



Exalting Jesus in an Election

1 Peter 2:13-17

Three Introductory Truths:

- We are submissive citizens of a government.
- Government is instituted by God to restrain evil and to promote good.
- We are free servants of God.

Four Ways to Exalt Jesus in an Election:

1. By taking evil seriously AND avoiding it.
2. By promoting good continually AND doing it.
3. By honoring everyone...AND especially leaders.
4. By loving the church AND bending over backward to maintain unity together.

Message Discussion Questions – October 25, 2020

1. As believers, our ultimate identity and allegiance are found in being servants of God and citizens of another kingdom. What might be warning signs that might indicate that we, as believers, are pledging our allegiance to someone other than Jesus?
2. Read Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, and James 4:17. What are some specific sins that we (i.e., believers) are often tempted to excuse or overlook because they might be considered “lesser” or “less-grievous sins” than others? *(NOTE TO LEADERS: According to the Bible, there is no hierarchy or differing levels when it comes to sin and its spiritual ramifications. See Romans 5:16 and James 2:10-11. While there maybe varying degrees of consequences from sin, all sin against God is equally grievous and deserving of eternal separation from a holy God.)*
3. In the past, how have you become aware of sin in your life? Read Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 4:23, Luke 15:7; Acts 3:19; James 5:16; 2 Peter 3:9, and 1 John 1:9. How are we to discern and respond to any sin in our lives?
4. Why is it dangerous for a Christian to take some sins seriously, but not others? If we are to avoid ALL kinds of evil/sin, what should our response to those “lesser” sins look like?
5. Review 1 Peter 2:17. The Greek word for “honor” literally means “to show high regard or respect” for another individual (see Matthew 15:8, Mark 10:19, John 5:23, Ephesians 6:2). Imagine that, in the days ahead, a presidential candidate whose character, choices, actions, and/or policies you strongly disagree with is elected to office. As a Christian representing Jesus to a watching world, how can you strive to honor that individual, while avoiding evil and striving to do good?
6. Consider the following areas where the Bible is clear and direct. In addition to voting, what are some ways that believers can both **promote AND do** good when it comes to--

- a. Valuing life inside and outside of the womb
 - b. Supporting a biblical view of marriage
 - c. Supporting a biblical view of gender and sexuality
 - d. Showing dignity and equality to every single person made in God's image
 - e. Caring for the orphan, the widow, the immigrant, the oppressed and the poor
7. Read 1 Peter 2:17. When you think of those who you perceive to be your enemies, who comes to mind? What is your normal response to those individuals (or groups)? Now read Matthew 5:44, Romans 5:7-10, 2 Corinthians 12:15, Colossians 1:19-22, and 1 Thessalonians 2:8 and consider Jesus' response to His enemies and the Apostle Paul's response to his opponents. How might your response change to increasingly reflect theirs?
 8. As a group, read Romans 14:1-15:7 together (*NOTE TO LEADERS: Consider having group members take turns reading a verse or two to get through this longer passage*). Based on this passage, what might it look like for two believers with different political views to disagree, but still remain united in Christ by showing honor and love to each other in the context of community?
 9. Read John 17:20-21. Have you ever willingly allowed your political viewpoints and opinions to be tested and changed by another faithful brother or sister in Christ who may disagree with you on certain matters? If so, how was it helpful? What might we lose if we don't leave room for this kind of interaction?