

Prayer Over Politics

Introduction: One of the greatest evidences of the need for greater discipleship has been the division we have witnessed and been a part of when it comes to politics. Division is fueled by fear, but how does that reconcile with the commands of Jesus to not be afraid? What if we were serious about prayer this entire year leading up to the next election?

Discussion Questions

1. On the one hand, we are often told not to talk about politics because of potential disagreements. On the other, churches have made very impassioned and direct political stands (supporting candidates). How can we have better conversations about politics? Does the topic make you nervous or are you glad that we are addressing the topic?
2. **Read Luke 12:4-7,11-12** What kinds of things are we supposed to be afraid of? In those last two verses, Jesus is giving instruction for when people and governments are in strong, even violent, opposition to his followers. Does what Jesus told them, still apply for us?
3. Read **John 6:15** Jesus withdrew when the crowd wanted to make him king by force. There is a lot of talk at times about becoming a “Christian” nation. What is appealing, and what is contrary to what Jesus taught and modeled about that concept?
4. How can we combat fear surrounding the political climate? What scripture or practices can you use to remind yourself to trust in God and not be driven by fear?
5. Why is it important for Christians not to prioritize saving America over loving the people in it? How can you demonstrate love and care for others, even when you may disagree with their political stances??
6. In the sermon, Jeremy talked about God using a wicked and violent king as “his servant.” That king said that God is sovereign and gives the kingdoms of the world to whoever he wants to. How does acknowledging God's sovereignty impact our perspective on politics?
7. What kind of prayers can we offer for our elected officials? How can you remind yourself to pray for elected officials regularly, regardless of their political beliefs?

Shaping Your Mind – *the Most High is sovereign over all the Kingdoms of the earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.” (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32)*

Moving Forward – *“Saving America is not the mission of the church. The moment our love or concern for country takes precedence over our love for the people in our country we are off mission.” – Andy Stanley*