



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



“ONLY ONE WINNER”

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

So what does it mean to be a _____ in a deeply divided nation days before an election?

How do we navigate a _____ political atmosphere personally...and with family, friends, people at work and church, etc.?

1. A Nation _____

Most of American history is made up of various chapters of political and social disagreements, divisions, arguing, and even _____ at times.

Civil War:

- More than ____ million men took up arms
- Hundreds of thousands of black and white civilians in the Confederacy became _____
- At least _____ soldiers died (more than all other wars _____ in US history)...this is the equivalent of ____ million dead in the US of 2020!

1968

What is different today is the _____ of social media (only ____% of Americans use Twitter, but these ____ million people have far greater influence in our culture than they ever should).

Politics, by definition, is _____.

Jesus followers have been dealing with cultural and political tensions and divisions in America for _____.

2. Nothing Divides Like _____

Because nothing divides like _____ and _____.

Both major political parties know that marketing fear brings in _____.

Are elections important? _____!

Elections have consequences (Former President _____).

But as Jesus followers, no earthly nation or party or cause is our _____
_____ (note [1 Peter 2:11](#); [Philippians 3:20](#)).

How do we navigate our *dual citizenship* in a contentious culture where fear (*what could we _____?*) and anger (*how can people be so _____ to not agree with me?*) permeate every _____ of media and even relationships in our lives?

3. Commitment to Only Use the Correct _____

Will I _____ my political views through faith/Jesus, or will I _____ a version of faith that supports my politics?

Jesus experienced the passions that politics _____.

Note [John 17:1, 11](#) Jesus wanted their _____ protected!

Note [John 17:20-21a](#) ...Jesus clearly made this a top priority, not just so we would get along, but because of His _____ (note [John 17:21](#)).

Note John [13:34-35](#); [17:22-23](#)

Make sure to fact check:

- We have one _____ (to reach people who are spiritually lost...)
- We have one _____ (Jesus Christ is Lord...)
- We have one priority (be _____).
- ..._____ will win or lose based on our attitudes and actions between now and Nov. 3, and after election day.
- It was the _____ faith (not any political party) that shaped Western civilization...
- ...and it was the teaching of _____ that built the foundation for our values of justice, fairness, and dignity.
- We have the incredible opportunity to _____ for our neighbors and nation what it looks like to disagree politically and love unconditionally.
- *Father, make us one so we can _____ many.*

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: Have you ever run out of gas, ending up stranded along the road? Let's hear your best excuses on how that came to be!

1. Politics and religion...all in one Small Group Discussion Guide, what could go wrong? But seriously, how have you stay focused on God's big picture amid all that's happening around us?
2. Have you ever stopped and thought about the history of division Pastor Tom laid out?
 - a. What are some divisions you've lived through, and what memories have stuck?
 - b. More importantly, how did you represent Jesus, or see Him represented, in those times?
3. Read [1 Peter 2:11](#) & [Philippians 3:20](#). How do these truths help bring fear and anger under control as we navigate living with dual citizenship?
4. Read [John 17:11, 20-23](#). How do we as Christ followers get His mission accomplished in the world? How do you do your part in your world?
5. How can being in unity with one another help get Jesus' mission accomplished? ([John 13:34-35](#)) Why is it so important that it's accomplished?
6. Which item from Pastor Tom's closing list do you need to focus on living out this week? How can our group help you do that?

Day One: John 1

Day Two: John 2

Day Three: John 3

Day Four: John 4

Day Five: John 5

PERSONAL GUIDE



“ONLY ONE WINNER”

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MESSAGE NOTES

So what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus in a deeply divided nation days before an election?

How do we navigate a volatile political atmosphere personally...and with family, friends, people at work and church, etc.?

1. A Nation Divided

Most of American history is made up of various chapters of political and social disagreements, divisions, arguing, and even violence at times.

Civil War:

- More than 3 million men took up arms
- Hundreds of thousands black and white civilians in the Confederacy became refugees.
- At least 620,000 soldiers died (more than all other wars combined in US history)...this is the equivalent of 6.5 million dead in the US of 2020!

1968

What is different today is the amplification of social media (only 7% of Americans use Twitter, but these 17 million people have far greater influence in our culture than they ever should).

Politics, by definition, is divisive.

Jesus followers have been dealing with cultural and political tensions and divisions in America for 244 years.

2. Nothing Divides Like Politics

Because nothing divides like fear and anger.

Both major political parties know that marketing fear brings in cash.

Are elections important? Sure!

Elections have consequences (Former President Obama).

But as Jesus followers, no earthly nation or party or cause is our primary home (note 1 Peter 2:11; Philippians 3:20).

How do we navigate our *dual citizenship* in a contentious culture where fear (*what could we lose?*) and anger (*how can people be so blind to not agree with me?*) permeate every corpuscle of media and even relationships in our lives?

3. Commitment to Only Use the Correct Filter

Will I evaluate my political views through faith/Jesus, or will I create a version of faith that supports my politics?

Jesus experienced the passions that politics inflame.

Note John 17:1-11 Jesus wanted their unity protected!

Note John 17:20-21a ...Jesus clearly made this a top priority, not just so we would get along, but because of His mission (note John 17:21).

Note John 13:34-35; 17:22-23

Make sure to fact check:

- We have one purpose (to reach people who are spiritually lost...)
- We have one message (Jesus Christ is Lord...)
- We have one priority (be unified).
- ...Jesus' Church will win or lose based on our attitudes and actions between now and Nov. 3, and after election day.
- It was the Christian faith (not any political party) that shaped Western civilization...
- ...and it was the teaching of Jesus that built the foundation for our values of justice, fairness, and dignity.
- We have the incredible opportunity to model for our neighbors and nation what it looks like to disagree politically and love unconditionally.
- *Father, make us one so we can influence many.*

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