

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 two mini case studies of prominent people of faith whose faith really shaped their work. Following that is a quote from a Christian leader Vance H Pitman and a quote from our Holy Father, Pope Francis. 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 and eventual abolishing 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 abolition."

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 abolishing 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.



“Sometimes we can have our identity wrapped up in an election—in something that is going to happen, or has happened, in the arena of politics. But if we, as Jesus followers, understand that above all else, who we are is who we are in Christ, then we know that no matter what side we are on regarding the political battles raging out there, our identities in him do not change”

– Vance H Pitman

At times, in thinking of the future, we do well to ask ourselves, “Why I am doing this?”, “What is my real aim?” For as time goes on, reflecting on the past, the questions will not be: “How many people endorsed me?”, “How many voted for me?”, “How many had a positive image of me?” The real, and potentially painful, questions will be, “How much love did I put into my work?” “What did I do for the progress of our people?” “What mark did I leave on the life of society?” “What real bonds did I create?” “What positive forces did I unleash?” “How much social peace did I sow?” “What good did I achieve in the position that was entrusted to me?”

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