

## **“The Politics of Church”**

### ***I Pledge Allegiance***

#### **Discussion Questions**

- How did the church you grew up in engage politics or the nation/state/city in their services or ministries?
  - What did you think about it?
  - What kind of questions do you think it provokes concerning church and state?
- Read 1 Peter 1:1.
  - What does Peter call these local churches in Asia Minor?
  - What is the meaning behind the term “exile” in biblical history?
  - How does Peter want the church to identify itself in this world?
- What are the implications for living as *pilgrims, sojourners, and exiles*?
- Read **Matthew 5:1-12** as an example of Jesus Kingdom ethic.
  - How does Jesus ethic of the kingdom of God often present itself as an upside-down kingdom?
  - If Jesus rules his people (his kingdom and ethic), how does the church help people follow Jesus? In other words, how does Jesus govern his people through the gathered church?
- What are some different kind of ethics that the Kingdom of God addresses? (e.g, care, justice, needy, life, forgiveness)
  - How are many of these “upside-down” to the way the world runs?
  - How can these views be co-opted by political parties as their exclusive domain?
  - How are Christians called to go beyond those partisan lines?
- What does it mean to say that the corporate church’s role in secular politics isn’t generally to “do” political legislation but to be a biblical, prophetic witness to the nation?
  - How does this help with the expectations placed on a church?
  - Are there unfair expectations you’ve placed on the church because of how you’ve understood politics?
- Read **Acts 1:6-8**
  - What power does Christ give us as the gathered church to enact change?
  - How does that power evidence itself in life?
- Which of the gospel identities (citizen, family, missionary) does this message most intersect and why?