



THE GOSPEL *{and politics}*

Part 1 – A Gospel Shaped View

This week, Pastor Brandin started a new series called *The Gospel {and politics}* that is sure to make us all a little bit uncomfortable. The goal of this series is to help us as navigate this turbulent political season AND to be better followers of Jesus as we do it.

In Part 1 of this series we discuss how it is possible for us to disagree politically and still love unconditionally. In fact, Jesus knew that there would be lots of things, politics being one of them, that would temp us to become divided, and so He prayed that we would remain one (united). This may sound like a pipe dream to many, but Jesus prayed for it and we believe He has the power to accomplish it in us.

Discussion Questions

1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how interested are you in politics?
2. What do you look forward to most—and dread most—about presidential election years?
3. Outside of your workplace, think of the people you interact with most. What percentage of those people think pretty much the same way as you politically?
4. In all honesty, which of these describes you best? Why do you say that?
 - I evaluate my politics through the filter of my faith.
 - I create a version of faith that supports my politics.
5. Read John 17:20–23, where Jesus offers a prayer for future believers.
 - What stands out to you?
 - In verse 23, Jesus prays for unity. How would you define “unity”?
 - According to Jesus’s prayer, why is unity so important?
6. When it comes to politics and moving toward unity, what’s a next step for you?

Next Steps

1. Pray what Jesus prayed for. Pray for oneness.
2. Look for an opportunity to love unconditionally someone with whom you disagree politically.

Prayer

“Father, we are thankful that while we were enemies of God, Christ died for us. He has broken down the dividing wall and we are united in Christ. So father, we pray that what you have brought together under the banner of Christ will not be torn apart by temporary things...including politics. Heavenly Father, we pray that you will fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the power to live like Jesus. Amen.”