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SEVEN STEPS

Wish you could tune out of politics a while? Understandable. Still, you must live out the godly values behind your vote. Every day. Regardless who wins elections. *TheFamilyLeader.com* offers insightful help for a revived America. Consider these edited excerpts of key steps to prayerfully follow - starting now:

1- HEAL RELATIONSHIPS - "During this election season, many Christians have been discouraged by discord in the Body of Christ. The enemy has been working overtime to fester divisiveness, distracting Christians from being salt and light to a desperate culture. Christians are called to pursue unity and show respect to fellow believers, no matter how intensely we disagree." *'Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity'* -Colossians 3:13-14

2- REPENT - "As Christians, we must personally repent of evil actions, words, or thoughts we have had this election cycle. Many relationships have been torn apart." *'Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance'* -Matthew 3:8. *'Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord'* -Acts 3:19. If you are rooted in Christ, you will bear His fruit.

3- FORGIVE - "We must forgive our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we must ask forgiveness for our harsh words, actions, and thoughts." *'For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions'* -Matthew 6:14-15. Forgiveness isn't agreeing with them, it's letting God deal with them.

4- PRAY FOR AND HONOR ELECTED OFFICIALS - "We are commanded by Scripture to pray for all our elected officials, not just those we voted for." *'First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity'* -1 Timothy 2:1-2. "We are also commanded by Scripture to respect our elected officials, no matter what party they belong to or what ideology they have." *'Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king'* -1 Peter 2:17. Helpful links include: If714.org, Pray1tim2.org, nationaldayofprayer.org/7x7_prayer, call2fall.com/blog, prayerforceone.com.

5- ENGAGE THE CHURCH IN THE CULTURE - "When God's institutions of the church and government work together appropriately, God is glorified and the people are blessed. Post-election is a great time for the church to be the church! Government is an institution of the Lord, designed to punish those who do evil and reward those who do good (Romans 13, 1 Peter 2). Yet governments cannot rightly determine good and evil without the church of Jesus Christ. The law of God, furthermore, is designed as a moral guide and teacher to the people. All the more reason the church's voice is needed in government. When government operates God's way, it should point people to Christ rather than farther away. King Hezekiah, King Josiah, and the repentance of the king of Nineveh are excellent examples. The church can be a prophetic voice to our leaders, like Nathan to David." *'Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority...to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right'* -1 Peter 2:13-14. It's time to be even more vocal as you show and tell God's truth.

6- STAY INFORMED AND ENGAGED - "After an election cycle like 2016, it would be understandable if Christians felt like saying, *'I'm done!*' To the contrary, God wants His people to stand firm, be grounded in righteousness and His Word, never give up. Be the light in the darkness, stay engaged, and be informed. Consider partnering with your state's Family Policy Council" (<http://familypolicyalliance.com/allies/>) *'Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong'* -1 Corinthians 16:13. *'The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor'* -Proverbs 12:24. Seek truth and fact, not rumors.

7- THINK BIGGER - "As Christians, we need to remember our hope is not in politicians or presidents, but in God. We need to think bigger than who won the election - and focus on winning a culture. We need to bend our knee before God and cry out to Him for our future. When God's institutions of the church and government work together appropriately, God is glorified and the people are blessed." *'I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep'* -Psalm 121:1. *'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you'* -Matthew 6:33. Trust and obey - as YOU live for HIS purposes!