

To the beloved community of churches in the United States of America:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself up for us to rescue us from the present age according to the will of our Father in heaven, to whom we give glory forever and ever. Amen.

With both encouragement and caution, I write to you regarding the increasing place of politics within the Church. We find ourselves in a society where the discourse around politics often becomes a source of division, turmoil, and distraction. As we reflect on our role as people of the Spirit, we must seek guidance from Scripture and the Holy Spirit so that our actions, words, and presence might bear the marks of Christ, our ultimate authority.

As we live together in a society filled with contentiousness and powerful ideologies, it is essential to examine how we, as God's people, approach politics in a way that honors our Kingdom citizenship and fulfills our calling to be salt and light in the world. May this letter serve as a humble guide, encouraging us to faithfully uphold our mission while avoiding the pitfalls that worldly politics are bringing to the community of believers.

Our Dual Citizenship

As followers of Jesus, we live with a dual citizenship: one of this world and one of the Kingdom of God. We are called to be ambassadors of Christ, representing His kingdom in all that we do (2 Corinthians 5:20). As ambassadors, our primary allegiance remains to our King and His kingdom (John 18:36). Earthly politics, with its transient powers and imperfect approaches to justice, can never fully encapsulate or satisfy the values of God's kingdom.

We are called to a kingdom not built by human hands, and as such, we must discern our allegiance in matters of earthly governance. Just as Jesus told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), so too must we remember that earthly politics, while necessary, can never fully represent or contain justice, mercy, and love. Our engagement in politics, therefore, should not seek to make a temporal kingdom our ultimate home. Rather, our role is to be witnesses of the Kingdom, living out God's values in the world, praying for leaders, and pursuing justice, mercy, and truth in all areas of life.

Our role as believers in this world is not to withdraw from society but to influence it with the values demonstrated to us by Jesus. While political participation can be a form of stewardship, our engagement must be guided by discernment. The Scriptures remind us that we are "aliens and strangers" here (1 Peter 2:11), and as such, we must avoid becoming so entwined in earthly systems that we compromise our ultimate calling. Let us participate in civic matters as God leads us, but always with our hearts set on the eternal kingdom, bearing witness to the justice, mercy, and humility that our Lord exemplifies.

The Call to Be Salt and Light in a Divided World

Jesus described His followers as “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14), challenging us to be sources of preservation and illumination in a world that often trends toward corruption and darkness. This means that our presence should preserve, purify, and guide rather than align ourselves fully with any party or ideology. The world around us may seek to divide us along the lines of red and blue, but we must not allow these divisions to supersede our unity in Christ. In times of political division, this calling becomes even more critical as we are not meant to reflect the bitterness or darkness of society but rather the redemptive nature of Jesus’ example.

As the Church, we must remember that our mission is not to conform to the world’s patterns of division or discord. Jesus called disciples from a variety of backgrounds—including Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax collector—who held different political and social perspectives. Yet, in following Jesus, their hearts were transformed by His love and truth. They found a greater allegiance, a unity that transcended their former identities. Similarly, we are called to put aside worldly identities in favor of our identity in Christ (Galatians 3:28), prioritizing our unity in the Spirit over any political affiliation.

The Danger of Political Idolatry

Involvement in politics can validly express our commitment to seek justice and mercy, but we must guard against turning politics into an idol. It is easy to be so devoted to a political party, ideology, or leader that we lose sight of our devotion to Christ. The psalmist reminds us, “Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save” (Psalm 146:3). When we allow politics to consume us, we risk compromising our witness and shifting our faith away from God toward human solutions and systems.

When we treat our political convictions as ultimate truths, we may alienate those who differ from us and even distort the love of Jesus by presenting a Gospel that is conditional upon political agreement. Our faith should always transcend our political views, and we must take care never to subordinate the message of Christ to any ideology, regardless of how righteous it may appear.

Let us examine our hearts, lest we fall into idol worship. No leader, system, no ideology is our Savior. This belongs only to Jesus. If we are inclined to believe our political positions are the gospel and are more troubled by the outcomes of elections than the state of our souls, let us return to the cross. God will not share his power with another.

Engaging in Politics with a Kingdom Perspective

While political engagement is not inherently wrong, it is crucial to approach it from a Kingdom perspective. The Scriptures teach us that our goal should be to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). Political engagement, then, becomes an avenue to reflect God’s character and values in society, always tempered by love for our neighbors and humility before God.

As we engage, let us remember that our focus should be less on winning arguments and more on reflecting Christ's love and compassion. It can be tempting to become entrenched in arguments that foster division, but our speech and conduct should reflect the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). As Paul instructs in Colossians, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6). May we be known for our graciousness, even amid political debate.

Praying for Leaders and Living Peaceably

The apostle Paul urges us to pray "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Prayer for leaders is an essential aspect of our political engagement, regardless of whether we agree with their policies. Through prayer, we acknowledge that God is sovereign over every nation and ruler, and we seek the welfare and peace of the societies in which we live (Jeremiah 29:7).

Living peaceably does not mean avoiding difficult conversations or refraining from speaking the truth; it means that we seek to speak and act with respect, humility, and love. In praying for our leaders and promoting peace, we position ourselves as intercessors, seeking God's wisdom and intervention in matters that are beyond our control.

The Witness of the Church in Times of Political Conflict

The Church must be mindful of its witness in the world, especially in times of political conflict. Jesus prayed that His followers would be united so that the world would know that He was sent by the Father (John 17:21). Our unity is a testament to the reconciling power of the Gospel, a beacon of hope in a fractured world. When we allow politics to divide us, we undermine this testimony and risk losing our focus on the mission of making disciples.

Let us ask ourselves: Do our words and actions draw people closer to Christ, or do they push others away because of our political fervor? When nonbelievers observe our community, do they see people who prioritize love, grace, and compassion, or do they see us mirroring the hostility of the world?

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers. This means actively working to bridge divides, seeking understanding, and building relationships even with those who hold differing views. Jesus reminded us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). May we embody this blessing by promoting peace and reconciliation in all our interactions.

Conclusion: Walking Worthy of Our Calling

Dear brothers and sisters, let us walk worthy of the calling we have received (Ephesians 4:1), prioritizing our identity in Christ above all else. While we may engage in politics, let it be with a heart for God's justice and mercy, a spirit of humility, and a focus on the Gospel. In all things, let our conduct be worthy of the One who called us, so that we may shine as lights amid a lost and dying generation (Philippians 2:15).

May we remember that the Church's role is not to conform to the world's patterns but to be a distinct and holy people, reflecting God's love, grace, and truth. May our political engagement be marked by faithfulness to Christ, love for our neighbors, and a commitment to peace that surpasses all understanding.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, guiding you as you seek to honor Him in every sphere of life, including this often-contentious realm of politics.
With love and faithfulness, Your servant in Christ