

Introduction:

1. There's an unwritten rule to never talk about religion or politics at family gatherings. Have you broken this rule for politics? What happened?
2. What are the pros and cons of a church pastor indicating which candidate he favors?

Understanding:

3. Read Hebrews 11:13-16 and Philippians 3:20. What do these verses say about our citizenship? And how should that affect our attitudes as we prepare to vote?
4. Read Matthew 5:13. We are the salt of the earth. As we enter discussions about politics, how do we keep from losing our saltiness?
5. Read 2 Kings 12:15. We are asked to have a faithful presence in culture. How does this verse relate to how people are observing how we live as Christians?
6. In today's passage verse 7 talks about shalom. Jesus talks about shalom too. Read John 14:27 and 16:33. How does this address the fear that we may come under God's judgment if we make the wrong choice in voting?
7. Read Luke 18:9-14. How does this parable address the attitude of "I can't believe you call yourself a Christian and plan to vote for _____?" What might be a better way to address our differences?
8. Read Psalm 146:3-5. What are these verses saying, and how do they give us a healthy perspective as we consider our vote in this election?
9. Someone says, "This is the most important election in US history. If we elect the wrong person, the country is doomed !!!" Now read Acts 17:24-27. Whose greater purpose is served in the election? Who controls the outcome? And what is a greater purpose mentioned here than who has won the election?
10. Read 1 Timothy 2:2. How should we pray for our leaders? What does this imply about the kind of filter we should use as we evaluate the candidates?
11. Pastor Dave said that some people seem to "believe that if their candidate wins, injustice will cease; crime will stop; world hunger will end; peace will be ushered in" Now read Psalms 146:3-5. What are some principles here that you might share with one who thinks like that?
12. Hosea 9:1 contains a very stern warning. What does it imply about falling deeply in love with any one political party?

Application:

13. Pastor Dave stated: "it would be a Christ-like thing for us to get out of our echo chambers, and listen carefully and respectfully to people who disagree with us." Here's a mind experiment: Can you think of a way in which the party opposite yours has a wiser position than your own party on an issue? Or if you can't, can you try to see how the other party arrived at their position without being insincere and devious?
14. When we've got Christ in common, the other differences don't seem to matter so much anymore. Pray for unity within our church that surpasses all political disagreements.