

# POLITICS – MY MINISTRY NOT MY IDENTITY

Posted on April 12, 2017

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When I imagined my life many years ago, my dreams did not involve politics in any capacity. I didn't give much thought to my husband's career except that I knew I wanted him to be home as much as possible. Just a regular, average job that paid the bills, but ended at five every day and never carried over into evenings or weekends. That's not too much to hope for, right?! Apparently, God had bigger plans for my husband, Matt, and I needed to get on board quickly. After just two years of marriage, we moved across the country so Matt could attend law school. Law school required the majority of his time, but I stayed busy with work and my own education and I knew this was only temporary. In reality, this was merely the beginning! I knew God had planted the seed in Matt's heart many years prior to become involved in politics, but I didn't have a clear picture of what that life would look like. In 2010, Matt pursued political office for the very first time. After a long campaign season, he lost that first race. I was very sorry for him, but a little relieved at the same time. I simply wasn't sure a political life was right for us, especially with babies, babies, and more babies! I thought maybe once our kids were older (and even out of the house), it would be a more appropriate time. Matt sought God's will for the next months and years and strongly believed he should run again. In 2012, he won his 3 way race outright. I knew only God could have orchestrated this sequence of events. A man with barely any name recognition, very little money in the campaign account, and no extensive political background was headed to Austin! I was thrilled to see the Lord move in our lives so clearly, but also unsure how to keep our family strong with Matt away so often.

**“Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us.” (Ephesians 3:20 KJV)**

Fast forward to the present... we are in the midst of his third session. Although there have been some challenging seasons, God has been faithful every step of the way to give me grace for the moment.

**“...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...” (2 Corinthians 12:9a KJV)**

I still think at times I would be able to better partner with Matt if this political life would have started in about 20 years. Nevertheless I trust God's plan and timing. I am humbled and grateful to report that our family is strong, my love and respect for Matt grows daily, and we are a solid team. I believe the key to our success in this area is knowing Who is in control. Matt is free to make decisions based on right motives rather than political moves to get ahead. The stress of re-election or future political endeavors is non-existent as we have complete faith that God will direct our path and open or close doors as He sees fit.

**“And He changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.” (Daniel 2:21)**

This perspective has led me to the realization that this “political thing” is our Kingdom work. It is our ministry, not our identity. God has positioned us to be salt which will hopefully bring some encouragement and change to a lost world.

**“Ye are the salt of the earth... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.” (Matthew 5: 14a, 16 KJV)**

We are in desperate need of a revival in Texas and in America. My heart's desire is to say “Yes” to the Lord and be in a state of readiness to serve Him. Revival begins with inner examination and conviction. We need local and statewide leaders who refuse to compromise when the pressure intensifies. With eternity in mind, it becomes clearer and easier to have the right priorities. People are more important than issues and that's why we must find common ground with others to show love and compassion while not giving into the middle ground/tolerance movement.

I previously believed there were only one or two political issues that actually affected my personal life. I thought we could merely keep to ourselves and the government would never intrude on my faith as a Christian woman or as a Christian mom raising my children with a Biblical Worldview. As our culture is rapidly changing, I find it difficult to view any political issue without seeing how it may shape my life and the future of my children. The only people our society seems unwilling to stand up for and protect are vulnerable women and children. This is why we desperately need elected officials like my husband in the Capitol making these important decisions. I joyfully make sacrifices wherever necessary to support and encourage Matt in his endeavors. This is my political ministry... to pray for Matt, to encourage and support him, to share wisdom, to give him a happy home where he can return.

This has also been an amazing opportunity to educate my children in government and current issues. It is incredible to see them think critically about an issue and come to their own conclusion based on their Biblical Worldview. This reminds me how clear right and wrong, good and evil are to children (and should be to all of us). It is the handiwork of sin, corruption, and sometimes a political agenda that desensitizes people to immorality over time. One of the practical ways I engage my children in the political process is watching the proceedings of the Texas House live online. They are thrilled to see “Daddy” on the computer and it also affords a time for us to discuss the issues being debated and laws being voted on. For example, it is mind-blowing to my children to think that someone wants to allow men in women’s restrooms or a boy to use the same shower as a girl. It is also unfathomable to them that it is legal in our country for a mother to choose to end the life of her baby. The list goes on and on.

**“Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another;” (Romans 2:15 KJV)**

I don’t have a list of awards or achievements; I’ve not authored books or blogs; I am not a sought after orator or performer, but I do know God has positioned me perfectly to be a homeschooling mom of 5, wife to a lawyer and politician, and a student of God’s Word. I am proud to be a Christian stay-at-home homeschool mom and wife! I look forward to continuing to be involved in politics in whatever capacity God allows. After all, it is vitally important to our present life and future. Will the next revival begin in the halls of our Capitol in Austin? Maybe! I want to be ready to serve where God is working and I bet you do too! Thank you for supporting my husband and family with your prayers, love and encouragement. God bless each of you!