



SERMON NOTES

The
INTERSECTION
of RELIGION
& POLITICS

Week 1 (October 18): "United We Stand"
John 13:34-35; 17:1, 11, 20-23; Matthew 16:18

I. Great Divide / Great Opportunity

- A. Nothing divides like _____, because nothing divides like fear.
- B. We have an unprecedented opportunity to model for our community what it looks like to _____ politically and love unconditionally.
- C. Are you willing to evaluate your politics through the filter of our _____ rather than create a version of faith that supports your politics?

II. Jesus' Prayer

- A. Jesus was most concerned about the _____ and oneness of his followers.
- B. Jesus prayed for unity and oneness because of what he wanted to do _____ us.
- C. Jesus is saying that if his followers have a unity of purpose, not unity of politics, they can _____ the world.

III. Staying United

- A. The church will win or lose based on our _____ every single day between now and election day.
- B. Why would we as followers of an Eternal King, allow ourselves to be _____ by temporary political systems, political leaders and political platforms?
- C. Application:
 - 1. Pray for _____. "Heavenly Father, make us one so we can influence many."
 - 2. Look for an opportunity to love unconditionally someone with whom you disagree _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

At the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, the thing he was most concerned about was the unity of his followers. It was so important to him that he prayed for unity. But why was this so important? And what does this have to do with politics?

Monday: Matthew 17:24-27, 22:15-22

In these verses, Jesus avoided the trap by referring to a dual citizenship, honoring legitimate duties to the state, but giving ultimate loyalty to God as king. When should our ultimate loyalty to God supersede other loyalties?

Tuesday: Mark 2:13-17

Jesus' disciples came from all walks of life (including tax collectors and fisherman) and Jesus frequently ate with people who were nothing like him. Outside of your workplace, think of the people you interact with the most. What percentage of those people think pretty much the same way you do politically?

Wednesday: Ephesians 1:15-23

In Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus, we are encouraged to see with eyes of our heart (v.18). In all honesty, which of these describes you the best? Why do you say that?

- 1) I evaluate my politics through the filter of my faith.
- 2) I create a version of faith that supports my politics.

Thursday: John 17:20-23

What stands out to you? In verse 23, Jesus prays for unity. How would you define 'unity'? According to Jesus' prayer, why is unity so important?

Friday: Romans 12:9 - 13:1

Do you think these timeless words speak to today's intense political wrangling? Within Christianity, how are we doing at "living at peace with all people"? How are we doing with, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"? How much focus do Christians put on these words? Does reading these words cause you to want to live a little differently?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus knew that if his followers had a unity of purpose (not politics) they could change the world. While we will not agree on every political talking point, we must not let politics divide us. Your favorite candidate will win or lose based on how our country votes this November. However, the church will win or lose based on our behavior between now and then. So, disagree politically, love unconditionally and pray for oneness.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) politics, B) disagree, C) faith. IIA) unity, B) through, IIC) change. IIIA) behavior, B) divided, C1) oneness, C2) politically.