

# **Jesus On American Politics: The Forbidden Subject**

## **There's Only ONE Thing That Lasts**

1 Corinthians 9:19, 21; Galatians 6:2

**The Bottom Line:** People first. Politics second.

**Welcome Verse:** Philippians 2:1-4

### **Review:**

The question we're wrestling with-in this series is ... are we willing to put our faith filters ahead of our political filters?

Are we willing to be Christ followers first and Republicans/Democrats second?

Last week, we talked about the idea of refusing to be divided.

It's okay to disagree politically, but the church should always pray for unity and love unconditionally.

### **Introduction:**

Today, I want to give you a template to help you know where agreement ends and diverse views should begin. Where's "The Line"?

You tend to interpret the words of Jesus through your political filter, but as we'll see today, you should filter your political views through the words of Jesus.

Everyone wants Jesus to take sides, and this is nothing new.

### **Tension:**

The problem is that we all think we do this.

If you talked with a Democrat, they'd say, "How can you be a Christian and be a Republican?"

If you talked with a Republican, they'd say, "How can you be a Christian and be a Democrat?"

The truth is a Democrat sermon and a Republican sermon both use the same verses from the Bible.

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***“Jesus didn’t come to take sides. He came to take over!”***  
***–Dr. Tony Evans***

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**Truth:**

When it comes to realigning our faith ...

When it comes to putting our faith before our politics, the Apostle Paul provided us with a starting point. He points us to “The Law of Christ,” which is shorthand for, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-21 & Galatians 6:2.

The Law of Christ should inform our conscience. We should all be disturbed, irritated, and convicted by the same things such as, injustice, disrespect, people undermining their own futures, and undermining family and community.

Law of Christ → Informed Conscience

The third part of our template involves knowledge and wisdom.

Accumulated knowledge. Wisdom from experience. As our capacity increases, our knowledge of how the world works does as well.

“He who has, more shall be given.”

Therefore, ...

Law of Christ → Informed Conscience → Knowledge and Wisdom

Through these, we should form our policy, platform, and legislation.

But ... how do we normally form our policy, platform, and legislation?

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***“Where you stand depends on where you sit.”***  
***–Rufus Miles***

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Naturally, you don’t see any conflict between your faith and your politics.  
You’re a Republican and so is Jesus, right?  
You’re a Democrat and so is Jesus, right?

You're filtering your faith through your political lens.

Your political views and values are not shaped through your faith.

Instead, your political views and values are shaped by where you live, how you were raised, where you were educated, if you were educated, what you've been told, what you've seen, what you've experienced, and what you've seen others experience.

Miles was right! Where you stand depends on where you sit.

### **Conclusion:**

As a Jesus follower, we must flip this, so the Law of Christ informs our conscience that impacts our knowledge and wisdom which ultimately impacts our policy, platform, and legislation.

You see, it doesn't matter where you live, how you were raised, where you were educated, if you were educated, what you've been told, what you've seen, what you've experienced, and what you've seen others experience.

What really matters is whether or not you're fulfilling the Law of Christ.

What really matters is whether or not you're putting people before your politics.

### **Application:**

1. Listen to people who don't experience the world the way you do.
2. Learn. Be curious. Fear not. Be a student, not just a critic.
3. Love. Never burn a relational bridge over a political view.

The person beside you is more precious to God than your potentially flawed view.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, so how dare we burn a relational bridge with anyone for whom Christ died?

### **Next Steps:**

- Memorize Galatians 6:2
- Listen
- Learn
- Love