

## Pray to the Father of All

ALL:

Why should we pray for secular institutions and secular life?  
Shouldn't we focus our prayers on God's work?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.  
All that is, is God's work.

LEADER:

Romans 13 says, *"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God...The authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."* (vv.1, 6-7, NIV)

ALL:

Why should we pray for political leaders?  
Shouldn't we focus on the work of salvation?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.  
All that is, is God's work.  
Political leaders are part of God's work, and God's love includes them.

LEADER:

Paul told Pastor Timothy, *"I urge...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* (1 Timothy 2:1-5, NIV)

ALL:

Shouldn't the Church focus on getting people saved,  
not on meeting their temporary physical needs?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.  
All that is, is God's work.  
Jesus came to paint a living picture of our unseen Father.  
He showed that our Father's love isn't limited to our spiritual welfare.  
He cares about our health, our food, our human relationships...  
even about having enough wine for a wedding.  
We are His disciples.

We are His brothers and sisters.  
We are children of the same Father.  
God has called us and equipped us to live His love.

LEADER:

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He told them: *“As you go, preach this message, ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”* (Matthew 10:7-8, NIV)

ALL:

But shouldn't our concerns and prayers focus closer to home?  
Shouldn't we bloom where we are planted?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.  
All that is, is God's work.  
People of other countries, cultures, and religions  
may seem far away and strange to us.  
They are not far away and strange to the Father of all.

LEADER:

In Ephesians 3, verses 14-21, Paul prays to the Father of the entire human family. Every family, every clan, tribe, culture or country draws its connectedness from the Father of all. Paul urges us to stretch our minds and hearts to include the full reach of our Father's love. He wants us to comprehend not just the depth of God's life and love in our own hearts, but also the breadth of His love in all the earth — a broadness that has no boundaries. God's love reaches to all our race, and that is the love He calls us to live.

Our connection with our own family, with our friends, community and denomination, is only part of our larger connection with all people. As we begin to grasp how wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ, we will love and pray for all the human race as for our own brothers and sisters.

Hymn: [God of All People](#)

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