

## :: Summary

Life in Christ is not influenced by topic or issue. The Bible calls us to live and behave the same way regardless of the subject or circumstances. Whether we are talking spirituality or the next round of elections, our conduct should honor our Lord. In the realm of politics, we have responsibilities as citizens and it is important to carry them out. The big question is how, especially in the very divisive and hard political climate in our country and world. God's answer in Scripture is to call us to live a higher level of citizenship.

## :: Share

Religion and politics. Three words which send a chill down many a spine! In your family of origin, share how your family handled these two topics during holiday family gatherings (off limits, full battle engagement, or ...?). How has that influenced the way you engage others on these subjects now?

## :: Explore and Discuss | Philippians 1:27, 3:20, Colossians 3:1-4

Read Philippians 1:27-28. In the immediate context, Paul was not sure of his future status, writing as he was, from prison. Regardless of his circumstances he instructs these believers to fulfill their duty as citizens ("conduct yourselves") in a manner worthy of the Good News of what God has done in Jesus Christ. Make a list of specific conduct toward others that reflects the way of Jesus toward people.

Read Philippians 3:20. Christians belong to the "city ... whose architect and builder is God" (Heb 11:10). Imagine one day when you will be a full resident of the city of God, living under his sovereign reign and care. The Bible says you are now a citizen of that realm. How should this reality directly affect how you behave as a citizen on earth regarding all things political?

The Church - the people of God, not the buildings - is meant to be the living expression of God's Kingdom come to earth. Why is this foundational truth so important to our conduct as citizens and what impact should it have in the realm of political discourse?



:: Apply it to Your Life

What aspects of conversations with others about politics and government are hardest for you (remember to exercise charity in the way you talk)?

When others express highly charged opinions that are contrary to your views about political issues (through conversations, social media posts, pundits on tv or the internet), what is your gut level reaction?

Is there a way God is challenging, convicting or encouraging you through this message?

:: Pray

Pray for each other in response to the last question above.

Pray that the people of God will demonstrate uncommon civility that reflects the Kingdom of God on earth.

