

United: Country



MAIN POINT:

Prayer is our first response not our last resort.

KEY VERSE:

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—” 1 Timothy 2:1

BRING IT UP:

On Sunday, Pastor Dave continued in our United series by talking about how we can strive for a united country. With all the bitter division in our world today, prayer is often the last thing we’re thinking about. It’s all too easy to think to yourself that reconciliation, healing and any kind of collaborative future simply isn’t possible. However, Dave encouraged us that prayer needs to be at the forefront of our minds. Legislation, government, money and education on their own simply won’t solve the problems of the nation. Maybe we should make prayer our first priority.

- ◆ What was your biggest takeaway from the message Sunday?

TALK IT OVER:

- ◆ Would you describe your prayer life as “as needed” or are you intentional with it?
- ◆ How quick do you think of prayer when times get tough?

Consider the words that Pastor Dave used on Sunday:

“You can’t fix God-sized problems with man-sized solutions. Instead of calling or emailing our representative, we should first fall on our knees. Instead of first clinching our fists, we should first fold our hands. Instead of first marching on the street in protest, we should first pray. Instead of first posting on social media, we should first cry out to God.”

Prayer is our first response not our last resort.

- ◆ What value would pausing to pray before acting have given our current societal climate?

Pastor Dave talked through several different kinds of prayer which include: Petitions (pray for needs), worship, intercessions (prayer for others) and thanksgiving/gratitude.

- ◆ Of these different types of prayers, which ones are you strongest in? Which ones do you need to grow in?

THINK IT THROUGH:

The heart of the problem is a problem of the heart.

“By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.” – Matthew 7:16-20

- ◆ The health of your heart determines what kind of fruit you will produce. When it comes to the division in our nation, what is the status of your heart?
- ◆ What do you need to change in order to become part of the solution rather than adding to the problem?

WORK IT OUT:

Our nation is at a crossroads. Are we going to continue to trust in things that will never fulfill or are we going to trust in the Lord entirely? As you close out your group time, simply pray for our country. Pray for our leaders, even if you don’t agree with them...**ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON’T AGREE WITH THEM.** Pray for God to touch our land and that we would run hard after Him!