



CHRISTIAN  
UNION

# Gospel of the Kingdom Conference

EVENING TWO

Pastor & Councilman Fernando Cabrera on  
The Need and Role of Christians in Government

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Armenian Evangelical Church  
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## Pre-Session

Matt Bennett: This evening, before we have Ken come up, which will be in about five minutes, I wanted to introduce someone to you, a friend of Christian Union and a man I appreciate and respect very much, City Councilman Fernando Cabrera. He was here last night with his wife, Elvy. He's alone here tonight, but I'm thankful to have him here. He is a pastor in the Bronx at New Life Church, and also serves on the New York City Council.

It's incredibly important that we have Christians in all spheres of our society, including government. There's a lot of important battles and issues to face and address in government, and Fernando is right there on the front lines addressing this and doing this. I asked him if he'd come up and speak for three to five minutes on his call and the need for Christians in government and to play a role that way. By the way, another time, if you ever get to hear him give a message or a sermon, it's fantastic, but that'll be another time and incredible blessing. Fernando's been a wonderful blessing to Christian Union, to so many of us, and we're grateful that you're here. Please come on up, Fernando.

Fernando Cabrera: Thank you so much, Matt. You're such a, truly, truly a blessing. You have been a blessing to me, to my wife, to our church, and to this city. We need more Matts to really impact this city. As you know, whatever happens in New York affects this nation and affects the nations of the world, and that has been more accentuated in my life when I went to the City Council, and I realized how few of us, and when I mean us I mean Christians, are participating and making a difference and being the salt and the light of the world in government. Usually we create this false dichotomy of separating the spiritual from the secular world, where in reality, everything that we do, everything that we touch, becomes spiritual, just like everything God touches becomes holy.

When I got there, I asked them. I said, "Hey, where are the Christians?" I saw one Catholic lobbyist. That was about it. I said, "Where are all the Christians?" I expected all the Christians to be there. I expected Christians to be engaged, and all I had experienced is people in the other side. That might not seem very attractive to you, a proposition to be involved in government, until they start trying to close schools from having churches being able to rent from public schools. We had that in the last administration, and thank God that a few of us were able to stand together and block that move, but there are people, literally they're going to be running next year, that if they get in office, they're going to try to do that. To be honest with you, unless we pass a law on the state level, 150 churches will become homeless in less than two years from now. This is why I have to tell you that if you feel prompt in your spirit to get engaged in government, please do so. We need the reinforcements. Where is my left flank?



We do need the reinforcements. We need the Christians to get engaged. I had never been in politics, I didn't want to get involved in politics. I always thought that politics is something that corrupted people do, but there's nothing dirty about politics. Politics is the art of governing, and if we get people with the right heart, when the righteous rule, the city rejoices. I believe it's time for the city to rejoice again, and we can do that, instead of spending most of our time cursing the darkness, we should put people who have the light so we don't have to spend all the time protesting and saying, "This is wrong," and "Jesus, please come back now, because things are getting worse." You know how it goes. I think we'd be better served to use our energy, our effort, in putting the right people in and making sure they stay in so we could put forth the principles and the laws and the legislations that really make sense.

Beloved, whenever you hear there's a Christian in office, please pray for them. I heard Ken talk about oppression last night, and I have to tell you, I have never felt darkness. I cast out demons, I been there, done that, in the United States and abroad. I been involved in spiritual warfare, but I never face the face of darkness like I have seen it in government. They are powers, they are principalities. I seen Christians get in and be brought down, because they did not have the roots and they didn't have that firm foundation and conviction and become fearless. One thing that I appreciate when I heard Ken last night, more than what he said, is who he is. This aggressive, fearless faith, and I believe that that will work as well in government.

Beloved, let's pray that God will raise up a new generation of leaders. Maybe there are some of you here today that you were born for such a time like this, you were made for this. God bless you, thank you so much, Matt.

Matt Bennett: Thanks, Fernando. You know, a lot of people, when they approach politics, they often identify more with a political party than they do with candidates who love the Lord Jesus Christ. Fernando's a democrat, but it doesn't matter whether you're republican or democrat. If it's a republican who's going to rule righteously, then let's vote for him and put him in. If it's a democrat that wants to rule righteously, let's vote for them and put them in. As Christians we need to have our primary loyalty not to a particular party, but to those who govern wisely and righteously. Thank you, Fernando.