

# Christians in politics

Christians in politics are not perfect and mistakes have been, and will be made. We should not hold up Christians in politics as our saviours but look to them to serve with integrity and uphold principles and values of faith.

Below are three mini case studies of prominent people of faith whose faith really shaped their work. There are also more recent quotes from Pope Leo XIV. Read and discuss your thoughts with others.



## William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce was an MP representing Yorkshire back in 1784-1812. He supported many causes in his political life; most notably, his campaigning for and the eventual abolishment of the slave trade throughout most of the British Empire.

Wilberforce wrote,

*"My walk is a public one. My business is in the world, and I must mix in the assemblies of men or quit the post which Providence seems to have assigned me."*

It was not easy to support a cause when most were against him. He wrote

*"Let the consequences be what they would: I from this time determined that I would never rest until I had effected its absolution."*

He was vilified by pro-slavery forces and blocked repeatedly in Parliament. However, the persistent and sacrificial efforts of Wilberforce and others finally led to the abolishment of the slave trade and slavery in the British Empire.. (Christianpost.com)

As Wilberforce's story illustrates, God can use Christians in politics for good.



## Mordecai

Even further back than 1784, back in the Old Testament we see that Mordecai, Esther's uncle, was honoured "because he worked for the good of his people" (Esther 10:3). This is what politics is in its simplest form.

Shouldn't we also work for the good of our nation and world?

Don't look on voting only as a responsibility. Look on it also as an opportunity.



*"There is no separation in the personality of a political figure: there is not the politician on one side and the Christian on the other. There is the politician who, under the gaze of God and his conscience, lives his commitments and responsibilities in a Christian way.*

*"I am well aware that the openly Christian commitment of a political leader is not easy, especially in certain Western societies where Christ and His Church are marginalized, often ignored, and sometimes ridiculed. You must have courage: the courage to sometimes say 'no, I cannot,' when the truth is at stake."*

**- Pope Leo XIV'S address to a delegation of 40 French elected officials**

*"If we consider the service that political life renders to society and to the common good... it can truly be seen as an act of Christian love... a concrete sign and witness of God's constant concern for the good of our human family.*

*"Those who live in extreme conditions cry out to make their voices heard, and often find no ears willing to hear their plea. This imbalance generates situations of persistent injustice, which readily lead to violence and, sooner or later, to the tragedy of war. Sound politics, on the other hand, by promoting the equitable distribution of resources, can offer an effective service to harmony and peace both domestically and internationally."*

**- Pope Leo XIV's address during the Jubilee of Governments**



## Saint Thomas More

Sir Thomas More was a 16th-century English statesman and senior judge, serving as the head of the legal system and a key political adviser to the monarch of the time King Henry VIII. A man of deep faith, he chose to remain faithful to his conscience and Christian beliefs, even when this brought him into conflict with the authorities. As a result, he was removed from office and ultimately executed on the orders of the King.

He was later canonised as a saint by the Catholic Church in 1935, in recognition of his faithfulness and moral courage.

Most recently, Pope Leo XIV described Saint Thomas More as "a man faithful to his civic responsibilities, a perfect servant of the state precisely because of his faith, which led him to view politics not as a profession but as a mission for the spread of truth and goodness."

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