

Sunday, March 1, 2020 - "You Asked For It - Week 9 - Can I vote for _____ and Still Be A Christian?" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: John 17:20-26, Philippians 2:2-4, Galatians 3:27-28

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Why is it so hard to do the right thing?
 - We are new creations so what was once not a big deal affects us differently
 - Sinful desires are patterns/habits/conditions that we have developed to cope or comfort ourselves
 - Sometimes we struggle because we aren't trying very hard (James 4:7-8)
- Can I be a Christian and vote for _____?
- When it comes to politics both parties have elements of biblical truth in their platforms (You can follow Jesus and vote differently than someone else)
- John 17:20-26 → Jesus is praying for all of us in addition to his disciples...He prays for UNITY
- The Trinity is the ultimate portrait of unity
 - And we as humans are invited to share in the unity that exists in the trinity
 - May we be ONE like God, Jesus and Holy Spirit
 - So that....the world will know that God sent Jesus and that he loves them (our unity is our testimony)
 - If we can be one in this season (political/election) the world will notice...we're invited into unity even though we are different and think differently about some things
- Philippians 2:2-4 (How to be ONE)
 - The mind of Christ: love like Jesus, see people like Jesus
 - The more we think like Jesus → the more we can walk in lockstep even though we disagree
 - We all want to be seen and heard and valued
 - UNITY HAS POWER
- How do we practice being ONE?
 - 1) Don't get played (by the media and by political parties)
 - Fear can unite BUT it easily and effectively divides (fear is the strategy of division)
 - Your hope is not found in a political party or candidate, your hope is only found in Jesus
 - Listen to people that you don't agree with...truth can hold up to the test
 - 2) Seek first to understand, then to be understood
 - Don't just listen so someone else will listen to you
 - Miles law: "Where you stand, depends on where you sit." (our stories affect our positions and stances)
 - 3) Jesus first...everything else second
 - Jesus should be seen first and foremost in our lives
 - Has politics become an idol? <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-know-if-made-an-idol-politics/>
 - Don't think the worst or assign character flaws to someone just because they disagree
 - 4) Love unconditionally
 - Even when someone disagrees with you
 - Even if they vote for _____

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What has God taught you about being in unity even though there is disagreement?
2. When was a time when you were moved by the unity present in a relationship or group of people?
3. What does it mean to you to seek first to understand, then to be understood?
4. How are you doing at having Jesus be the primary marker of your life?
5. What does it mean to you personally to love unconditionally?
6. What steps is God asking you to take to live as ONE in this season and every season?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Tues: Psalm 32 Wed: Romans 5:12-19 Thurs: Matthew 4:1-11 Fri: Luke 20:1-18

Songs from the weekend: [Glory to Gory - Bethel Music] - [New Wine - Hillsong Worship] - [Your Ways - Grace Original] - [Jesus We Love You - Isabel Davis/Bethel Music] - [Revelation Song - Gateway Worship]