

The Politics of Jesus (6 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, October 25th 2020



Sermon Title: Jesus, You & the Voting Booth

Scripture Reading: John 18:36; Romans 13:1; Philippians 1:27; Hebrews 11:13-16

Sermon Focus: It's time for Christians in America to acknowledge that we're living in a modern-day empire. And while Christianity certainly influenced the founding of the US, America is *not* a Christian nation. So, as aliens and exiles, how should we conduct ourselves civically? How should we live as citizens of heaven? How should we vote? Listen as Pastor David challenges us to remember who we are and the One we serve.

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. Pastor David began his message by sharing how America is a modern-day empire. He talked about the imperial aspirations of the founders, Manifest Destiny, slavery, the “greater” United States, globalization, and US military presence around the world. What thoughts and feelings does this evoke? How does this challenge your understanding of America? Also, like all other empires that have existed, how do we justify, mythologize, and divinize our country?
2. Pastor David said that America is *not* a Christian nation. While the US has certainly been influenced by Christianity, there are plenty of reasons why we can say it is not. For example, all of the atrocities committed in the founding of the country. Also, the Treaty of Tripoli (1797) stated: “The government of the United States is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion.” Furthermore, the author Lee Camp (*Scandalous Witness*, p.68) says it is (a) historically false; (b) theologically false; (c) strategically alienating. What do you think Camp means?
3. Pastor David said he doesn’t want “to discourage us from civic participation, but to remember that only so much can be achieved by worldly kingdom means. You want to be involved in the political realm—you want to be involved in government—well, in so far as you can follow Jesus and be *faithful* to the teachings of Jesus, you are free. But watch out! Many of us cross that line without recognizing that we’ve ever done so.” How have you seen this to be true? How far do you think someone can go in politics without lying, cheating, accepting bribes, and justifying immoral decisions/behaviors to get things done?
4. Read Philippians 1:27. Pastor David gave us some background and context to the very political letter that Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi. The Greek word for “conducting yourselves” is *polituesthe* (civic conduct/political life). Paul said that our civic conduct should be “worthy of the gospel” of Jesus. Knowing what you know about the imperial influence in Philippi, and what you know about the Messianic agenda, what do you think Paul means in this verse?
5. What did you think of the video of Phil Visher (creator of Veggie Tales) responding to the question, “How should we vote?” If you’re able, watch it again as a group. What did you find helpful? How did the video speak to you?
6. As you consider what Phil shared about how our country is split according to two competing political ideologies, can you see the value of being a “third way” church? How has our third way emphasis both challenged and helped you?