

The Politics of Jesus (1 of 7) 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.

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, September 27th 2020



Sermon Title: Church, We Have a Problem!

Scripture Reading: John 13:34-35; Phil 2:6-8; Col 2:15; Matthew 16:24-25

Sermon Focus: Jesus said that his disciples are to be known by their love. Judging by our reputation, something is definitely amiss with the church's witness. Instead of living in love and trusting in cross-power, many Christians are lusting for political power. How have we gone so far off the rails? And what does repentance look like? Listen as Pastor David calls us to remember who we are and tells us how to return to the way of Jesus.

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. Be honest, when you first heard about us doing “The Politics of Jesus” sermon series, were you anxious and/or relieved? Share with the group how you’re feeling. Listen to one another and how they are processing these challenging times.
2. Pastor David began the first message in the series with a disclaimer. Here are his three points: (1) our church leadership is committed to our Anabaptist heritage; (2) we’re a “third way” congregation—political but not partisan; (3) he is an unaffiliated voter, including three reasons for that. How do you feel about Pastor David putting all of his cards on the table in this way? Did you find this helpful for a pastor to do?
3. Pastor David said there are *three* major forces at work forming a perfect storm in the US: (1) Everything is politicized; (2) Cancel culture; (3) Culture War Christianity. How do you see these at work around you? At home, in society, and in the church?
4. Jesus warned and rebuked his disciples when it came to their desire for power and “winning” against their enemies. See Mark 10:32-45; Lk 9:52-56; and Matt 5:43-45. In what ways do you see Christians longing and lusting for power? Be careful to identify this on both sides of the political aisle. Why do we justify this behavior?
5. Read Philippians 2:6-8 and Colossians 2:15. Now read 1 Corinthians 1:18. Think about cross-power and what Jesus reveals about “God’s power” in his life, death, and resurrection. Why do we have such a hard time believing in God’s power?
6. Read John 13:34-35 together. Jesus said we’re to be known by our love, but we’re often known by other things. What are those things? Also, this seems like a simple (although difficult) command from Jesus: “Love like I’ve loved you.” So, why do we not take this more seriously in the church? (e.g. churches kick people out over doctrine and bad behavior, but has anyone ever been disciplined for lack of love?)
7. In his invitation, Pastor David gave us some ways that we can follow Jesus in love. Discuss each of these and pray for one another as you put them into practice.
 1. Affirm the dignity and inherent worth of others.
 2. Befriend and listen to those not like you.
 3. Don’t assume, think the worst, or judge others.
 4. Meditate on the words of Jesus.
 5. Pray for your enemies.