populations, or fostering hope and unity. By engaging in these conversations, you can build relationships with political leaders, helping them see the tangible impact of faith in action. Let them know how the church is meeting needs, solving problems, and offering solutions. These interactions not only encourage collaboration but also allow the gospel's transformative power to be visible in the public sphere.

B. One practical step we can take is to organize a round table discussion with our political leaders. This creates a space for meaningful dialogue and collaboration, allowing us to showcase the valuable skills, insights, and resources we as a community have to offer. Too often, we have excused ourselves from these conversations, inadvertently removing our voice and influence from the decision-making process.

III. Come with Solutions

- A. Instead of merely presenting complaints or highlighting problems, approach political leaders with thoughtful, constructive ideas that offer alternative solutions aligned with biblical principles. By presenting solutions grounded in love, justice, and care for the vulnerable, you can show that biblical thinking has practical and meaningful applications in addressing society's challenges.
- B. A significant part of why we pray is to seek God's guidance in understanding how we fit into His plan to bring solutions to the challenges around us. Prayer aligns our hearts with His will and opens our eyes to opportunities where we can make a difference. As the hands and feet of Jesus, we are called to be active participants in His work, demonstrating His love and compassion in tangible ways. Each of us has unique gifts and resources to offer, and prayer helps us identify where those can be used most effectively. It's not just about asking God to intervene but about asking Him to use us as instruments of His grace and solutions in the world.

IV. Electoral District Associations (EDA)

- A. EDA's are the governing bodies within each riding whose main goal is to get their candidates elected.
- B. While many of us might feel drawn to working exclusively with a party that aligns with our personal values, God might be calling us to something greater. He may place us in a different party, one that doesn't fully align with our perspectives, so that we can be salt and light in that space. Just as salt preserves and light illuminates, our presence in such settings can bring a Christ-centered influence, where it might be lacking. Our mission is not to fit neatly into political ideologies but to faithfully represent God's kingdom wherever He calls us to be.
- C. Joining an Electoral District Association (EDA) is straightforward and provides a meaningful way to get involved in the political process. To begin, simply contact the EDA President for your area. They will guide you on how to participate in monthly meetings and community events alongside the candidate or current Member of Parliament.
- D. In addition to regular meetings, EDAs often seek volunteers to assist with fundraising efforts, preparing for elections, and contributing to election campaigns. These roles provide opportunities to connect with others, share your ideas, and influence decision-making at the local level. Be aware that joining an EDA may require you to purchase a membership with the political party, but this small investment opens the door to actively engage with the political process and make a positive impact in your community.

E. The primary goal of joining an Electoral District Association (EDA) goes beyond political involvement—it's about being a voice for righteousness and truth in the political sphere and creating opportunities to pray for leaders, decisions, and the direction of the nation. By actively participating in an EDA, you position yourself to influence discussions and decisions with integrity and faith-based values.

F. Your presence can be a source of encouragement and wisdom, bringing a Christ-centered perspective into a space where it might otherwise be absent. Moreover, your involvement allows you to build relationships with candidates, members, and other leaders, creating avenues for prayerful support and conversations that reflect God's love and truth. This is not just about politics; it's about being salt and light in an environment that shapes the future of our communities and country.

G. As part of an EDA, you may have the valuable opportunity to attend the party's policy convention, where important decisions about the party's direction and platform are made. This is a unique avenue of influence, allowing you to directly engage in the shaping of policies that can impact the community and the nation.

H. In addition to participating in the convention itself, EDAs also play a crucial role in bringing light to the policies that will be voted on, ensuring that issues of righteousness, justice, and integrity are represented. This is your chance to voice concerns, propose ideas, and advocate for policies that align with biblical values and the common good. Being involved in this process not only gives you a seat at the table but also empowers you to be a transformative influence in how decisions are made at the highest levels.

I. Friends influence friends

V. Government Day in Churches

A. An opportunity to pray for and build relationships with political leaders of all stripes.

VI. Volunteer

A. If joining an EDA feels like too much of a time commitment, there are still meaningful ways to get involved. Volunteering for specific events is a flexible and impactful option. For example, you could offer your time to help with an election campaign, such as door-knocking, making phone calls, or assisting on election day.

B. You can also contribute by helping with administrative tasks, like stuffing envelopes, organizing materials, or supporting office staff. These smaller, focused roles allow you to make a difference without the ongoing demands of regular EDA involvement. Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to the bigger picture and provides an opportunity to engage with the process, build relationships, and be a positive influence in the political sphere.

- VII. Set up a meeting to pray with the Member
- A. Pray with them
 - B. Encourage them
 - C. Bring goodies for the office
 - D. If our only interaction with the Member's office is complaining, it reflects poorly on us and diminishes the opportunity for meaningful engagement. While it's important to voice concerns when necessary, constant negativity can strain relationships and close doors for dialogue.
- VIII. Send a hand-written letter
- A. Include all of your contact including your postal code. The postal code tells them you are a constituent.
 - B. Always write them when they have done something good.
 - C. Always say that you are praying for them.
- IX. Conclusion
- A. Build positive relationship with your Member.
 - B. It's not that you are in their constituency, but rather that Member is in your constituency.
 - C. You want to build a bridge in your relationship that is strong enough to withstand difficult conversations.