

Jesus & Politics: Unity & Diversity

Sermon Notes April 7th, 2024

What this is:

- A guide to finding peace in this divisive time.
- A call to seek God's kingdom above all else
- A reminder that speaking the truth in love is the goal, and one without the other does not lead to discipleship.

What this isn't:

- A guide for where to place your vote.
- An opinion piece on specific political issues.
- A recommendation to avoid engaging in politics altogether.

“Special interest groups around us attempting to use us, have conspired to convince us, that the greatest threat to the Ekklesia of Jesus is actually outside of us.”

-Andy Stanley

John 17:13-23

13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

John 18:36-37

36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” 37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Jesus wants His church to give full _____ to Him and His Kingdom.

“The political left & right are fighting for our allegiance and imagination. But our allegiance is to the Lamb, not a donkey or elephant.” -Dr. Derwin Gray

John 17:17-23

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

John 17:20-23

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

John 17:21-23

21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

John 17:21b-23

May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:22-23

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.

Jesus wants a _____ and _____ church.

Political & Theological Parties in Jesus' Day:

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Colossians 3:11 NIV

11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Matthew 5:43-45 NIV

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

The vehicle by which this unity and diversity takes place is through _____.

John 17:23b

Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Will you bear the fruit of Jesus' prayer for unity or the fruit of political division?

How do you bear the fruit of Jesus' prayer for unity?

1. Pledge _____ to Jesus over the country.
2. Don't allow opinions to become _____ within the church.
3. Refuse to _____ anyone for any reason.