



## Politics & Religion?

Most of us are taught not to talk religion or politics, but what if our avoiding these tough conversations has been a mistake? What if the church was a safe place to talk about politics?

### Discussion Questions

1. It's no secret that we are a politically divided nation. Why do we get so emotionally charged and accusatory when we talk about political issues?
2. In the sermon Jeremy mentioned that at least 2 disciples (Matthew and Simon the Zealot) would have been at polar opposites of the political spectrum. Do you think he has disciples at both ends of the spectrum today? If not, what does that say about either our system or your perception of "the other side?"
3. **Read John 17:20-21** What did Jesus pray for us? Why do you think that is what he prayed for? How can people on different ends of the political spectrum find unity in Christ? What does that look like?
4. **Read Philippians 3:15-16** Do you think Paul would apply this verse to political disagreements? What kinds of things is he telling us to live up to?
5. What are examples of issues that are clear in scripture that are political topics today? If neither party is fully on the side of Biblical truth, how can we be clear about things we don't support—even when the party we eventually vote for is on the wrong side of scripture? How can 2 Christians who love Jesus and take the Bible seriously, come down supporting different sides?
6. Jeremy shared a quote – "Never burn a relational bridge over a political disagreement." Have you seen that? Why is that hard for us?
7. How can we pray and work for unity now and after this election is over?

**Shaping Your Mind** *Philippians 3:15-16 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.*

**Moving Forward** – Your candidate will win or lose this election based on how America votes. The church will win or lose depending on our behavior leading up to and after this political season. – Andy Stanley