



Sermon Series: Courageous Conversations, Part 3

Sermon Title: Conversations about Politics

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, January 17, 2021

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Christians should be careful with political labels because they tend to bring out the worst in people. We are not enemies belonging to a different tribe, but followers united under a sovereign Lord. This brings us to our big idea.

BIG IDEA: YOUR POLITICAL PARTY IS NOT YOUR SAVIOR; JESUS IS!

There are several strategies that help us have courageous conversations.

Strategy #1. Establish Rapport

In 1 Timothy 2, Paul tells Timothy to pray, he uses four different kinds of prayers. Supplications (Humbly begging, earnest) Prayers, Intercessions (Intervening), and Thanksgivings.

Next we are to **be respectful, be biblical, be gospel centered.**

Be Respectful, We can lovingly critique their political views without making personal attacks.

Be Biblical, stick to biblical truths taken from a divine source rather than half-truths from biased sources.

Be Gospel Centered. if you love people and good ideas then you'll be a champion of political views that represent biblical truth and biblical morality.

Strategy #2. Know and Speak Truth

Faith and politics are inseparable. Christians are to be engaged not competitive in the political process.

If we hope to bring more clarity and unity to the conversation, then we must submit to foundational truths that mark where a Christian should stand morally and, therefore politically. This can be established by looking to four biblical principles:

1. Religious Freedom

The US Constitution was heavily influenced by the Word of God. It is clear in scripture that religious freedom is a gift of God and therefore considered by our founders a basic human right. **1 Peter 2:16**

2. Biblical Family

Just because the supreme court and millions of Americans embrace same-sex marriage as a fundamental right, it does not make it right. The Biblical view of marriage does not leave room for modifications. **Matt. 19:4-6**

The family is the backbone of our civilization, and when it falls so will society. Therefore, according to Scripture, it is binding on every Christian to reaffirm the biblical model of the family and to oppose any legislation that attempts to thwart God's order for civilization.

3. Right to Life

When you consider every human bears the *imago Dei*, then it is the moral duty and responsibility of every Christian to defend and protect the life of the unborn. The mandate is quite unmistakable in. **Proverbs 31:8-9**

Therefore, being an advocate for the life of an unborn child is a biblical principle that should guide every Christian in how they vote for candidates and legislation.

4. Submission to Government

Romans 13:1-7

In this passage Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, shows us the purpose of government. The states job is not to redeem the world. The purpose of government is supposed to be like guardrails on a mountain road. It keeps cars on the road, and from falling off the cliff. It is to administer peace, justice and order to everyone.

When government is not doing this well it is always a biblical worldview problem. Either people have the wrong biblical worldview, or they lack the discipline to practice the right one.

Strategy #3. Keep the Door Open

How do we keep the conversation going with those who have different or opposing views than us? All Christians will benefit in this conversation abiding by five constant truths:

1. God is primary; a political party is secondary.
2. We do not unite under a political figure, but we are united in the person of Jesus Christ.
3. It is our faith that defines us, not politics.
4. The Bible is our standard, not our political views.
5. We need to spend more time with our Bibles than listening to political leaders.

Because of these truths we can find common ground with both believers we disagree with and unbelievers we disagree with. With unbelievers we have *imago Dei* created in the image of God. The person we are talking to is

created in God's image therefore is to be treated with dignity and respect as we talked about earlier. If it is a fellow follower of Christ then our common ground is that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Try to stay encouraged, loving and calm in that truth.

Be reminded:

BIG IDEA: OUR POLITICS ARE NOT OUR SAVIOR; JESUS IS!

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- “OUR POLITICS ARE NOT OUR SAVIOR; JESUS IS!” Explain why this must be the mindset of every believer.
- What are the 3 strategies that we’re using as our framework every week? How many can you do without checking back in the notes? 😊
- Why do you feel that people have such passionate political views? For some of your closest political friends, what is the motivation driving their choice in leadership?
- Is it ever acceptable for a Christian to not submit to authority? Explain
- How far should we go when caring for the poor? How far is too far when helping them?
- Do you have any close relationships with someone you disagree with politically? What tips do you use to have civil conversations?

BIBLE VERSES

1 Timothy 2:1-7 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which

is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle, a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 Peter 2:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

Matthew 19:4-6 He said to them, “Have you not read that He Who made them in the first place made them man and woman? It says, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will live with his wife. The two will become one.’ So they are no longer two but one. Let no man divide what God has put together.”

Proverbs 31:8-9 “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice”

Romans 13:1-7 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.