

Reason #3: The Church is Too Political
Psalm 146:3-5

INTRODUCTION QUESTION:

- 1) Two big objections that Pastor Dave talks about in regards to the church being too political is **hypocrisy and idolatry**. Unfortunately, they are seen in the church just as much as they are in the world. In what ways do these problems cause people to be “done with church?” As Christians, how does it affect our testimony? Why do you think young people cite these issues as being their reason for leaving the church?

“DIGGING DEEPER”

- 1) Pastor Dave said that pursuing Christ-like goals in an un-Christ-like way; pursuing policy goals at the expense of character is an example of **hypocrisy**. Where have you seen examples of this in recent politics? How does it contradict the gospel? How does a hypocritical life affect those who are not Christians?
- 2) Read **Psalm 146:3-10**. The psalmist warns about **idolatry**. Share a time when you put your trust in people (including yourself), or our country, rather than God. What examples of idolatry do you think people saw in Christians during the past year in politics? Share a time when you put a leader in a higher position than God. What helps you to keep God in his rightful place and trust him more fully? Verse 5 says that those who put their hope in the Lord are “blessed.” Discuss the ways the psalmist describes God (verses 6-10). What aspects of this description give you the most confidence about your hope in God?
- 3) Read **Romans 14:10** and **1 Corinthians 13:1**. As citizens in God’s Kingdom, we are called to love, not judge. Discuss how we can disagree with someone and still love them.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- 4) **Read Jeremiah 29:7**. According to this passage, as citizens of our communities, what are we called to do? God’s word to the people back then is the same for us today. He says, “I have put you there for a reason—to bring my peace to that place.” Sink roots; care about what’s going on in your town; get to know the people around you; serve the needs there; serve on the school board; pray for your community; work to make it a better place. Don’t think of it like, ‘They’re going to contaminate me!’; think of it like, ‘I get to bless them!’

Would you say your current mindset / that of the church is to avoid the local communities or to seek opportunities to bless them? List 3 things you can do (individually and as a group) do to help bring about shalom in our communities. Be specific and intentional. Spend time praying about this.

- 5) **1 Timothy 2:1-2** calls us to pray for our leaders – whether we like them or not/voted for them or not. End your group time by spending time in prayer for our leaders.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES TO FURTHER CONNECT WITH THIS SERMON:

As Christians, how does God call us to live??

Micah 6:8

Isaiah 1:16 -17

Zechariah 7:9-10

John 13:34-35

1John 2: 1-6

How does God call us to act towards government?

Matthew 22:19 – 22

Romans 13: 1-12

Titus 3:1-11