

Partisan Wars

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1.

John 18:33-36

2.

Matthew 5:13-16



Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. **PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).**

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

To learn more or join a group, visit pacificcoastchurch.org/gg

Point #1

- Read John 18:28-36. In what way was Jesus involved in a political encounter with Pilate?
- How does Point #1 reflect His response? Why is this distinction important for Christians to keep in mind?
- Describe the ways you see this being confused today. How does Point #1 adjust your political perspective?

Point #2

- Read Matthew 5:13-16. What does it mean to be "salt" and "light"? How does it apply to everyday life?
- In what way should Point #2 inform a Christian's politics? How does this still allow for political differences?
- Why can this apply to this year's partisan war and election? How can you step into Point #2 this week?

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY // Read John 18:1-14, 19-24, 28-36, Philippians 3:18-20

- What was Jesus being accused of by the Jews? In what way was this actually a political issue?
- How did Jesus respond to Pilate? What does this imply about God's perspective on politics?
- Why is this distinction important? How does this challenge your political priorities and perspective?

TUESDAY // Read Genesis 12:1-2, Deuteronomy 16:18-20, Matthew 28:18

- Who are God's chosen people? In what way does this make the Old Testament both spiritual and political?
- Specifically, how does this change in the New Testament? (c.f. Matthew 28:18) Why is this important?
- How can Christians today slip into an Old Testament model? Why is this unbiblical? How do you need to adjust?

WEDNESDAY // Read Acts 7:51-8:3, 26:1-21, Colossians 3:9-14

- In what way was Paul's non-Christian role as a Pharisee also a political position? (i.e. house arrests)
- How did Paul politically change? Why? What does this model for Christians and politics today?
- How can American Christians mistakenly confuse the two? How should you be different?

THURSDAY // Read Matthew 22:15-22, Romans 13:1-7, Titus 3:1

- How did the Pharisees try to politically trap Jesus into a two-party system? (i.e. Pharisees and Herodians)
- How did Jesus respond? How did Paul highlight this same truth in Romans 13 and Titus 3?
- What does this imply about today's political parties? Why will they always be spiritually flawed?

FRIDAY // Read Matthew 5:13-16, Colossians 3:17

- What does it mean for Christians to be "salt" and "light"? How does it apply to everyday life?
- In what way will this be different for every Christian? What does this imply about a political application?
- Why is this important to remember? How does this adjust your perspective on voting?

SATURDAY // Read 1 Peter 1:1-7

- Who was Peter writing to? What counsel did he give them? Be specific.
- What does this highlight given Emperor Nero was persecuting Christians at that time?
- How does Peter's counsel help and encourage you given the current political landscape today? Be specific.

MEDITATION VERSE: *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."*

John 18:36