

Politics is Poison

Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 20:20-28; Luke 18:9-14

October is ____ prevention month. We ____ smoke alarms, ____ escape routes, and ____ cooking safety.

Why? Because fire produces ____ which can be incredibly _____. It contains: carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrogen cyanide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, particulate matter and MORE.

Prolonged exposure can be _____.

Poison: a substance that causes harm, illness or _____ when ingested, inhaled, absorbed or otherwise introduced into a living organism, typically by interfering with normal physiological processes.

Politics is poison because its primary focus is the pursuit of something that is incompatible with, even toxic to, the living organism that is the Body of Christ: _____.

The pursuit of power often forces people to make unhealthy, unbiblical _____ and alliances. In Matt 4, Satan offers Jesus a shortcut to Lordship over the kingdoms of the earth. All he has to do is partner with the evil the devil embodies.

This isn't just a temptation for Jesus. Satan tries the same thing on us. He wants us to:

Partner with people that don't share the same _____.

Divide our _____ to achieve our goals.

Submit to someone else's assessment of our _____ instead of God.

Attempt to justify ourselves and embrace _____-righteousness.

Always see opponents as the _____ and ourselves as the solution.

Stay _____ in our trespasses and sins.

When we build our faith and life on our own resume, we _____. Self-righteousness is POISON.

But God has made us _____ in Christ! We are members of Christ's _____ through faith and in baptism. The righteousness of Jesus is our only _____. When we build our faith and life on his resume we live.

We see that neither team is _____. BOTH need our _____!

We can and DO _____ both teams.

We can and DO _____ ALL victories.

We can see the _____ in opposing views.

We know that our only hope now and forever is not a policy or platform but: _____.

We recognize that power is not as important as winning hearts and minds.

How are you seeing politics poison your life and relationships?

Where is God revealing a self-righteousness lurking and justification for bad behavior?

How is Jesus reminding you of the love, acceptance, and life he has won for you?

What are you going to DO about it?