

# Racism and Politics

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As Christians we are called to run into the fire, not away from it, with water, not gasoline.

If history has proven anything, it's that apart from the love of God, we will never defeat the giant of racism. **There is no solution to human beings solving problems of the soul other than a move of God in their heart.**

**Politics are a divider; the love of God is a unite-r.** That which divides is not from the heart of God.

**John 13:34-35** - So now I am giving you a new commandment: love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove that you are my disciples.

How did Jesus love us?

- He loved us sacrificially.
- He laid down everything He was in Heaven and He came to earth to bear my sin debt.
- **Love always does what is in the best interest of the other.**
- The world without Jesus needs to see proof, not opinions or politics, that Jesus is alive and loving in and through us.
- We cannot think we are going to share Jesus apart from the example of revealing his love.
- When we love with the love of God in the middle of conflict, the world will know we are following Jesus.
- The love of God never fails.

It is my hope to move all of us away from trusting a political solution to fix a 6,000 year old problem of man's inhumanity to man.

If you are political first and a Christian second, you will reject this message.

- You will fight for opinions instead of for people.
- **We are called to be disciples of Jesus, not disciples of a political party.**
- As believers, we are commanded by God to put the Kingdom first.

God is not a democrat or republican. God's not even American. If you're a Christian, the Kingdom is first for you, because without the Kingdom, everything else falls apart.

**This world is desperate for the water of the love of God to fall on the fires of this planet.** Jesus called Christians the light of the world, the salt and preservative, not just Himself. My prayer is that we can reflect His heart today. That we can be touched with the feelings of peoples infirmities and love like He loved.

The apostle Paul exercised political influence and power, he just didn't put it first. **As a Christian we have a responsibility to discern public policy based on the Word of God.**

- Our allegiance must be toward God before a political party.
- Anything we put before God is an idol.
- Government is ordained from God, but Jesus didn't put any confidence in it because political systems are flawed.

**Luke 22:24-26** - Within minutes the disciples were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. But Jesus intervened: "Kings, politicians and people of influence like to use their power on those who are under their authority. While doing so, they call themselves a philanthropist and your benefactor. But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant."

There's an inherent hypocrisy in politics.

- Not all politicians are corrupt, any more than all policemen are murdering racists.
- All politics are rooted in the retention of power and the division of people.
- People get lost in the mix of the issues.

Jesus experienced this reality on trial in front of Pontius Pilate. Pilate said that he saw nothing worthy of death in Jesus, but for fear of unrest in his district he tried to please the crowd.

**Mark 15:15** - Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Politicians satisfy the crowd. Jesus was beaten, flogged and crucified even though He was innocent. Pilate made an unrighteous judgement for the sake of his own power.

- The inherent flaw in politics is that it uses the issue for power, not solve the problem for people.
- **The love of God makes the person suffering the only issue.**

- Get your eye on the ball, the solution, and the people suffering. What have they been through that I don't understand?

Among men, absolute power absolutely corrupts. **But the absolute power of God revealed in and through Christians brings freedom.**

**Christians cannot feel the pain of people they cut off from the body of Christ.**

- Be tender with feelings of people's infirmities.
- Jesus was touched by the feelings of our infirmities.
- If we can't feel the feelings of other people's infirmities, than something is separating in us.
- Have fervent love for people. Think of people who are suffering.
- Satan tries to divide.
- We are one, and you can't divide one. We must act as one.

**This world is desperate for us to love with the Love of God.**

**Romans 12:9-10** - Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.