

Jesus, Justice & the Third Way (1 of 6))
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, October 6th, 2024



Series Focus: In *Jesus, Justice & the Third Way*, we are reflecting on the political nature of the gospel and how we are called to pledge allegiance to the Lamb—not the donkey or the elephant. We are examining Jesus’ posture and approach to political matters and seeing how he dealt with political parties, hot-button issues, and the “partisan mind” that fuels division. Join us for this timely sermon series as we consider what it looks like to follow the Lamb in an age of idolatry and division, so that we might be faithful to Christ until he returns and brings the fullness of his Kingdom on the earth.

Sermon Title: The Gospel is Political

Scripture Reading: John 18:28-40; Philippians 1:27, 3:20; Rev. 5:1-14

Sermon Focus: The Enlightenment and modern Western society are responsible for forcing heaven and earth apart and driving a wedge between religion and politics. This construct is a fairly recent invention, and not a view or practice supported by historic Christianity. According to Jesus and the New Testament, the gospel *is* political, and it has real-life implications. In the first message of our series, Pastor David shares why we shouldn’t depoliticize the gospel, and he invites us to look at Jesus—the Lamb of God.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading John 18:28-40. Pay special attention to the words of Jesus. First, read the passage quietly to yourself, and then have someone read it aloud to the group. What

have you understood Jesus to be saying about the nature of his Kingdom? Did the message on Sunday help or clarify his meaning?

2. Pastor David used several examples from Scripture to show that the gospel is inherently political when it is proclaimed in this world. Jesus was not crucified for preaching spiritual truths. His life and teachings made a political impact and had political ramifications. Therefore, the Kingdom (which always looks like Jesus) has political meaning and implications for disciples today. Is this a new concept for you? If so, what is God saying to you through this new insight?
3. Think back to some of the images and symbols that Pastor David showed us in his message—both the Roman and American symbols. He said that we must be aware of the idolatrous forces that vie for our allegiance, often represented by political icons and symbols. How did this portion of the sermon challenge you?
4. Ask yourself: “Have I been aware of the idolatrous political forces at work in American society? What examples do I see? Also, what about the idols in my own heart/mind?” Take a silent moment or two to ask God to reveal this to you.

Now, be honest with your group as you share. Are there certain passions and loyalties you have that feel a bit like idolatry? How is God inviting you to lay those down and direct your faith and affections toward Christ—the Lamb?
5. Have someone read Revelation 5:1-14 aloud. The heavenly vision of Christ enthroned as a slain Lamb (rather than a ferocious beast) invites us to be Lamb-like as disciples (e.g., sacrificial, humble, patient, self-emptying, loving, etc.). And as Christians, we trust that this posture and approach is how we are to live in this world with our neighbors. In contrast with much of the behavior we are seeing in our politically tumultuous times, what might it look like to be Lamb-like with your family, friends, and neighbors, especially with those who are difficult?
6. Listen to this song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBk5NGVE_TI
After listening, close in prayer about the things you’ve discussed together. Pray for the release of idols. Pray for our congregation as we continue this series. Pray that the Church in America would repent and follow the slain Lamb.