



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Patriotism and Nationalism*

Text: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Romans 13

Service Date: June 30, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Do you consider yourself a political person? Or, are you involved in/passionate about politics? Why or why not?
- Have you ever traveled to another country? What was that experience like, and what were some of the differences between living there compared to the US?

Sermon Discussion

- Remember that the Bible was written to the Jews and their nation but holds principles and lessons for us. Does this change how you view the way that people apply the Bible to our nation?
- We learned in Paul's sermon that patriotism is simply a love for one's country, but that nationalism believes we are the one, superior nation and often mixes worship of God with worship of government. Do you think that our own personal pride is actually the true root and cause of nationalism?
- Another extreme people fall into with our nation is complete distrust, disrespect, and disregard for our nation's leaders or government. Why do you think it is hard for us to remember that God is ultimately in control and has placed our leaders in authority above us (Romans 13:1-2, 1 Peter 2:13, Mark 12:17)?
- Just as Jonah's pride and sense of nationalism obstructed sharing the Gospel with the Ninevites, is it possible that we have the same bias towards other nations or cultures? Why do you think it is sometimes hard for us, even as Christians, to toss aside biases and share the Gospel to all, in love and truth?

- Paul pointed out in his sermon the moral decay of Israel and other nations in history, and about how that is many people's fear for the United States. How much do you think our nation could change if Christians took action in our calling in the kingdom of God and cared for our people and nation?
- By looking at nationalism and patriotism we can see that the true struggle in most of our lives is one of priority, or in other words, idolatry. What might we be putting on a pedestal in our lives over God and His kingdom?
- How do you think having an eternal kingdom mindset vs an earthly kingdom mindset could help you in your life? Would it make you less stressed about politics, or less worried about our nation? Or maybe would it help you see hope and purpose in this world instead of cynicism?
- Why do you think we have seen the Christian community and church fall out of culture and seclude itself from the world rather than providing aid and seeking to make not only a kingdom difference, but a worldly difference?
- Paul's final point hammers home again the fact that we need an eternal mindset. As we are told in Matthew 6:33, we are told to seek God's kingdom and righteousness first. What are some practical ways we can better seek God and His will in our lives on a daily basis?

Resources

Book: *Jacob Deshazer: Forgive Your Enemies* by Geoff Bengé and Janet Bengé

Book: *The Bible and the Ballot* by Tremper Longman

Book: *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics* by Eugene Cho

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.