



love where you live

Love Where You Live

Part 6 – *Loving Our Neighbors During an Election!*

November 1 | Speaker: Rajendra Pillai, Senior Pastor

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Matthew 4:8-11

Jesus is being essentially offered ultimate political power. But Jesus rejects that offer. He is, in essence saying, that is not the position I am running for, that is not the way I will change the world, I am not drawn to neither do I want to have that kind of power.

1. **Christianity is deeply political.**

If you have been around church and you’ve ever prayed the Lord’s Prayer, you have prayed a political prayer. When you pray “thy kingdom come,” you are praying about the kingdom of Jesus. When you pray that prayer, you are praying that our God is sovereign and that no country and no human is exempt from His rule. When you say Jesus is Lord, you are saying Caesar is not Lord. The early Christians were pretty clear about this. Their ultimate and total allegiance was to Christ alone.

2. Christianity is not at all political the way we understand politics.

We understand politics as the use of power, as in military power, or the use of words, as in propaganda, or the winning of an election or some combination thereof. But the way Jesus established His Kingdom and His rule, was the polar opposite of any of this.

The earliest followers of Jesus maintained a holy witness even under a corrupt regime. They were not fazed by power hungry government or massive pandemics or stupendous claims or enormous odds or sensational religion. Instead, they cultivated a life of holiness in a society filled with threats, fear, anxiety, and oppression, and they stunned the world.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20

Three Next Steps:

1. Pray

Every single time you pray, something happens!

Pray for those, and there are many, who are feeling real vulnerable right now. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the candidate you are voting for. Pray for the candidate you will not be voting for. Pray for those you agree with. Pray for those you disagree with.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving
be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority,
that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

2. Vote

Everyone should exercise the right and the privilege we have to vote in this great country of ours. This is really important. And show charity to those with whom you disagree.

3. Love God and Love Your Neighbor

Be gentle and courteous, extend a lot of grace to those around you. Be teachable and avoid demonizing others.

Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

~ Psalm 20:7

