



# SERMON NOTES

## *The* INTERSECTION of RELIGION & POLITICS

Week 2 (October 25): "Listen and Learn"

*1 Corinthians 9:19,21; Galatians 6:2*

### I. Choosing Sides?

- A. Are we willing to put our faith filter ahead of our \_\_\_\_\_ filter?
- B. Both parties are convinced that \_\_\_\_\_ would be on their side if He were to come back to earth today.
- C. The Kingdom of God will always, at some level and detail, \_\_\_\_\_ with our political party and our political candidates.

### II. A Template – Where Agreement Ends and Diverse Opinions Begin

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ – "You are to love one another, as I have loved you."
- B. The Law of Christ should inform our \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. We are to incorporate knowledge and \_\_\_\_\_ to an informed conscience.
- D. Knowledge and wisdom combined with an informed conscience is what we should use to determine the policies, platforms and legislation we \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Staying United

- A. When it comes to policy, platform and legislation, there will always be \_\_\_\_\_ among Christians.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ views and values are shaped by a variety of things, most of which we have no control over.
- C. When it comes to navigating politics in our \_\_\_\_\_, these following steps will help:
  - 1. Listen to people who don't experience the world the way you do.
  - 2. Learn from others by being a student instead of a critic.
  - 3. Love people enough to not burn a relational bridge over a political view.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

Our political views are shaped by a number of variables: our backgrounds, education, and personal experiences to name a few. It's easy to feel like our view is the right one, but the person beside you is more precious to God than your political view.

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### Monday: Galatians 6:1-10

In Galatians 6:2, Paul summarized how we can practically fulfill the Law of Christ. What stands out to you? How can we all follow the law of Christ but still disagree politically? Do you generally trust that someone who votes differently than you has an informed conscience?

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### Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

In today's reading, Paul talks about his method of influence. What stands out to you? How would you rate yourself in trying to empathize with and understand someone else's mindset?

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### Wednesday: Psalm 137

This Psalm was written when the Israelites were in exile in Babylon. V. 9 may come as a shock to you if you never read this Psalm. The Israelites clearly wanted revenge on their captors. Understanding the cultural context helps understand today's reading. Many times, our cultural contexts determine our political perspectives. As Rufus Miles said, "Where you stand depends on where you sit." How does that thought resonate with you? Do you really feel you would think different politically if you had a different set of past and current experiences?

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### Thursday: Matthew 5:21-24, 43-48

In verse 22, the word translated "you idiot" was the Aramaic word *raca*. It didn't express friendly teasing, but showed deep-seated contempt for another person. What tempts you to feel contempt for candidates or people you know who see political issues differently than you do? How would campaign ads and personal conversations change if we all lived by Jesus' standard?

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### Friday: Romans 12:9-13:1

Romans 13 reflected ideas common in Paul's day, and no doubt the facts of life in an empire that did not allow dissent from the emperor's rule. But it went deeper. Paul later urged behavior the emperor couldn't monitor: "Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority.... This is right and it pleases God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:2-3). Right now, ask God to bless a candidate you do not plan to vote for this year. How hard did you find that?

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## MOVING FORWARD

When it comes to navigating politics in our relationships, these following steps will help:

- Listen to people who don't experience the world the way you do.
- Learn from others by being a student instead of a critic.
- Love people enough to not burn a relational bridge over a political view.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I like being right. It's hard to accept that good people can reach different conclusions. Keep teaching me how, in your spirit, to live at peace with all people. Amen.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: I IA) political, B) Jesus, C) conflict. IIA) Law, B) conscience, IIC) wisdom, D) support. IIIA) disagreement, B) Political, C) relationships.*