NMFAF

NEW MEXICO FAMILY ACTION FOUNDATION

FAITH *BEYOND* SUNDAY

A Biblical Guide to Engaging Culture, Community & Government

FAITH *BEYOND* SUNDAY

Following Jesus was never intended to be confined to Sunday morning.

Biblical discipleship shapes the way we live in our homes, raise our children, conduct our work, love our neighbors, steward our resources, and respond to the world around us. If Jesus is Lord of our lives, then His Word should inform every part of them—including the way we engage in our communities and culture. That makes civic engagement more than a political exercise. **It is an expression of biblical discipleship.**

WHY BIBLICAL ENGAGEMENT *MATTERS*

Scripture tells us that we are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20), but while we are here, God has intentionally placed us in communities, cities, states, and nations. We are called to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13–16), to seek the welfare of the places where God has planted us (Jeremiah 29:7), to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1–2), and to do good as we have opportunity (Galatians 6:10).

Our ultimate hope is not found in government, political leaders, or public policy. **Our hope is in Jesus Christ.**

But trusting Christ does not require withdrawing from the world around us. Instead, our confidence in Him frees us to engage faithfully—without fear, without placing our hope in political outcomes, and without surrendering biblical truth.

The question, then, isn't simply: **"How should a Christian vote?"**

A better question is: **"How should a Christian think biblically about the issues shaping our culture?"**

Voting is one answer to that question—but it is only one.

FROM BIBLICAL TRUTH *TO* EVERYDAY LIFE

The Bible was not written as a modern policy manual, yet Scripture gives us enduring truths that shape how we understand human life, marriage and family, authority, justice, conscience, freedom, responsibility, and our relationship with one another.

Those truths give us a framework. When we encounter a cultural issue, proposed law, public-policy debate, or election, our first question shouldn't be, "What does my political party say?" or even, "What do I personally think?"

Our first question should be: **"What does God's Word say?"**

Then we can ask how those biblical principles apply to the issue before us.

This requires wisdom. Not every public-policy question has a simple chapter-and-verse answer, and faithful Christians may sometimes disagree about how a biblical principle should be applied. But that should drive us deeper into Scripture—not away from the conversation.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND *IN* THIS GUIDE

In the pages ahead, we'll examine three foundational biblical values that frequently intersect with decisions being made in our communities and government:

LIFE: What does Scripture reveal about human dignity, the image of God, the vulnerable, and the value of human life?

FAMILY: What does Scripture teach about marriage, parents, children, discipleship, and God's design for families to flourish?

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: What does Scripture teach about conscience, conviction, worship, obedience to God, and the freedom to live faithfully?

For each value, we'll begin with Scripture. We'll explore what the Bible teaches, consider why those truths matter in our world today, and provide questions that can help you evaluate cultural issues and public policy through a biblical lens.

The purpose isn't to tell you what a political party believes. **The purpose is to equip you to know what you believe and why you believe it.**

DISCIPLES *WHO* ENGAGE

There will always be another election, another legislative session, and another cultural debate. That's why our goal must be bigger than preparing Christians for the next ballot.

We want to cultivate believers who know God's Word well enough to recognize biblical truth and who will be courageous enough to live by it, gracious enough to communicate it with love, and faithful enough to carry it into every place God has given them influence.

- ***Know the Word***
- ***Think biblically***
- ***Pray faithfully***
- ***Engage courageously***
- ***Love your neighbor***
- ***Trust God with the results***

Because biblical engagement isn't ultimately about politics. It's about discipleship.

LIFE

"WE DON'T DETERMINE WHICH HUMAN LIVES HAVE VALUE. WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE THAT GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN THEM."

BEARING *THE* IMAGE OF GOD

Every human life has value—not because of what a person can do, contribute, achieve, or become, but because of whose image that person bears.

Before Scripture gives us commands about how we should treat one another, it tells us something extraordinary about who we are. **"Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.'" — Genesis 1:26**

Human dignity begins here. Men and women are uniquely created in the image of God. Our value is not assigned by government, determined by society, earned through accomplishment, or dependent upon our age, health, independence, intelligence, usefulness, or circumstances.

Human life has inherent worth because human beings bear the image of their Creator.

That truth forms the foundation of a biblical understanding of life.

CREATED *IN* HIS IMAGE

Genesis 1:26–27 establishes a distinction between humanity and the rest of creation: God made human beings in His own image.

Later, after sin entered the world, God again pointed to His image as the reason human life must be treated as sacred (Genesis 9:6). James makes the same connection when warning believers about how we speak about other people, describing human beings as those "made in the image of God" (James 3:9).

The image of God isn't reserved for the strong, healthy, wanted, powerful, or independent. It belongs to humanity.

That means biblical human dignity cannot rise and fall according to circumstances. A person does not become more valuable when he becomes productive or less valuable when he becomes dependent. She does not gain dignity when others want her or lose dignity when caring for her becomes difficult.

Our value begins with God, not with us.

This radically changes the way Christians view human life.

KNOWN *AND* FORMED *BY* GOD

Scripture also speaks with remarkable intimacy about God's involvement in human life before birth. David writes: **"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb." — Psalm 139:13**

He continues by praising God because he is "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). The womb is not presented as a place hidden from God's attention. David describes God as actively knowing and forming him there.

The prophet Jeremiah records God's words: **"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb." — Jeremiah 1:5**

And in Luke 1:39–44, Scripture describes the unborn John responding to the presence of the unborn Jesus when Mary visits Elizabeth. Together, these passages reveal something beautiful:

Human life in the womb is neither unseen nor insignificant to God.

The God who creates life knows it, sees it, and gives it purpose.

PROTECTING *THE* VULNERABLE

Because human beings bear God's image, Scripture repeatedly commands God's people to defend those who are vulnerable.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed." — Proverbs 31:8

Throughout Scripture, God demonstrates particular concern for those who can easily be overlooked, exploited, abandoned, or oppressed.

- ***The poor***
- ***The widow***
- ***The orphan***
- ***The foreigner***
- ***The sick***
- ***The powerless***

Jesus continued this pattern throughout His ministry. He welcomed children, touched lepers, honored women society dismissed, cared for the sick, and showed compassion toward those others preferred to ignore.

A biblical ethic of life therefore asks more than: **"Is this person alive?"**

It also asks: **“How should I love and protect this person because he or she bears the image of God?”**

Protecting life and caring for people cannot be separated.

FROM CREATED BEGINNING *TO* NATURAL END

If human worth comes from bearing God’s image rather than from ability or independence, then that worth remains throughout every stage of human life.

Before birth. In childhood. Through disability or illness. During seasons of dependence. Into old age. And as natural death approaches.

This is why Christians should reject measurements of human value based upon usefulness, convenience, strength, wantedness, or quality of life. Our responsibility is not merely to oppose the taking of innocent human life. We are also called to create a culture in which human beings are loved, protected, and cared for.

A biblical culture of life cherishes both the child and the mother, both the strong and the weak, both the independent and the dependent.

Every person bears God's image. Every person is our neighbor.

WHY *THIS* MATTERS TODAY

These truths become especially important when our culture wrestles with difficult questions involving human life.

Abortion. Physician-assisted suicide. Euthanasia. Disability. Medical ethics. Care for mothers and children. Treatment of the elderly. Protection of people who cannot advocate for themselves.

These issues can quickly become political arguments. For the Christian, however, the starting point must come before politics: **What is a human life, and who determines its value?**

If human dignity is determined by autonomy, usefulness, wantedness, health, or circumstance, then some lives will inevitably be valued more highly than others. But if human dignity comes from God, the question changes.

We don't determine which human lives have value. We recognize the value God has already given them.

That conviction should shape not only the way we vote, but the way we live. It should affect the laws we support, the ministries we serve, the women facing unexpected pregnancies whom we walk alongside, the children we welcome, the families experiencing disability whom we support, the elderly we honor, and the vulnerable whose voices we defend.

This is what it means to carry a biblical value of life beyond Sunday.

THINK BIBLICALLY: *LIFE*

When considering a cultural issue, proposed law, candidate, or public-policy debate involving human life, ask:

- **What does Scripture reveal about the people affected by this issue?**
- **Does this recognize the inherent dignity of every human being—or make human value dependent upon circumstances?**
- **Who is vulnerable or unable to advocate for themselves?**

- **Does this protect innocent human life?**
- **Does this encourage compassion and care for those facing difficult circumstances?**
- **Am I applying the same biblical standard of human dignity consistently—even when doing so is inconvenient?**

These questions move us beyond political talking points and back to the foundation: **What does God's Word say?**

ENGAGE *FAITHFULLY*

Believing that life is sacred requires more than holding the right position.

Pray for wisdom, vulnerable people, families facing difficult circumstances, and those making decisions that affect human life.
Learn about legislation and policies involving life and human dignity.
Speak with truth and grace when human life is threatened or devalued.
Serve organizations and ministries caring for mothers, children, families, people with disabilities, the elderly, and others who are vulnerable.
Engage your elected officials when legislation affects the protection of human life.

Vote with an understanding of how candidates and policies will affect human dignity and the protection of vulnerable people.

And through all of it, remember that the people who disagree with us also bear the image of God.

Our conviction should be unwavering, and our compassion should be unmistakable.

BEYOND SUNDAY: *LIFE*

The value of life is not merely a political position to defend. It is a biblical truth to live.

When we welcome the child, support the mother, honor the elderly, defend the vulnerable, care for the suffering, speak for those without a voice, and advocate for laws that protect human dignity, we demonstrate something profound about the God we worship.

We believe every human life is worthy of protection because every human being bears the image of God.

KNOW THE WORD. THINK BIBLICALLY. ENGAGE FAITHFULLY.

FAMILY

"PARENTS ARE NOT INCIDENTAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE UPBRINGING OF THEIR CHILDREN. THEY ARE THEIR CHILDREN'S PRIMARY STEWARDS, TEACHERS, AND DISCIPLERS."

"BIBLICAL PARENTAL RIGHTS SHOULD NEVER BE SEPARATED FROM BIBLICAL PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY."

DESIGNED *BY* GOD

Family is more than a cultural institution. It is part of God's design for human flourishing—a place where love is practiced, truth is taught, faith is passed from one generation to the next, and children are nurtured toward maturity. Before there were governments, schools, or communities, there was family. In the opening chapters of Scripture, God creates humanity male and female and establishes marriage:

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." — Genesis 2:24

Jesus later points His listeners back to this created order when teaching about marriage (Matthew 19:4–6). Marriage and family are not human inventions that society is free to redefine. They begin with God.

GOD'S DESIGN *FOR* MARRIAGE

Genesis presents marriage as the covenant union of a man and a woman who become "one flesh." Within this relationship, husband and wife are called to faithfulness, sacrificial love, mutual care, and commitment.

Ephesians 5:21–33 describes marriage in even deeper terms, pointing to the relationship between Christ and His Church.

Marriage therefore carries meaning beyond companionship. It provides a foundation for family, creates a place for husbands and wives to love and serve one another, and establishes the relationship into which children are ordinarily born and nurtured.

Scripture does not pretend families are perfect. They aren't. From Genesis onward, the Bible records jealousy, infertility, betrayal, sibling rivalry, parental failure, grief, and broken relationships. Yet human brokenness does not erase God's good design. Instead, it reminds us how desperately families need His grace.

PARENTS *AS THE* PRIMARY DISCIPLERS

One of Scripture's clearest teachings about family concerns the responsibility entrusted to parents. God tells Israel: **"And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children."**
— Deuteronomy 6:6–7

Notice where this discipleship occurs: At home. Along the road. At bedtime. In the morning.

Faith formation was never intended to be confined to a weekly gathering or delegated entirely to another institution. God's design places parents in the central role of teaching and forming their children.

Proverbs similarly instructs parents to train their children (Proverbs 22:6), while Ephesians 6:4 calls fathers to bring their children up "with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord." Churches have an important role. Teachers can be tremendous partners. Communities can support families. But none of these replaces the responsibility God entrusted to parents.

Parents are not incidental participants in the upbringing of their children. They are their children's primary stewards, teachers, and disciplers.

CHILDREN *ARE A* GIFT *NOT A* POSSESSION

Parental authority is itself accountable to God. **Psalm 127:3 tells us: "Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him."**

Children ultimately belong to God. Parents therefore receive both authority and responsibility. They are called to protect their children, provide for them, teach them truth, discipline them with love, and prepare them for maturity.

This means biblical parental rights should never be separated from biblical parental responsibility. The Christian argument for parental authority isn't simply: "These are my children." It is deeper: "God has entrusted these children to my care, and I am accountable to Him for how I steward that responsibility."

That understanding transforms parental authority from a demand for control into a sacred stewardship.

PASSING FAITH *FROM* GENERATION *TO* GENERATION

God's design for family stretches beyond one generation. Psalm 78:5–7 describes God's people teaching His commands to their children so that the next generation would know them and, in turn, teach them to their own children. We see this beautifully in Paul's words to Timothy: **"I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice." — 2 Timothy 1:5**

Grandparents matter. Mothers matter. Fathers matter.

The faithfulness of one generation can leave a spiritual inheritance for generations that follow. A healthy society should therefore recognize the tremendous good accomplished when families are strengthened rather than displaced.

FAMILY *AND THE* HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Scripture's vision of family also reaches beyond the biological household.

Jesus welcomed children. The early Church cared for widows. Believers opened their homes to one another. Christians are repeatedly described as brothers and sisters, and the Church itself is called "God's family" (1 Timothy 3:15).

This matters. Some believers are single. Some cannot have children. Some have experienced divorce, abandonment, or the death of a spouse. Some come from deeply broken families.

God's design for family should never become a measuring stick for someone's value. Instead, the Church should be a place where God's design is celebrated, broken families find support and restoration, marriages are strengthened, parents are equipped, children are welcomed, and those without traditional family structures experience genuine belonging in the family of God.

We uphold God's design while extending God's grace.

WHY *THIS* MATTERS TODAY

Questions about family now intersect with some of the most significant cultural and public-policy

debates of our time. Marriage. Education. Parental rights. Medical decision-making. School curricula. Children's privacy. Government authority. Religious upbringing. Once again, Christians should resist beginning with political talking points. We begin with Scripture.

- **Who has God entrusted with primary responsibility for children?**
- **What authority belongs to parents?**
- **What responsibilities accompany that authority?**
- **What is the appropriate role of government, schools, churches, and communities in supporting families?**

Government has legitimate authority and important responsibilities. Schools can serve families. Churches should equip them. Communities should support them. But institutions flourish when they respect rather than replace the family. Public policy should therefore be considered not merely by asking what government can do, but whether doing it strengthens or weakens the responsibilities God has entrusted to families.

Strong communities are built upon families that are free and equipped to fulfill their God-given responsibilities.

THINK BIBLICALLY

When considering a cultural issue, proposed law, candidate, or public-policy debate affecting families, ask:

- **Does this respect God's design for marriage and family?**
- **Does this recognize parents as the primary stewards of their children?**
- **Does it help parents fulfill their responsibilities—or unnecessarily transfer those responsibilities to government or another institution?**
- **Does it respect parents' responsibility to direct the education, medical care, and spiritual formation of their children?**
- **Does this protect children and promote their genuine flourishing?**
- **Does it strengthen relationships between parents and children—or create unnecessary barriers between them?**
- **Are vulnerable families being supported with compassion while their dignity and responsibility are preserved?**

These questions help us move beyond slogans and ask a better question: **Does this strengthen God's design for family or work against it?**

ENGAGE FAITHFULLY

Defending family begins long before contacting a legislator.

Strengthen your own family. Make your home a place where truth is taught, forgiveness and love are practiced, and Christ is honored.

Disciple your children. Don't surrender to the Church, school, or culture a responsibility God has entrusted to you.

Support other families. Encourage marriages, mentor younger parents, care for single parents, welcome children, honor grandparents, and walk alongside families experiencing hardship.

Know what your children are being taught. Be an active participant in their education and formation.

Understand public policy. Pay attention when legislation affects marriage, children, education, parental authority, or family life.

Vote thoughtfully. Consider whether candidates and policies will strengthen families, respect parental responsibility, and protect children. Political engagement is only one piece.

The strongest argument for the family is a family faithfully living God's design.

BEYOND SUNDAY: *FAMILY*

We cannot say we value family biblically only when legislation threatens it.

We live that conviction around dinner tables. In marriages that choose faithfulness. In exhausted parents who continue discipling their children. In grandparents who faithfully tell another generation about God's goodness. In churches that surround struggling families rather than shame them. In communities that protect children while honoring the responsibility of parents. And yes, in citizens who advocate for laws that allow families to fulfill the responsibilities God has entrusted to them.

When families flourish, communities are strengthened. And when Christians carry God's design for family beyond Sunday, we show the world that family is more than something worth defending.

It is something worth faithfully building.

KNOW THE WORD. THINK BIBLICALLY. ENGAGE FAITHFULLY.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

“WE HONOR EARTHLY AUTHORITY, BUT WE WORSHIP GOD ALONE.”

“RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ISN’T SIMPLY THE FREEDOM TO WORSHIP GOD ON SUNDAY; IT IS THE FREEDOM TO FAITHFULLY FOLLOW HIM EVERY DAY.”

FREE *TO* LIVE FAITHFULLY

Religious freedom is more than the freedom to attend church. It is the freedom to believe, worship, speak, and live according to deeply held convictions without being forced to violate one's conscience.

For the Christian, religious freedom begins with a simple declaration: **Jesus is Lord.**

Our highest allegiance belongs to Him. Throughout Scripture, God's people lived under kings, governors, empires, and civil authorities. They were instructed to honor governing authorities, pray for leaders, seek the good of their communities, and live peacefully with others.

But Scripture also establishes a boundary no earthly authority can cross: **Government is not God.**

When human authority requires what God forbids—or forbids what God requires—the believer's ultimate allegiance remains with God. That conviction lies at the heart of religious freedom.

FAITH CANNOT *BE* COERCED

Throughout Scripture, God calls people to respond to Him. Moses told Israel: **"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses... Oh, that you would choose life." — Deuteronomy 30:19**

God calls. He commands. He reveals truth. Yet genuine faith involves a response of the heart. Joshua similarly challenged Israel to "choose today whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15).

Religious freedom does not mean every belief is true. Scripture makes truth claims that Christians cannot abandon. But there is an important difference between proclaiming truth and coercing belief.

Government can regulate conduct for the protection of society, but it cannot manufacture genuine faith.

Faith compelled by force is not faith.

This is one reason freedom of religion and conscience matters so deeply.

THE IMPORTANCE *OF* CONSCIENCE

Scripture treats conscience seriously.

In Romans 14, Paul addresses believers who disagreed about matters of practice. Rather than commanding government or even church leaders to compel uniformity on every disputed matter, Paul writes: **"You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable." — Romans 14:5**

Paul is not teaching that truth is relative. Elsewhere he speaks boldly and uncompromisingly about truth. Rather, he recognizes that people are accountable before God for their actions and convictions. Later he asks: **"Why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God." — Romans 14:10**

Ultimately, conscience exists under God's authority. That means Christians should be very cautious about demanding that another person violate conscience simply because those in power disagree with it.

A government powerful enough to violate someone else's conscience today may be powerful enough to violate yours tomorrow.

WHEN OBEDIENCE *TO* GOD *&* GOVERNMENT COLLIDE

Scripture commands Christians to respect governing authority.

Romans 13:1–7 describes civil government as instituted by God. First Peter 2:13–17 instructs believers to honor those in authority. First Timothy 2:1–2 calls us to pray for kings and others in leadership. Christians should therefore not treat every disagreement with government as persecution or every unwanted law as an attack on religious liberty.

But biblical submission to government is not absolute. Daniel continued praying to God when the king's decree prohibited it (Daniel 6). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image even when threatened with death (Daniel 3). When authorities commanded Peter and the apostles to stop teaching in Jesus' name, Peter answered: **"We must obey God rather than any human authority." — Acts 5:29**

These believers were not rebellious simply for the sake of rebellion. They had reached a line they could not cross. Human authority had demanded something contrary to obedience to God.

Their response establishes an important principle: **We honor earthly authority, but we worship God alone.**

JESUS IS LORD *OVER THE* WHOLE LIFE

Religious freedom is sometimes reduced to "freedom of worship"—the ability to gather inside a church building for a religious service. That freedom is essential. But biblical faith does not remain inside the walls of a church.

Jesus calls us to follow Him everywhere. Our faith shapes the way we raise our children, conduct our businesses, practice our professions, use our Resources, speak, serve, create, teach, and interact with our neighbors. Paul writes: **"And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus."**
— Colossians 3:17

There is no biblical division between the Christian we are on Sunday and the person we become on Monday.

If faith is meant to shape our whole lives, religious freedom must include the ability to live faithfully beyond the walls of a church.

FREEDOM *FOR* OUR NEIGHBOR

There is another side of religious freedom Christians must not overlook. We should not defend this freedom only when Christians benefit from it.

Jesus commands us: **"Love your neighbor as yourself." — Matthew 22:39**

If we desire the freedom to worship, speak, raise our children, and live according to our convictions, we should recognize that same basic freedom of conscience for our neighbors. That includes people whose beliefs differ profoundly from ours. Defending another person's religious liberty does not require affirming that person's theology.

We can disagree about truth while defending one another's freedom to seek, believe, speak, and worship without coercion.

Why? Because Christians do not need government to force people into Christianity. We want people to encounter Christ, hear the Gospel, repent, and follow Him genuinely. Our confidence is not in coercion. **Our confidence is in the power of the Gospel.**

WHY THIS MATTERS TODAY: *RELIGIOUS FREEDOM*

Questions of religious freedom increasingly appear in debates involving education, employment, healthcare, professional licensing, parental rights, religious organizations, freedom of speech, and the ability of individuals and institutions to operate according to their convictions.

These questions can be difficult. Religious liberty does not automatically exempt every person from every generally applicable law simply because he or she raises a religious objection. Governments also have legitimate responsibilities to protect citizens, preserve order, and administer justice.

That is why Christians need wisdom.

The question isn't whether believers should receive special privileges. A better question is: **Are people being unnecessarily forced to choose between obeying the law and remaining faithful to sincerely held religious convictions?**

When government enters matters of conscience, the consequences deserve careful scrutiny. Christians should therefore pay attention when laws or policies affect the ability of individuals, families, churches, ministries, schools, or other religious organizations to live consistently with their faith. Religious freedom isn't merely about protecting what happens on Sunday.

It protects our ability to carry our faith beyond Sunday.

THINK BIBLICALLY: *RELIGIOUS FREEDOM*

When considering a cultural issue, proposed law, candidate, or public-policy debate affecting religious freedom, ask:

- **Does this respect the freedom of individuals to worship and practice their faith?**

- **Does this unnecessarily force someone to act against a sincerely held religious conviction?**
- **Does this allow churches and religious organizations to remain faithful to their beliefs and mission?**
- **Does this protect the ability of parents to pass their faith to their children?**
- **Am I defending religious freedom as a principle —or only when it benefits people who believe as I do?**

These questions help us defend religious liberty consistently rather than politically.

ENGAGE FAITHFULLY: *RELIGIOUS FREEDOM*

Religious freedom survives when people understand it, practice it, and defend it.

Know your faith. Religious liberty means little if we are unwilling to live according to the convictions we claim to hold.

Practice your faith openly. Pray, worship, serve, disciple your children, gather with believers, and carry your faith into everyday life.

Respect your neighbor. Defend the dignity and basic freedom of those whose religious beliefs differ from your own.

Know the issues. Pay attention when legislation or public policy affects churches, ministries, religious schools, families, conscience rights, or freedom of religious expression.

Speak graciously and courageously. Contact elected officials and decision-makers when religious liberty is threatened.

Vote thoughtfully. Consider whether candidates and policies will protect the freedom of people and institutions to live according to sincerely held religious convictions.

Pray for those in authority. Even when you strongly disagree with them, Scripture calls us to pray that we may live "peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity" (1 Timothy 2:2).

And when obedience becomes costly, remember the believers who came before us. Faithfulness has never depended upon cultural approval.

BEYOND SUNDAY: *RELIGIOUS FREEDOM*

Religious freedom isn't ultimately about protecting our comfort.

It protects space for conviction. For the Gospel to be proclaimed. For churches to worship. For parents to disciple their children. For believers to carry their faith into their workplaces and communities. For people to wrestle honestly with questions of truth. And for Christians to live under the lordship of Jesus Christ without being forced to separate their public lives from their faith.

We should cherish that freedom. We should extend it to our neighbors. We should defend it when it is threatened. And we should use it faithfully while we have it. Because religious freedom isn't simply the freedom to worship God on Sunday.

It is the freedom to faithfully follow Him every day.

KNOW THE WORD. THINK BIBLICALLY. ENGAGE FAITHFULLY.

FAITH BEYOND SUNDAY

NOW, LIVE *WHAT* YOU BELIEVE

We began this guide with a simple idea: **Following Jesus was never intended to be confined to Sunday morning.**

If Jesus is Lord, then His Word shapes more than our worship. It shapes the way we see people. The way we build families. The way we understand freedom. The way we love our neighbors. The way we engage our communities. And yes, the way we approach government, public policy, and the voting booth.

Throughout these pages, we've considered three foundational biblical values:

LIFE reminds us that every human being bears the image of God and therefore possesses dignity and worth that no government, circumstance, or person can give or take away.

FAMILY reminds us that God designed the family as a place of love, discipleship, responsibility, and flourishing—and that parents have been entrusted with the sacred responsibility of raising and discipling their children.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM reminds us that while we honor earthly authority, our ultimate allegiance belongs to God. We should protect the freedom to live according to conscience and extend that freedom to our neighbors as well.

But knowing these truths is only the beginning.

FROM CONVICTION *TO* ACTION

James warns us not to merely listen to God's Word, but to do what it says (James 1:22).

Biblical conviction should produce faithful action. Sometimes that action looks like casting a vote. Sometimes it means contacting a legislator. Sometimes it means speaking at a school board meeting, supporting a ministry, serving a struggling family, helping a mother facing an unexpected pregnancy, defending someone's freedom of conscience, discipling your children, or simply having a courageous conversation with your neighbor.

Faithful engagement will not always look dramatic. Often, it looks like ordinary Christians faithfully stewarding the places God has already given them influence.

- ***Your home***
- ***Your church***
- ***Your neighborhood***
- ***Your workplace***
- ***Your community***
- ***Your state***

The question isn't whether you have influence. The question is what you will do with it.

POLITICS *IS* NOT OUR HOPE

As Christians engage culture, we must remember something critically important:
We are not trying to make politics our religion.

Government cannot save us. A political party cannot redeem a culture. A candidate cannot transform the human heart. Only Jesus can do that.

Our hope remains firmly planted in Christ. And because our hope is secure in Him, we don't have to engage from fear, anger, or desperation.

We can engage with courage. We can speak truth with grace. We can disagree without hatred. We can lose a political battle without losing hope. And we can win one without confusing political victory with spiritual revival.

Our responsibility is faithfulness. The results belong to God.

YOU *WERE* PLACED HERE *ON* PURPOSE

Acts 17:26 tells us that God determined the times and places in which people would live.

Think about that for a moment. You are living ***here***, in this community, in this state, in this generation. Not accidentally.

There are families to strengthen. Lives to protect. Freedoms to preserve. Neighbors to love. Leaders to pray for. Truth to speak. People to serve. And a Gospel to proclaim. You don't need to become consumed by politics to make a difference. You simply need to faithfully follow Jesus wherever He has placed you.

So open your Bible. Know what you believe. Pray for wisdom. Love your neighbor. Serve your community. Pay attention. Speak when necessary. Vote when given the opportunity. Stand firm when conviction requires it. And through it all, point people toward Jesus.

Because our communities don't simply need more politically informed Christians. **They need faithfully discipled Christians who carry the truth, grace, courage, and love of Christ everywhere they go.**

That is faith beyond Sunday.

KNOW THE WORD. THINK BIBLICALLY. ENGAGE FAITHFULLY.

DON'T STOP *HERE*

Stay Informed. Get Equipped. Take Action.

Biblical engagement doesn't end when you close this booklet.

New laws are proposed. Cultural challenges emerge. Elections come and go. Families face new questions. And believers continually need trustworthy information and practical ways to engage.

New Mexico Family Action Movement exists to help you put your faith into action. We come alongside Christians and churches with biblical resources, legislative information, opportunities for civic engagement, and practical tools to help believers faithfully influence their communities.

- **STAY INFORMED**
  Receive updates on legislation, elections, cultural issues, and decisions affecting New Mexico families.

- **GET EQUIPPED**
  Access biblical resources designed to help you understand the issues, disciple your family, and engage your community with truth and grace.

- **TAKE ACTION**
  When important legislation or public-policy decisions arise, we'll help you understand what's happening, why it matters, and how you can make your voice heard.

CONNECT *WITH* NMFAF

Scan to connect with NMFAF, sign up for updates, access resources, and find opportunities to engage.

Faith doesn't end on Sunday.
Neither should our engagement.

SUPPORTING **THE CHURCH**
STRENGTHENING **DISCIPLES**
INFLUENCING **CULTURE**

NMFAF

NEW MEXICO FAMILY ACTION FOUNDATION

nmfam.org

505.803.6366