

James 1:19-21 English Standard Version (ESV)

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; **20** for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. **21** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Discussion/Journal Questions

Using **one word only**, how do you **feel** about the upcoming election? Excited? Nervous? Angry? Tired?

In the sermon, John asked us, “Are you willing to put your faith filter ahead of your political filter?” How does our *faith filter* differ from our *political filter*? Which of the the two is most important?

Read James 1:19-21. Reflect on how you tend to respond when in a heated argument or conflict with someone. Do you tend to be quick to listen and slow to speak? Do you tend to be quick to speak and slow to listen? Or do you tend to just withdraw and not engage? Why do you think that is?

There are times when anger is justified. We call this righteous anger. In verse 20 of James 1, James refers to the “anger of man.” How would you describe the difference between *righteous anger* and *human anger*?

Reflect on James 1:21. In terms of civil discussion on politics and social issues, what are some of the “filthiness and rampant wickedness” we need to put away? Are there voices we are listen to that fuel our anger? Are there words and actions we use that unleash anger on others? How can your group hold you accountable in this area?

In the sermon, John gave us four questions to help govern our conversations. “Is what I am about to say true? Is it helpful? Is it personal? Is it loving?” How would these questions reshape your discussions with others?

John also challenged us to love unconditionally someone with whom we disagree politically. Who comes to mind? How can you show them love this week?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?