

# Questions for God

## Part 5 – What is Political Discipleship?

### 1 Timothy 2.1-6

In 2016, only 40% of Evangelicals wanted input from the Bible regarding politics

- Does Jesus reign over everything or does He not?
- We tend to take our political cues and civility from the news

How do we bring discipleship into the political arena?

**We pray** (for those who govern us)

- Perspective – puts us in touch with what is ultimate and real
  - Render to Caesar – My Kingdom is not of this world – Don't fear the one who can destroy the body but after do nothing else
- Power – if we believe that prayer can and actually does change things, why do we start elsewhere “first of all”
  - Wisdom – Character – Accomplishment
  - St Nicholas – Berlin
- Practical Step: Pray. Don't Post.

**We submit** (to those who govern us)

- Romans 13.1-7
- Who they are – God-appointed leaders
  - Theocracy (church rules the state) – Nationalism (state rules the church) – separation of church and state (each with God-appointed tasks and roles)
- What they do – reward good and punish evil
- What we do – encourage (without demonizing), affirm (without idolizing), follow (without compromising) godly leadership
  - Our unending critiques of political leaders in this generation become unending critiques of all leaders in the next generation
  - Can I be a one-issue voter?
- Practical Question: can you critique your own tribe and credit the other?

**We live** (godly lives, quietly and with dignity)

- Consequential living – there is more to life than politics
  - 2 Thes. 3.10-12; Eph. 4.25-32

- We think we are supposed to win and forget we are supposed to witness (most argue to win rather than learn)
- Eternal living – ministry best happens in relationship, so don't miss ministry chances because of political stances
  - Are you saying be quiet / withdraw? Nope, but listen too – even listen first! Matt. 12.36
    - Pray – vote – examples in Scripture of engagement
    - Agreement on goals doesn't mean agreement on means (part of process)
    - Getting 60% of what you want is better than getting 100% of nothing
  - Name calling – politics as only drum – passing along dubious info (gossip)
- Practical Step: have lunch with a person outside your preferred political outlook

### **We hope** (in Jesus alone)

- He reveals to us what God desires for us
  - It's a kind of salvation that means we know the Truth
    - Truth: what we talk about reveals where our hope is
    - Truth: neither party gets to claim Him
    - Truth: there is a Kingdom that will not cannot be shaken
    - Truth: the "culture" will not last; He's coming back for the church, not a "Christian nation"
- He is the answer to our greatest problem
  - He paid the ransom and lives as our mediator
  - Our hope is not in donkey or elephant – our hope is in a Lamb

### Questions for Discussion:

1. On a rating of your own determination, how political would you say you are? How much do you listen to or take in political talk shows, etc.? What effect do you think they have on your life? How would someone close to you answer that last question?
2. In the sermon, we attempted to build a framework for thinking about politics as a Christian which began with prayer. Why do you think Paul began there (and re-emphasized it in 1 Tim. 2.8)? How much time do you spend praying for those governing? What do you pray for them?
3. Reread Romans 13.1-7. What is the role of government according to this passage? What is our response to it? Compare this passage to 1 Peter 2.13-17. What is similar? What further insights or commands do you see?
4. Reread Ephesians 4.25-32. What one particular command sticks out to you? How is your life more consequential (to the Kingdom, to neighbors, to family) when you obey?
5. How do you know if someone is hoping in a political party? What would be the tell-tale signs? How would that same hope show up in a person hoping in Jesus? Which does your life look more like?
6. Out of the practical steps that Trent listed, which do you need to take this week?