



DO FOR ONE

THE WAY OF JESUS IN POLITICS

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

Are you excited, nervous, or hesitant to soon gather together in person for small groups? Why?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will do for one what I wish I could do for everyone.
- I will ask God to reveal who he wants me to help.
- I will reach out with compassion to those in need.
- I will extend compassion regardless of how the person got in the situation.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

How should Christians relate to the government? We should all approach this subject in a thoughtful, humble, mature and Spirit-sensitive way that honors Christ. We need to be clear, the gospel of Jesus Christ transcends every country, every political agenda, and every cause. The Word of God stands above them all as the sole authority and judge. The first thing we must know is that God's purpose of salvation is not to be identified with any one country's well-being. His plan for the world is that the church would advance His kingdom. The second thing is that we are to honor those who are in leadership, and engage in politics with an understanding of Jesus' teachings. We should never slander each other because of political views. We're to be involved in our government processes: informed, voting, activists. But we're to do it humbly, with an understanding of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Society will be judged by God in its treatment of the oppressed, the marginalized, and the vulnerable people in a society. We need to be informed and involved, in light of the teachings of Jesus, in light of God's heart for this world. But we must also be grace-filled, humble people, who don't have all the answers. We must live it in the realization that the hope of the world is the gospel of Jesus Christ and His bride, the church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When discussing difficult subjects or topics, what does it mean to do it in a way that honors Christ
2. History has shown that the church flourishes more under persecution than when it holds power. Why do you think that is?
3. Read Romans 13:1-6 and discuss the Christians attitude towards governing authorities. How do we honor that authority while at the same time keep our allegiance to God?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

4. God's purpose for the church is to advance the kingdom of God. Why is it important for a church to stay focused on that rather than any one political ideology or agenda?
5. There is a tendency for people to behave badly towards another who disagrees politically with them. What are ways to overcome this?
6. Read James 1:26-27. What is the heart behind the religion that God accepts?
7. Knowing that there will be differences among Christians around values, goals and strategy on the issues in our world, how do we stay involved and stay in community with each other?
8. Discuss how you can be Informed and involved on issues while remaining grace filled and humble. What does that look like?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will live like my ultimate allegiance is to God, not a political party.
- I will be involved in politics with an understanding of the life Jesus taught me to live.
- My political attitude and involvement will reflect the whole counsel of God.
- I will treat those I disagree with politically with kindness and respect.
- I will not gossip, listen to half-truths, or slander those I disagree with.
- I will honor those who lead me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Acts 4:1-6
- Acts 4:18-21
- Acts 5:40-42
- Romans 13:1-7
- Matthew 22:21
- John 6:15
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Amos 4:1-3
- James 1:27