



First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 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 2:1-4

Franklin Graham's message of "Pray. Vote. Engage." is a timely word for all of us in Minnesota. To facilitate discussion of how this applies to us as pastors, ministry leaders, and followers of Christ, Minnesota Family Council suggests these five priorities for your consideration. We believe coordinated efforts with these priorities across our state will glorify God and that by them we will "behave as citizens worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil 1:27). And, remember, if any of these priorities seem daunting, Minnesota Family Council has resources to equip and encourage you as the Body of Christ!

1. Identify those leaders in your community and in our state that are implied in 1 Timothy 2:2. Whether it is your local City Council, Legislators, or other public servants, we need to know those for whom we are to be praying. You can use this **TOOL** (http://mfi.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=action_home2) to identify your elected officials.
2. Schedule a meeting with your elected officials and show them the love of Christ by asking how you can best pray for them. The majority of them, even if not followers of Christ, will be thankful for your offer. And, rather than generic, impersonal prayers, you will now be able to pray more diligently to our Father on their behalf. Believe that our Father will answer your prayers and ask Him for more opportunities to make His name known in our state!
3. Keep informed of the key issues facing our elected officials. Too often, we simply react to bad proposals or poor leadership. And while we should contact our leaders when concerned about such things, we should also encourage them when they do well. MFC, and other Christian organizations like ours, can assist you by keeping you apprised and help you reach out when an elected official needs to be encouraged or exhorted as a "servant for your good" (Rom 13:4)!
4. Use godly accountability with thankful hearts by voting. We have been blessed with earthly citizenship here in Minnesota, and we must render that citizenship faithfully unto God. Voting is one key way in which we should do this, but sadly,

as many as 50% of Evangelical Christians - as with eligible voters generally - failed to cast a vote in the last presidential election. We can do better! Make sure your Christian friends are registered to vote, and then distribute a non-partisan voter guide to determine where candidates stand on key issues. MFC produces a free nonpartisan **VOTER GUIDE** (<http://www.mfc.org/voter-guide/>) every election, and we want to get it into the hands of every Christian in our state.

5. Ask how you can partner with others believers and coordinate efforts as the Body of Christ in Minnesota to make the gospel known in the public square. We are called to love our neighbors not just privately but publicly, striving for the good (as God defines it!) of all people. Think of how, for example, the Pro-life movement has been such a catalyst for good in the face of great evil. Minnesota Family Council and others present ways for you to work for **“strong families, communities, and culture through Christ.”** (<http://www.mfc.org/our-vision-mission>) While you certainly cannot be involved in every effort, we can coordinate and operate together as the Body of Christ. And, we believe in doing so, that we will lay a successful siege against the gates of hell (Matt 16:18)!