

Idols we never knew we had

6 – Politics



Introduction

What's the main problem with the world? If we suggest that something other than sin is the main problem with the world, then we end up saying that something other than Jesus is the answer to the world's problem. When this happens, people end up idolizing something or someone who is thought to be able to solve the problem. For many people, this is the case when it comes to political ideology. We viewed this and are still viewing this with the recent elections.

How does the reaction concerning the election you've seen and heard indicate that many in our country idolize politics?

God-fearing society

Read Acts 2:44-47

Clearly the early Christians weren't truly self-governing. Nonetheless, they do show us what a gospel-infused group of people is capable of. What is appealing about a society described here?

While this distribution of wealth does appear to reflect aspects of economic socialism, what about the early Christians was vastly different from Marxism/communism/socialism?

America has often been referred to as a Christian nation. Why is that? Do you agree?

Why is it that people filled with Christian faith tend to create healthy, productive societies?

Agree or disagree: Having the right people in office will once again restore peace to our country and make us a God-fearing nation once again.

Christians and government

While the Christian faith often positively affects politics, why don't Christians use politics to enforce the Christian faith?

How was Jesus misunderstood during his earthly ministry?

- **John 6:14,15**
- **Mark 10:35-37**
- **Acts 1:6**

Read Romans 13:1-7. What role has God given to the government?

Read John 18:33-37. Compare the way Jesus rules in his kingdom to the way political leaders rule.

What does this passage tell us about our goals for involvement in politics?

In a democratic society, the majority ultimately rules. While legislation can affect behavior to a degree, it cannot change anyone's heart. If we desire for our country to have stronger Christian values, where should we be concentrating our efforts?

The Bible calls Christians "strangers in the world." God reminds us that we are citizens of heaven. On the other hands, it reminds us of our roles as citizens in this world. How do we want to balance between the two?

Next week: Family