

**November 01 / Sunday**

**Love Your Neighbor: Elections**

Read [Matthew 5:43-48](#) / [Romans 12:17-21](#) / [Psalm 130](#)



**02 / Mon – Be careful** | Read [James 1:19-20, 26](#)

Elections can cause much angst and divide families and friends. While there is nothing wrong with being passionate about what you believe, anger and frustration can result in scornful attitudes and harsh words that would be unthinkable in other situations. No matter your political persuasions, do not allow yourself to devalue the worth of another person because you disagree with them. How can you avoid burning bridges that will be difficult to repair once this season is over?

**03 / Tue – A precious gift** | Read [Genesis 1:26-31](#) and [2:15-17](#)

Next to the breath of life, the most precious gift God bestowed on human beings in the creation story was free will. It seems even more precious as you see dictators and despots who impose restrictions to control every area of their contrymen's lives. God could force his will on us but he does not, even when he sees us making unwise choices. If He respects your right to choose, can you extend that same grace to others?

**04 / Wed – Aftermath** | Read [Romans 12:14-15](#)

The day after any election, people usually fall into one of two groups - those who are celebrating and those who are deeply disappointed. As followers of Jesus, what is the God-honoring way to treat others even if they fall into the other group? If you are disappointed, will you trust God to work it out? Remember God weaves all things together to accomplish His purposes. And if you are happy with the results, be careful of expecting from human beings what only God can do.

**05 / Thu – Your part** | Read [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#)

Whether or not your preferred candidates win the election, you have an important responsibility as you can see in today's verses. What types of prayers are listed? Who are you to be praying for...and why? What is God's overarching purpose? No government system is perfect and no government will last forever. But God is and His will. You are a citizen of this country but you are also a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. Is it possible that your greatest influence will be found on your knees?

**06 / Fri – A better way** | Read [Romans 12:17-21](#) / [2 Kings 6:8-23](#)

The king of Aram was waging war against Israel but he kept losing the element of surprise as God supernaturally revealed the plans to Elisha beforehand. Enraged, the foreign king sent soldiers to capture and 'disarm' this obstacle to his victories. See what unexpected thing happened when the soldiers were captured. What was the result of this action? Have you ever considered treating your enemies like this?

**07 / Sat – Loving the difficult ones** | Read [Matthew 5:43-48](#)

As a citizen of the kingdom of heaven, the defining characteristic that sets you apart is the way you love others. Especially those you might consider 'enemies.' As Jesus pointed out, anyone can love those who are easy to get along with. But those who treat you badly? That is much harder. Notice what Jesus said you should do in the second half of verse 44. Is this the secret for accomplishing the seemingly impossible? Why don't you try it and see what happens?