

## Christianity and Politics

[Ephesians 2:19-22](#)

“Earthly exiles, heavenly citizens” – July 19, 2020

### Introduction

The good news is that even in a fallen world, God did not leave us without hope. This hope we have is eternal and will not fail. God took us, His enemies, and saved us by grace alone through faith alone. Our hope is Jesus. He not only made us right with Himself, but He unites us *all* (every tribe and tongue who call on His name) together in Christ. He's made the Christian a new creation, which has a profound influence on how we see ourselves and how we think and talk about politics.

### Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

### Sermon Outline

- I. We are fellow citizens with a new allegiance. ([2:19](#))
- II. We are family with a new love. ([2:20](#))
- III. We are God's temple with a renewed purpose. ([2:21-22](#))

### Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [2:19](#)

God determines the boundaries of our dwelling places (Acts 17:26), He knit us together in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13) putting us in our skin, our family group, etc. Differences between peoples and cultures should enrich our lives, because it lets us see different aspects of God that we would have never learned elsewhere. But Satan influences the world system and sinful man to oppose God and each other. One way he divides is by getting us see our identity in things *other* than God - like ideas, policies, or politicians. When that happens, disagreement or pushback from others can feel like a personal attack - civil disagreement turns into civil war. Knowing we are fellow citizens with the saints cools down our political conversations. We are more Christian than we are American when it comes to identity. Our ultimate allegiance belongs to God. Have you reflected on your first and most important citizenship lately? Have you thanked God for this gift recently? Take time some to do so this week.

2) Read [20:20](#)

Being a family shapes how we think and talk to one another (including politics): both the *content* and the *tone*. Knowing the church built on the foundation of God's word, the Bible should inform, shape and challenge our political views. One thing to remember is the distance between a *biblical principle* and a *government policy*. Sometimes the distance between the two is a straight-line but other times it is more jagged. Knowing that we should encourage humility and patience in our conversations. In Ephesians 4:2-3 Paul lays out the family expectations: we should have humility, patience, and always be eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. We are a family in Christ who is quick to look for the best in others who disagree with you.

Additional Reading: [Ephesians 4:2-3](#), [Good and Bad Ways to Think About Religion and Politics, Robert Benne](#)

3) Read [20:21-22](#)

God builds his temple on the foundation of God's word, with Jesus as the cornerstone, and we ourselves are the bricks He uses. Fulfilling God's purpose requires us doing this together. How can we come together will very different politics? Thankfully, we can look to Jesus. Doing this is *only* possible with the help of God's Spirit - He makes the impossible, possible. Right now you may feel like everything is overwhelming and that all of this is impossible. Are you burdened right now? Paul was. As one point he was burdened and ready to die (see 2 Corinthians 1:8-9). Paul doesn't stop there - he looks to God who raises the dead. The most radical thing we can do politically is being actively involved in a local church working. The church offers a political alternative to a hopeless world. All the systems of men will crumble, and only God's kingdom will prevail.

**Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

**\*Next week's sermon text:** we turn to **Psalm 2 "Our Hope in King Jesus."**