

REFRAMED

SAME
SITUATION.



GOD'S
PERSPECTIVE.

REFRAMING DEMOCRACY



DINNER TABLE DISCUSSIONS

FOR THE FACILITATOR

Welcome to **REFRAMED**, a journey of discovering God's perspective on our current challenges.

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions.

You will be asked questions on the topic. You can open the question to the group as you reach each question.

TOPIC: REFRAMING GIANTS

Sermon audio: outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/

READER 1

As citizens of a democracy it is easy to believe that we are given an opportunity only once every four or five years to go to the voting stations and influence a government, But biblically this is not true. The Word of God reveals THREE

INSTRUMENTS of influence that the people of God have over government and none of them is voting. We see democracy at work in the crucifixion of Jesus, the result being the death of Jesus.

Matthew 27:20-22 (NIV)

20 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

21 “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor.

“Barabbas,” they answered.

22 “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked.

They all answered, “Crucify him!”

Question 1: Who do you place your faith in when it comes to your government? Is it in a particular party or in your heavenly Father?

However we do have a responsibility to vote. But we don't trust in the power of voting. Rather we reframe our thinking from DEMOCRACY to THEOCRACY

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

*9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should
bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus
Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Rather we trust in the power of God and His word. That Jesus Christ is the King of kings.

As Christians we have three instruments of government influence.

Firstly we vote in prayer. God's Word reveals that the Kingdom instrument for changing government is PRAYER.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)

1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

We are called to pray for those in authority that they would use God's authority well.

Question#2: How committed are you to prayer, specifically for the government and those in authority?

READER 4

Secondly we vote with submission, but how do we as Christians respond to a demonically inspired unjust system of oppression and rulership?

Romans 13:1-4 (NIV)

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established [not political party but authority]. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free

from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good.”

READER 5

No matter how good or bad the government, the authority belongs to God. So whoever has the authority become servants of God - tools in His hand. REMEMBER: Jesus is the KING OF KINGS Governments don't have the final say - Jesus does.

Exodus 14:4 (NIV)

4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” So the Israelites did this.

Question#3: Have you ever struggled to submit to your government? Can you acknowledge now that despite what it may look like Jesus is ultimately in control?

READER 6

Thirdly we need to trust in God's PLACEMENT. That God will place who is needed into power just at the right time like He did with Esther, Moses, Paul and Daniel. The list could go on.

Esther 4:14 (NIV)

14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

God has a way of getting his leaders into an audience with kings. We only need to trust God and if He stirs you into government don't hold

back. You may be the next leader for such a time as this.

READER 7

Democracy is not a savior, so pray and then vote according to your conscience.

But remember the **CHALLENGE**: You are not just voting every 5 years

You are voting daily with prayer.

Your attitude and behaviour and speech towards our government is either opening or closing the door for the Kingdom of God.

Submission to the government - unless they are deliberately forcing you to sin - aligns us with God's authority and releases that authority on earth.

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. What stood out to you and *why*?

ACTION STEP

What action step can you take to respond to God's Word?

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