



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW SERIES

**BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
PRAYER GUIDE**

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL
Washington, D.C.

1. Pray for the protection and promotion of religious liberty.

A broad measure of religious freedom is currently enjoyed in the United States. However, this is not the case everywhere in the world and might not always be the case here. Pray that the human right of religious liberty would be protected and promoted in the United States and worldwide so that no one is persecuted for living according to their religious beliefs.

Key Passages:

Joshua 24:15 – “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served...or the gods of...the land [in which] you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Matthew 22:21 – “Then he said to them, ‘So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’”

2. Pray for our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Those in positions of authority can protect or erode religious liberty through the policies they support. Pray that our government leaders would make wise policy decisions that protect and promote religious liberty. Pray that our political parties and all three branches of government would be united in their support of religious liberty.

Key Passage:

1 Timothy 2:1-2 – “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

3. Pray for judges hearing religious liberty cases.

Unfortunately, recent court decisions have undermined religious liberty and conscience protections in the United States. Pray that judges would have wisdom and discernment as they preside over cases concerning religious liberty. Pray that they would show no partiality and interpret our nation’s laws as written.

Key Passages:

Deuteronomy 1:17 – “And I charged your judges at that time, ‘Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly...Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God...’”

Proverbs 24:23 – “These are the sayings of the wise: to show partiality in judging is not good.”

4. Pray for the church.

Pray that pastors and church leaders would guide their congregations to stand strong in the faith amid persecution or infringements on their religious liberty. Pray that churches steward their religious liberty well.

Key Passages:

2 Timothy 3:12-14 – “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of...”

Psalm 37:3 – “Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.”

5. Pray for the next generation of Christians.

Attacks on religious liberty can be especially intimidating to young believers. Pray that they would seek wise counsel and be disciplined and trained to stand for religious freedom in our nation and around the world. Pray that young Christians would be rooted in a biblical worldview and have the courage to stand for their convictions.

Key Passages:

Ecclesiastes 12:1 – “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, ‘I find no pleasure in them.’”

Deuteronomy 6:6 – “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

6. Pray for a spirit of gratitude.

Religious liberty is a gift that shouldn't be taken for granted. Pray that everyone who reaps the benefits of religious liberty would cultivate gratitude for this blessing. Pray that we would teach our children and grandchildren to do the same.

Key Passages:

Psalm 78:4 – “...We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

James 1:17 – “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

7. Pray for organizations fighting to preserve religious liberty.

The fight to protect religious liberty is ongoing. Thankfully, there are organizations that advocate for religious liberty at home and abroad. Pray that those advancing a broad vision of religious freedom would have endurance. Pray that their efforts to stop religious persecution would be successful.

Key Passages:

1 Corinthians 15:58 – “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Colossians 3:17 – “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

8. Pray for those around the world without religious liberty.

Millions of people around the world are persecuted for their faith and unable to live according to their religious beliefs. They must worship and practice their faith in secret. Pray that they would be able to worship freely in their homes, towns, and countries. Pray that more societies would see religious liberty as a human right.

Key Passages:

1 Thessalonians 5:15 – “...Always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.”

Hebrews 13:3 – “Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

9. Pray for the persecuted church.

Persecution is nothing new to the Christian church. Since the church's inception, there have been those who have sought to destroy it. Unfortunately, this is still true in many places around the world. Pray that persecuted Christians would have faith and endurance in hardship. Pray that they would share the gospel, disciple others, and worship together with boldness and wisdom. Pray that the church would continue growing despite persecution.

Key Passages:

Acts 4:29 – “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

Hebrews 12:1b-3 – “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

10. Pray for persecuted peoples of other faiths.

Religious persecution is a reality for many faiths, not just Christianity. Pray that the human rights of all people of faith would be respected. Pray that the church would show compassion to persecuted peoples of other faiths.

Key Passages:

Galatians 6:10 – “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.”

2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”



OUR VISION

Family Research Council's vision is a prevailing culture in which all human life is valued, families flourish, and religious liberty thrives.

OUR MISSION

Family Research Council's mission is to advance faith, family, and freedom in public policy and the culture from a biblical worldview.