IT'S ABOUT JESUS

Colossians 3:11-17

3-30-25

"In All Wisdom Teaching and Admonishing One Another"

For Context, you'll need messages from

March 9^{th,} 16^{th,} and June 30th

Social media video from March 20th

Our Goals ...

" ... growing His followers"
Unity within the Body
A more unified approach for greater impact on our culture

Romans 10:2 "For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge"

How do we think biblically – politically?

How do we relate to our leaders?

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 Pray and work for the promotion of godly candidates and political platforms.

2. Trust God

Proverbs 21:1 "In the Lord's hand the king's heart is a stream of water that He channels toward all who please Him."

God can and does use even ungodly leaders to His ends. Consider ...

 Pharoah
 Jeremiah 27:6 – My servant Nebuchadnezzar
 Isaiah 45:1 – Cyrus, God's anointed

God can and does use even ungodly leaders to His ends. Consider ...

Caesar Augustus
2 Chronicles 10:15 - Rehoboam

Romans 13:4

"for he is God's servant for your good.

"

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3. Pray for them

1 Timothy 2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness....

... 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 Who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

4. Call out their ungodliness

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5. Support them when they do what is good

Romans 13:7 "Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."

Biblically, with our current President, we have to avoid ...

<u>Loving some of what he's doing so much</u> that we <u>approve</u> of <u>everything with no</u> <u>scrutiny</u>, or ...

<u>Hating</u> some of what or how he operates so much that we <u>disapprove</u> of <u>everything with no sympathy</u>.

Our current President certainly doesn't leave much middle ground in terms of allegiance, but ... biblically grounded believers know how to avoid the emotional extremes of worship or hate. We apply the sound wisdom of supporting and scrutinizing.

6. If you're praying for them, are you open to God answering your prayers?

How do we communicate about political issues?

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We want to be truthal not tribal!

1. Reject conspiracy theories

Isaiah 8:11-12

"This is what the Lord says to me with His strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people: 'Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it."

2. Respond to reality – act on fact.

As much as possible we need to get our information first hand, in its full context.

(sound-bytes are better for triggering than truthing)

We need to listen to different view points and arguments.

Proverbs 18:17 "In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines."

We need to weigh actions more than words – results over rhetoric.

Matthew 7:16 "By their fruit you will recognize them."

Our times are providing a golden opportunity for the Church/Christians to show the difference Christ makes by how we process and disseminate information.

Our moment in history desperately needs a wise, measured approach in order to even be able to apprehend both fact and truth in current events. It will take extra mile measures for us to not succumb to the impulses of emotional reaction.

How do we treat people?

What about DEI and Immigration specifically?

Equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome

DEI initiatives

DEI initiatives

We cannot correct one form of discrimination by implementing a different form of discrimination.

Dividing divides

The best biblical approach is to completely reject identity politics and instead to insist on treating everyone as an individual.

Immigration

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As soon as we become anything for everyone, we become nothing to anyone.

<u>Economy – Debt– Govt.</u>

Proverbs 13:22 "A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, ..."

Proverbs 22:7

"... the borrower is slave to the lender."

Nehemiah 3

Luke 10 vs. Romans 13

2 Thessalonians 3:10 "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.'"

The bigger the centralized federal government gets – and the more involved it gets in the daily decisions of its citizens ... the weaker and less free its people become.

Will we be a people with a government or a government with a people?

Historically, even the best-meaning governments are rarely effective and never efficient in meeting needs.

Bigger is badder not better.

IT'S ABOUT JESUS

The enemy's tactics

1. Substitute one thing for another

e.g. when discussing equality – substituting outcomes for opportunities

2. Instigate the pursuit of a flawed goal

e.g. equal outcomes or good outcomes without difficulty of the need to persevere.

Policy Principle

As Christians, we care for every individual – but we have to be wise enough to know that we can't make policy to the individuals or exception.