



Choosing Sides

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Open with prayer.

Let's Connect

Every week we want to begin by asking two questions. It's helpful if everyone answers these questions.

1. What gave you life this week?
2. What drained you this week?

INTRODUCTION

We've been living in divisive times, haven't we? Jesus knew that we would experience division. That's why he specifically prayed for his disciples, and for us, in the hours before he would be tried and crucified. It was so important for his followers to be in unity for the sake of the message of Christ. So, why would we allow a political view to divide us from the actual living, breathing people that Jesus died for?

READ

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:20-23 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how interested are you in politics?
2. What do you look forward to most—and dread most—about election years?
3. Outside of your workplace, think of the people you interact with most. What percentage of those people think similar to you politically?





4. In all honesty, which of these describes you best? Take a minute to explain why you think this describes you.
 - I evaluate my politics through the filter of my faith.
 - I create a version of faith that supports my politics.

5. Read John 17:20–23, where Jesus offers a prayer for future believers.
 - What stands out to you?
 - In verse 23, Jesus prays for unity. How would you define “unity”?
 - According to Jesus’s prayer, why is unity so important?

6. When it comes to politics and moving toward unity, what’s a next step for you?

THINK ABOUT IT

“Your political candidate will win or lose based on how your city, your province, your country votes. But the church wins or loses; the community wins or loses, based on how Christians love each other.”

-Andy Stanley

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Disagree Politically. But then look for an opportunity to love that person unconditionally. Then, pray for unity. We need to. It’s what Jesus prayed for. It was the prayer of our Savior, who died just hours later. And it doesn’t need to be long or complicated, it can be simple: God, make us one so we can influence many.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

