

THE WAY OF CHRIST IN AN  
ELECTION YEAR





*“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16)*



*“Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.” (1 Pet. 2:12)*



My charge as a shepherd under the authority of Jesus is to train you in the way of Christ and the mind of Christ as we navigate life and responsibility in our democratic republic.



PEACE





*“For this is what the LORD said to me with great power, to keep me from going the way of this people: Do not call everything a conspiracy that these people say is a conspiracy. Do not fear what they fear; do not be terrified.” (Isa. 8:11-12; CSB)*



*“You are to regard only the LORD of  
Armies as holy. Only he should be  
feared; only he should be held in awe.  
He will be a sanctuary...”*

*(Isa. 8:13-14; CSB)*





*“...But for the two houses of Israel, he will be a stone to stumble over and a rock to trip over, and a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Many will stumble over these; they will fall and be broken; they will be snared and captured.”*

*(Isa. 8:14-15; CSB)*



God warns us to beware what we  
fear.



*“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” (Rom. 12:2)*



Followers of Jesus should stand distinct in our culture both by what we fear and what we do not fear.



Dread is addictive.



People are desperate for you to  
share their anxiety.



“Chronic anxiety is primarily generated within and transmitted through relationships.” (Murray Bowen)



The Lord calls His people to be a  
non-anxious presence in an  
anxiety-riddled world.





*“Make the Lord of Heaven’s Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. He will keep you safe.” (Isa. 8:13-14; NLT)*



The people of Judah seek solutions among the spiritual dead. They turn their ear to every voice, except that of the Living God.



*“Someone may say to you, ‘Let’s ask the mediums and those who consult the spirits of the dead. With their whisperings and mutterings, they will tell us what to do.’ But shouldn’t people ask God for guidance? Should the living seek guidance from the dead?” (Isa. 8:19; CSB)*



*“Look to God’s instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark. They will go from one place to another, weary and hungry.”*

*(Isa. 8:20-21; CSB)*



*“And because they are hungry, they will rage and curse their king and their God. They will look up to heaven and down at the earth, but wherever they look, there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair. They will be thrown out into the darkness.” (Isa. 8:21-22; CSB)*



The people of Judah invest all their hope in an alliance, not with God, but the Assyrian Empire — to devastating results.



The opposite of fear is peace.



*“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.”*

*(John 14:27; CSB)*





True peace (Heb. *shalom*; Gk. *eirene*)  
is restoration to a state of  
wholeness, rightness, and well-  
being.



*“Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.” (Isa. 9:1; NLT)*



*“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder.” (Isa. 9:2-3; NLT)*



*“For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor’s rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian. The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.” (Isa. 9:4-5; NLT)*



*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*  
(Isa. 9:6; NLT)



*“His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!” (Isa. 9:7; NLT)*



*“Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

*(Heb. 12:1-2; CSB)*



# How to Navigate Election Season in a State of Peace, Not Fear:

1. Fix your eyes on Jesus.






*“But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’” (Matt. 14:30-31; CSB)*



# How to Navigate Election Season in a State of Peace, Not Fear:

2. In your heart set apart Christ as Lord (and let your heart lead your mouth).



*“Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

**(1 Pet. 3:14-15; NIV)**



# How to Navigate Election Season in a State of Peace, Not Fear:

3. Remember who is sitting on the throne, sovereign over the nations, and Lord of history.



*“Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD—the people he has chosen to be his own possession! ... He is our help and shield. For our hearts rejoice in him because we trust in his holy name.” (Ps. 33:12-21; CSB)*



*“He changes the times and seasons; he removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals the deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him.”*

*(Dan. 2:21-22; CSB)*



# How to Navigate Election Season in a State of Peace, Not Fear:

4. When out in our community, have the courage to spread peace, not fear and division.



*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they  
will be called sons of God.”*  
(Matt. 5:9; CSB)





*“I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”*

*(John 16:33; CSB)*



*“If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?”*

*(Rom. 8:31-32; CSB)*



“The root of our anxiety is our disconnection from God; this means we cannot be a non-anxious presence without God’s presence.” (Mark Sayers)