Background Numbers 13-14: Very Important: The moment **national identity**, **political identity**, or **partisan identity** becomes equal to our identity in Christ, something has become spiritually disordered, and we need a different spirit

But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. Numbers 14:24 NKJV

The world does not need Christians who are merely louder versions of everybody else

The world needs Christian men and women **whose spirit, speech, conduct, and hope are different**

Our **political convictions matter**, our **civic responsibilities matter**, and **our choices matter**

However, no **election determines who sits on the throne**

Christians should participate in earthly government remembering our highest citizenship

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20 NKJV

The question is whose kingdom are you actually living for? **It's a deeper question than**…

Who do you vote for? Which political party do you prefer? Which candidate do you trust?

The deeper question is: **What kingdom has your heart?**

Because **it is entirely possible to confess Jesus as King on Sunday** while allowing politics to determine our fear, anger, hope, identity, and relationships the rest of the week

American embassies are located in almost every country globally

The embassy exists geographically inside that country, yet it represents another government

American citizens **live** there, **work** there, **interact** with the surrounding culture, and obey many of the country's laws

But ultimately, they represent America. That is a picture of the Christian

We **live** here, we **work** here, we **vote** here, we **pay taxes** here, and we care about what happens here

As Christians, we represent **another King and another Kingdom**

Paul describes Christians as **ambassadors for Christ**

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us. 2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

An ambassador must never become so absorbed into the host country that he forgets whom he or she represents

This is one of the great spiritual challenges facing Christians in politically charged times

Jesus stands before Pilate

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, **"Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." John 18:33-37 NKJV

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. John 18:38 NKJV

The setting is ironic: Jesus has been arrested; Pilate occupies the **seat of political authority**, and **Rome possesses military power**

Jesus almost appears powerless, then Pilate asks Him: Are You the King of the Jews? John 18:33 NKJV

From the world's perspective, Pilate appears to hold all the power

Please notice that **world history reveals** something that we should remember: We remember Pilate today primarily because he stood in the room with Jesus

Rome looked **permanent**, Pilate looked **powerful**, Jesus looked **defeated**, but Rome eventually fell; Pilate disappeared into history, **Jesus still stands**!

And more than two thousand years later, **people around the world still worship Jesus Christ as King**

Never confuse **visible political power with ultimate authority**

Human government possesses real authority, **but it possesses delegated authority. God possesses ultimate authority**

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God. Romans 13:1 NKJV

Governments do matter, leadership matters, justice matters, and elections do matter

In Jesus's discourse with Pilate, Jesus declared the nature of His kingdom

Jesus tells Pilate: My kingdom is not of this world John 18:36 NKJV

Jesus is **not saying** His Kingdom has **nothing to do with this world**

He is saying His Kingdom does not **originate from this world**

His authority does not and did not come from **Rome, public opinion, military strength, economic power, elections, political parties, or human institutions**

His Kingdom operates according to a **completely different source of authority- God**

The moment **national identity**, **political identity**, or **partisan identity** becomes equal to our identity in Christ, something has become spiritually disordered

Patriotism is honorable; politics are important, God has established governments

Jesus' kingdom is THE kingdom of **Truth**

Jesus, in His dialogue with Pilate

For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. John 18:37 NKJV

Notice that Jesus connects **His kingship with Truth**

Christian people must be People of truth – we should bear witness to the truth

The truth matters: Political seasons often contain exaggeration, selective information, rumors, manipulated images, misleading headlines, anger-driven social media posts, and statements shared before they are verified

A Believer **should never say**, if this helps my political candidate, it doesn't matter whether it is completely true or not

If we say with our mouths that we are believers and that we believe what Scripture says, but then vote for someone who clearly stands in opposition to what Scripture teaches, I would ask, "Where is our allegiance?"

Our allegiance to truth must be greater than our allegiance to a political party

You shall not circulate a false report. Exodus 23:1 NKJV

Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor. Ephesians 4:25 NKJV

So Grace, before forwarding something political on social media, ask:

Is it true? Before posting it, have I verified it? Before repeating it, **am I representing Christ accurately?** Before celebrating someone's humiliation, would Jesus be honored by how I act or speak?

Christian citizens do not sacrifice truth to win arguments

If you're a **True Believer**, your **primary citizenship** is already settled

Grace, we can be American citizens, Wisconsin citizens, members of a local community, voters, Veterans, public servants, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, or politically unaffiliated

But every **earthly identification must remain beneath our identity as followers of Jesus Christ**

Our first confession is not, I am conservative, progressive, Republican, or Democrat

Our first confession is, **Jesus Christ is** KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS Revelation 19:16 NKJV

Jesus does not compete with earthly rulers; **He is King over every king**

So, before election day — I have five recommendations for Kingdom Citizens

Prayer before panic. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 NKJV

Do not allow cable news or social media **to pastor your emotions**. Bring your concerns to God

Vote according to Biblical conviction. Ask: Which policies and principles most closely reflect biblical truth? Study, pray, think, and exercise your conscience guided by the Holy Spirit

Refuse to demonize God's created people who disagree with you

Jesus commands: Love your enemies. Matthew 5:44 NKJV

If Jesus commands us to love enemies, surely Christians can learn to love neighbors who vote differently

Guard My Witness Let your speech always be with grace. Colossians 4:6 NKJV

Before posting something on social media, ask: Does this sound like somebody who has been with Jesus?

Winning a political argument while **damaging our Christian witness is not a victory**

Last one: Remember who is King on Wednesday morning

Regardless of the results, Jesus will still be King; the gospel will still be true; the tomb will still be empty; the church will still have a mission; the Great Commission will still stand; the Word of God will still be true

Our citizenship will still be in heaven- so turn our eyes to Jesus

How Deep the Father's Love for Us: let us remember what our salvation cost, and ask God to let the love we have received become the love others see in us