

BEFORE YOU
VOTE



SEVEN QUESTIONS
EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD ASK

DAVID PLATT

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *RADICAL*

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To followers of Jesus working in politics,
including many in our church,
who endeavor daily to honor God
in the halls of government.

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| Introduction

I woke up one Sunday morning for what I thought would be a normal day of worship with my church family in metropolitan Washington, D.C. I had just finished my sermon and stepped to the side of the stage to spend a couple of moments in quiet reflection as we prepared to take the Lord's Supper. The silence was broken, though, by a voice calling my name backstage with a sense of urgency. I stepped back into a dark area behind a curtain where two of our pastors met me with a man I didn't recognize.

"This is a representative from the White House," one of our pastors told me, turning to the man I didn't know. "The president is on his way to our service. He will be here in about five minutes, and they would like for us to pray for him."

As my eyes slowly adjusted to the dark, thoughts came flooding to my mind. We have congregants from over 100 different countries with a variety of political perspectives and positions, and we do everything possible to unify around Jesus alone in the church. Amidst a divisive political climate, I knew bringing the president on stage would lead to a myriad of different reactions both inside and outside our church family.

The White House representative looked at me, waiting for a response, and the thought that rose to the top of my mind was a passage from 1 Timothy 2. There, God commands us to pray

for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 TIMOTHY 2:2-4

I looked at the White House representative and agreed to bring the president on stage for prayer.

The representative turned and continued coordinating security protocols that were already in motion, and I returned to the stage. I led the Lord's Supper as I normally do, and we began singing one more song while I walked off to the side to wait for the president. It was my first moment to pause and process what was happening, and my head was spinning. It didn't have time to stop, though, because in a matter of seconds, the president appeared backstage.

I won't go into the details of our conversation in the brief moments before the prayer, but I will say that the president was both kind and cordial. As the final song of our service drew to a close, I walked out to address our congregation, as they were oblivious to what was happening. I began by reminding them of something I had just said at the end of my sermon—that our unity in the

BEFORE YOU VOTE

How can I honor Jesus with my ballot?

Our current political climate presents unique challenges for Christians, particularly in an election season. Research shows that Christians already divide into churches based on political opinions, and that division is even greater as everyone—from prominent Christian leaders to ordinary church members—begins voicing their support for opposing candidates, parties, and positions.

Some Christians know exactly how they'll vote and can't imagine why any Christian would vote differently. Other Christians struggle with how to vote, or even whether to vote. In the end, elections in our country tend to be a time of confusion and disunity among many Christians.

But what if there's another way?

What if there's a way for Christians to participate in an election with authentic love for Jesus, counter-cultural unity in the church, and a clear conscience before God?

In *Before You Vote*, David Platt urges every Christian to ask seven critical questions before casting a ballot. These questions are based on biblical truths, not political talking points. As a pastor of a church in our nation's capital, Platt's message is non-partisan, practically helpful, and biblically saturated. Exercise your vote with humble conviction in a way that magnifies Christ, maintains unity in the church, and aims for the good of all people.

David Platt serves as Lead Pastor of McLean Bible Church in Washington, D.C., and he is the founder and chairman of *Radical* (radical.net). He holds a Ph.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and is the author of *Radical*, *Radical Together*, *Follow Me*, *Counter Culture*, *Something Needs to Change*, and several volumes in the Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary series.

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