



Few topics divide people more than politics, and few issues turn off unbelievers more than the way they see some Christians engage in politics. This series explores how we can participate in the political process in a way that honors Christ, increases our witness, and affirms our primary citizenship in the kingdom of God.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by noting that “Few interests can stir more passion than politics, and that passion can often be exhibited in some very toxic ways, even by Christians.” On a scale from 1 to 10, how interested are you in politics? How might conversations regarding politics give us opportunities to share the good news of God’s kingdom?

2 LET’S DETERMINE... Where do I pledge my allegiance? *The reason nothing divides like politics is because nothing divides like fear.* What are some examples of how “politics often majors in fear”? Follow up: **Read Matthew 22:21.** How does the “dominion” we choose often serve as the lens through which we view the other?

3 Rick pointed out that “We have to stop letting ‘Christian’ be a modifier when it is supposed to be our fundamental identity.” Why is that such a significant distinction? Follow up: In what ways can we better “evaluate politics through the filter of our faith rather than refashion our faith to endorse politics”?

4 THREE CONVICTIONS: Christ > Caesar *The temptation to give to political figures what only belongs to God is very real.* How have you seen this to be true? In what ways did the first followers of Jesus deal with this tension (see **Acts 17:5-9**)? Follow up: Rick went on to say “So the question is not if Jesus follows our politics, but do we follow Jesus in a way that informs, shapes, and even challenges our politics?” How is following Jesus informing, shaping, and even challenging your politics right now?

5 THREE CONVICTIONS: Kingdom > country? *For Jesus the good news was more than forgiveness of sins; it was the invitation to come under the gracious reign of God.* **Read Mark 1:15.** How does this encourage us to always remember that our identity is found in God’s Kingdom and not in a person’s country? Follow up: Rick went on to say, “No nation or party can bring about the future for which I long.” How is God’s kingdom the answer to the political failings and injustices we observe in the world (see **Hebrews 12:28**)? How does seeking God’s kingdom more serve our country better?

6 THREE CONVICTIONS: Citizenship > partisanship? *There is no “Christian party.”* What are some policies from each party that Christians can legitimately debate and disagree on? What are some positions from each party that Christians can support? How can our not aligning exclusively with any political power make each of us better?

7 LET’S DECIDE... Will I choose the love of power or the power of love? *Politics reveals that many of us are fearful people. We are afraid of where our country is headed, and we are convinced that through political power we can promote Christian standards and values.* Is that hard for you to hear? If so, why? Follow up: In what ways does Jesus reject that strategy (see **Matthew 20:25-28**)? How can keeping your allegiance to Jesus first, help you deal with your fears no matter what happens in November?

