

Start With

WHY

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Week 4 – WHY Do We Stay Apolitical?

Introduction:

→ **Fundamental Attribution Error:** A cognitive bias causing us to attribute a person's beliefs or behavior to their true character

Are we willing to put our faith filter ahead of our political filter?

Galatians 3:23
Luke 16:16

Why Do We Stay Apolitical?

1. Because the Church is not a _____

John 18:36

2. Because God is our ultimate _____

Proverbs 21:1
Romans 13:1-2

3. Because the Gospel is our ultimate _____

2 Corinthians 5:20

“Kingdom Now” or “Restorationist” theology = a movement embraced by some Christian groups rooted in Post-millennialism, maintaining that it is the mission of Christ's Church to “Christianize” the earth leading to Christ's return, through political, miraculous or even militant means.

2 Peter 3:15

The Big Idea:

As individual Christians, we have the freedom to be politically engaged, run for elected office, serve in government, etc. But as the Church (the Body, Bride and Brotherhood of Christ), we must never confuse or conflate our primary role as His ambassadors...ready to give an answer for the hope within us – with gentleness and respect.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Answering humbly and truthfully, how have you seen "Fundamental Attribution Error" at work in your own life? Have you ever judged a person unfairly based upon a political label or some other belief or behavior? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. In the 1980's, movements such as the so-called "Christian Coalition" and "Moral Majority" sought to tie Evangelical Christianity to conservative political platforms. Likewise, various social justice movements sought to align the Church with more liberal politics.
 - What, in your opinion, are the strengths and weaknesses of such efforts?
 - What are some of the unintended consequences or fallout of the Church becoming aligned with a party or platform?
 - How can 1 Peter 3:15 set the tone for our approach when discussing virtually any subject with those we might disagree with, including politics? Discuss...
 - Why can the realm of political debate often turn so ugly so quickly, even for followers of Jesus? How can we repair the damage done in the collective psyche of Christianity's critics while remaining faithful to the Gospel? Discuss...
3. Why is it so critical for Christians to understand that the Church is NOT a theocracy? Discuss the negative implications of a theocracy mindset...
4. With God as our ultimate authority, we are to be submitted to the government as a way of life. At what point, if any, is "peaceful resistance" appropriate or justified Biblically? Discuss...

Promptings:

5. When you consider a typical day in your life, can you honestly say that the Gospel of Christ and the Kingdom of God is your "ultimate priority?" Why or why not? What would need to change in order to make this adjustment? What benefits would surface in your mind and heart if you consciously lived this way?