



# SERMON NOTES

Week 2 October 13, 2024

**“Finding Common Ground”**

*Romans 14:9; Acts 17:26-27; Matthew 5:3-9, 13, 22, 5:44, 7:3, 7:12*



## I. Introduction/Review

- A. In this sermon series, we are looking at ways we can play a role in lowering the polarization and increasing the \_\_\_\_\_ across our community.
- B. Only 10% of Americans say they are **often** or **always** \_\_\_\_\_ when they think of politics.
- C. Republicans, Democrats and Independents are better \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. The Religious Divide

- A. Jesus’ own disciples were radically \_\_\_\_\_ in their politics.
- B. The Apostle Paul tells a divided church that they need to strive for the things that bring \_\_\_\_\_ and the things that build each other up.
- C. Spirituality is not about being \_\_\_\_\_; it is about being able to love.
- D. God demonstrates his concern for people of other \_\_\_\_\_ in multiple ways in Scripture.

## III. The Political Divide

- A. Researchers have found we’re not nearly as polarized on the \_\_\_\_\_ as most believe.
- B. We are polarized when it comes to our feelings and perceptions of the other \_\_\_\_\_ and of their candidates.
- C. Jesus’ platform for ethics, morality and spirituality: The Sermon on the Mount is what \_\_\_\_\_ need to follow.

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

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *October 14-19, 2024*

## INTRODUCTION

Asbury's "Do Unto Others" campaign aims to build bridges, encourage kindness and draw us to live Jesus' "Golden Rule." When it comes to our politics, many - including Christians - seem to ignore the Golden Rule. Our faith can either divide us and instill greater fear (and even hate), it can be part of the problem, or it can be the antidote to hate, heal divisions, and bring us together.

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### Monday: Matthew 5:1-20

Jesus praised humility and meekness. These qualities often seem at odds with our culture's emphasis on boasting and assertiveness. But Jesus said those inner attitudes would make his followers 'salt and light of the world.' Too often "religion" brings gloom, criticism, and fear. Have you known people whose warm-hearted goodness adds flavor and light to life? How might you purposely bring flavor to bland situations or light up dark corners in people's lives?

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### Tuesday: Matthew 5:21-26, 38-48

John Wesley, Methodism's founder, said Jesus called us to be "perfect in love," always growing toward loving with God's all-inclusive love. He rejected the idea that "perfect" meant never sinning (missing the mark). Does it challenge you more or less to think that being "complete" or "perfect" is about the state of your heart rather than just about your outward actions?

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### Wednesday: Matthew 6:1-18

Here's a simple way to think about who you're trying to impress, shared by Pastor John Ortberg: "Every once in a while do something good and try to make sure no one finds out about it." \* Why not try that this week? Keep some notes (only for your eyes, and God's) about how it feels to increase your freedom from what Ortberg called "the narcotic of approval."

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### Thursday: Matthew 6:19-34

Jesus seemed to anticipate modern research when he asked, "Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?" (verse 27) Much research says that worry likely shortens our lives. In a world driven by consumerism and anxiety, Jesus' message challenges our priorities. Consider an area where worry dominates your thoughts. How can you distinguish needs from wants, and plan in a worry-free way by trusting in God's care?

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### Friday: Matthew 7:1-12

Taking responsibility for your feelings, words, and actions instead of blaming others can be hard. Yet a healthy, authentic community depends on your ability to "take the log out of your eye." What "log(s)" do you wrestle with (what issues keep you from living as Jesus taught)? Jesus used the analogy of earthly parents giving good gifts to their children to illustrate God's even greater desire to love you. How can you more fully reflect the grace God shows you in the way you treat others?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Republicans, Democrats, and Independents are better together; and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount might just help us find a better way forward in a broken political system. Jesus calls us to be humble, meek, to hunger after righteousness, to be full of mercy, pure in heart, and peacemakers. He calls us to be salt and light, to love our enemies, and to not judge. This is what it looks like to "Do Unto Others" in our lives and politics.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) love, B) hopeful, C) together. IIA) different, B) peace, IIC) right, D) faiths. IIIA) issues, B) party, C) politicians.*

*\* John Ortberg, The Life You've Always Wanted. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002, p. 168.*