

Conversation Starters

- Have you been keeping up with politics?
- What has alarmed you most about our political state right now?

Discuss

Politics matter to a Christian because our culture and world matters. And as citizens in this world we have a duty to be people of influence - to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” ([Matthew 5:13-16, NIV](#))

- How have you typically thought about and viewed politics?
- Have you been a spectator or participant in our world?
- How does our political duty give us the opportunity to be both salt and light?

In the United States, the greater church has limits on what it may say or do politically, but each individual Christian should be political. When making political decisions, we must seek to take stands for Jesus, wherever they lead us. We are Christ followers first, and a Republican or Democrat second.

- Is Jesus the first to come to mind when you make a political decision?
- Do you identify more with a political party than how Jesus viewed the world?
- Is there an issue that Jesus would want you to take a stand for that differs from your political party?

When it comes time to vote, we are not to give in to partisan politics, but to Christian reflection. We are to look at the issues, and the stands the various parties and candidates have taken, and think Christianly about them, and then vote Christianly about them.

- How is your faith informing your thinking about political issues?
- Are there issues that you haven't let Christ speak into or you've let a political party choose for you?

Next Steps

As we enter this political season, we must hold fast to the idea that we are to be political as salt and light, not as partisan players. Our goal is to develop a biblical worldview by which to engage all issues, and to follow that worldview. How are you trying to develop a biblical worldview?

Oct 8: [Virtual GroupLink](#)

Oct 10: [Crisis Assistance Ministry](#) & [Hope Vibes](#) Serve Day

Oct 14: [The Grounds Online Book Club: “A Gentle Answer”](#)

Further Reflection

Read [Matthew 5:13-16](#).

Pray

God, you are the ultimate authority and your truth is absolute. None of us are perfect, including our political leaders and parties. Thank you for Jesus and His example, and for your Word, on how to live. Thank you for trusting us with being salt and light in the world. Give us wisdom to apply your truth to our thinking and our actions. Help us to make choices that would honor you first, above a political party or any other worldly influence.