

## Be Not Conformed to This World

### Small Group Discussion Questions

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at [granthamchurch.org/liturgy](http://granthamchurch.org/liturgy).

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, November 15th 2020



**Sermon Title:** Be Not Conformed to This World

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 5:38-48; Mark 12:16-17; Romans 12:1-21

**Sermon Focus:** Jesus's teachings have political applications: "Love your enemies," "Do not return evil for evil," "Live at peace with everyone." How do we follow the teachings of Jesus in our world? The apostle Paul addresses this question in Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world." Listen as John Yeatts shares how we're called to follow the politics of Jesus rather than the partisan politics of our world.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. John Yeatts began his message by giving examples of how he has prophetically criticized presidents over the past several decades, but nobody ever accused him of being partisan, until he spoke out against Donald Trump. Why do you think that is? What has changed in our country and the Church? Have you been impacted by those changes? How has the Church given in to partisan politics?
2. What should the Church be doing to resist partisan politics? What should we be saying, doing, and modeling for others? What kinds of speech and behaviors do you see coming from Christians (left & right) that *aren't* helping? In other words, how do we often "conform" to this age? Give specific examples for these.
3. Read Romans 12:1-21 together. We can hear the Apostle Paul alluding to the teachings of Jesus in this chapter. Where do you hear Jesus in Romans 12? How do we apply this passage to our political behavior and to our context today?
4. Remember, Romans 12 comes before Romans 13, a well-known chapter on the role of government. Paul is contrasting the two kingdoms and helping Christians understand who they are and how they should understand and relate to the state. Share ways you see that the Church is different than the state.
5. John said that some of us are drinking the Kool-Aid. Some drink the *red* (republican elephant), and some drink the *blue* (democratic donkey). Instead, he called us to drink the living water of the Lamb of God. "Drinking the Kool-Aid" means that we uncritically accept and approve without question, like those who follow a cult-leader (i.e., Jim Jones). Why do you think it's so easy to "drink the Kool-Aid" when it comes to our political leanings and political parties?
6. John helped us to see how our faith can't fit into a partisan box. For example, he said that Christians should not define life and choice as narrowly as politicians and political parties do. We are pro-life from the womb to the tomb! How else do you see that the gospel and our faith can't be contained in a political party?
7. What would it look like for Grantham Church to be the kind of congregation that transcends partisan politics? Do you think everyone will like or understand this "third way" approach? What challenges will we face from those on the far right and far left? How can you see God using the third way to grow our church?