



# LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

## JULY: RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

### **Honor Everyone - Love the Brotherhood - Fear God - Honor the Emperor**

When Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:17, he gives scattered and pressured Christians a four-part rule for living faithfully in a hostile Roman world: show dignity to everyone, show sacrificial love to fellow believers, reserve ultimate reverence for God alone, and offer limited, civic respect to the emperor without giving him the worship Rome demanded. Peter's teaching helped the faithful navigate the tension between the Left-Hand Kingdom of civil authority and the Right-Hand Kingdom of God's grace.

Dr. Martin Luther used this verse to teach his own generation how to live wisely in a two-kingdom world. He repeatedly quoted Peter to insist that civil rulers have no authority over the soul. The emperor cannot command faith. The state cannot require worship. The conscience belongs to God alone. The Gospel is not under the sword. The Right-Hand Kingdom is governed by the Gospel, ruled by Christ, shaped by forgiveness, and never enforced by civil law.

In 1776, the Founders found themselves at a similar crossroads as they declared the colonies an independent nation. Eleven years later, after argument, compromise, deliberation, and prayer, they framed a government grounded in the conviction that civil authority must be limited, conscience must be free, and church and state have different roles in the life of citizens. The Constitution protected religious liberty, banned religious tests, and restrained the power of the state. Its system of limited, enumerated powers reflects a deep Reformation inheritance: honor the civil ruler, but fear God alone.

Today, the Constitution still limits governmental power, secures religious liberty, and echoes the biblical truth that honor belongs to the state, but fear belongs to God. Yet these guarantees are stretched and tested daily.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty serves as the voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Washington, D.C., speaking the two-kingdom word—"Honor the Emperor and Fear God"—to those who labor on Capitol Hill.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty asks for your partnership in prayer for those in Congress, elected to *"support and defend the Constitution of the United States."* These individuals stand firm in protecting and defending the foundational right of religious liberty.

Let Us Pray:

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV*

Almighty and everlasting God, You rule all things in heaven and earth. Give Your wisdom to the Senators and Representatives of this government and all those who labor with and for them, that they may seek to govern with justice and compassion. As they create policies and legislation, cause them to defend the lives of all people. We pray that they may seek to do what is right in Your eyes and that all their decisions would be founded in justice and truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless those who serve in Congress. Grant that they may seek wise decisions for the general welfare and to serve You faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

PRINT – PERSONALIZE – Pray

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for the members of the United States Congress during the month of July.

Not only do we ask that you would pray, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

In order to pray for your members by name, please use <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> (enter your address to find your specific members).

The LCRL reminds you that many members of congress are in their home districts during the month of July.

A short phone call, email, or text to your elected officials is a way to share your concern, support, ideas, and that you are praying for them.

That contact information is available on their page.

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Please feel free to personalize this bookmark with the name(s) of your Congress members that you will pray for in July, cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference.

Senator:

Senator:

Representative:

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