CHRISTIANS AND GOVERNMENT
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study • Fall 2026 • SVCC
October 18, 2026

WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS IN GOVERNMENT DO?

THE EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH

Genesis 41:41-57

• What was Joseph's position/role?

• What signs in Joseph's story indicate that he was faithful to God in his service to the king and nation?

• Notice verses 50-52. What do the names of Joseph's sons tell us about his relationship with God at this time?

Genesis 47:13-26

• Joseph's treatment of the hungry Egyptian people sounds harsh to our American ears. Was Joseph cruel? What motivated his acquisition of their belongings, land, and lives?

• How did the people feel about Joseph's administration of his responsibility?

THE EXAMPLE OF DANIEL & HIS JEWISH COMPANIONS

Daniel 1 — During Training for Government Roles

• How did Daniel and his Jewish companions demonstrate their commitment to serve God over the king of Babylon?

• How did God bless them?

• How qualified did the king find them to be for the work they would do?

Daniel 3 — The Test and the Furnace

• The command to worship the image the king had set up was likely a test of loyalty to the king and his god(s). How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond to that test?

• What was the end result of their experience in the fire (verse 30)?

Daniel 5 — Daniel and the Writing on the Wall

- Notice what the queen says about Daniel in 5:11-12. What had Daniel done—for some 66 years!—to earn such a good reputation?

- When a faithful servant of God works many years in government service, what benefits does their longevity bring to them? to the society they serve?

Daniel 6 — Daniel and the Lions' Den

- Notice the description of Daniel's character in 6:1-5. What godly attributes did Daniel demonstrate in the performance of his governmental tasks?

- How did Daniel demonstrate that God came first in his life, even over the king?

- To all who knew Daniel, his faith became a testimony to the faithfulness and power of God. What effect did his testimony have on the king? (Notice 6:25-27.)

THE EXAMPLE OF ESTHER & MORDECAI

Esther 4

- Mordecai was an official of some kind who served at the king's gate (2:21). Esther had become queen. When faced with the coming slaughter of the Jews, how did they use their influence to rescue their people?

- How did Esther's faith give her strength to put her life on the line for her people?

OTHER NOTES

- Early in Paul's first mission trip, he and Barnabas brought the proconsul (basically a governor) of the island of Cyprus to Christ. (Acts 13:6-12)
- In Romans 16:23, Paul sends the Roman church greetings from "Erastus, who is the city's director of public works." Paul sent that letter while in Corinth. In Corinth today there is an ancient paving stone from Paul's time with a Latin inscription reading, "Erastus, in return for his aedileship, laid [this pavement] at his own expense." This may be the same Erastus. An "aedileship" was, in Latin, a position something like a director of public works; in Romans, Paul uses what was apparently the equivalent Greek term for that position.

REFLECTIONS

- Can a godly person serve under an ungodly government? If so, what would it take to do so in a manner faithful to God?
- What unique dangers or temptations might a godly person in a secular government position face?
- What boundaries might a Christian in government office need to set for themselves to guard their faithfulness to God?