



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 asking this question, “*Is it possible to engage the political process in a way that opens doors for our witness to Christ rather than closing them?*” Share some examples of how you’ve experienced this in a positive way recently. Follow up: When you’re with family or friends, do you discuss politics or avoid it? Would you like that to change one way or the other?

2 PEOPLE ARE POLI-TICKED OFF! *Political differences have always existed in our nation, but the current level of animosity over politics has not. Why do you think political differences often result in character assaults, compromised ethics, and even severed relationships? Why do you think the current political climate is so much more toxic than it used to be? Follow up: When do you feel most tempted to get caught up in it?*

3 THREE COMMITMENTS: Practice civility. *“Civility” comes from the Latin word for “citizen”; so it’s a necessary virtue for producing a nation of good and decent citizens. Read Colossians 3:12 and Ephesians 4:29-32. What principles stand out to you the most from these verses and how can they lead to more civil political conversations (including how you engage with people on social media)? Follow up: Read James 1:19-20. How can applying these words of wisdom from James help in this area?*

4 THREE COMMITMENTS: Pursue humility. *Humility means treating people in a way that makes them feel valued. Rick noted that the Fundamental Attribution Error is where we ascribe to others the worst of*

motivations while ascribing to ourselves the best of intentions. Share some examples of when you’ve been guilty of doing this. Follow up: Read Philippians 2:3-4. How can living out these verses help us better understand how others came to their viewpoint? How have you seen this make a big difference?

5 THREE COMMITMENTS: Prioritize unity. *Few things hurt a parent more than seeing their kids attack each other. Read John 17:20-21. What stands out to you the most from Jesus’ prayer? Follow up: Why is unity not just “an option” but something that is “mission-critical” and how does the commandment from Jesus in John 13:34-35 make it possible? Share some examples of how you’ve seen love build bridges instead of walls.*

6 Looking back at the three commitments above, what’s something you can do (or stop doing) to approach political conversations in a healthier way?

7 Campaign for Jesus! *Don’t do anything before the election that will compromise your witness after it. What is something you can do to remind yourself that the “who” across from you is more important than your view? Follow up: Rick closed by reminding us that the gospel is the hope for our nation and for the world. Why is that such a crucial thing to keep in mind? Spend time praying that we would all remember that the way we act in the days ahead can open doors to people desperate for some good news tomorrow.*

