



POLITICS

STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

Politics has long been a topic that should never be discussed in polite company. It has enflamed many debates and family meals and lead to hurt feelings and disunity. Part of the reason that these discussions can become so heated is that political opinions and ideologies are often based on deeper convictions. And for Christians those are convictions that should be shaped and formed by the Word of God. Shaped by our understanding of the gospel! And the Bible calls us to do so and work for the good of those around us. Yet that doesn't mean that we expect that everyone, Christian or not, will agree with our understanding or where we land on a political spectrum. More than the debate, as Christians we ought to be longing for people to have a heart change, not a political change. Our goal is followers of Jesus, not political conversions. And that goal ought to shape how we speak about politics to those around us and how we engage in with our city and country.

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 29:4-7

⁴“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Additional Texts: Romans 14:5, 1 Timothy 2:1-2



UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. When was Jeremiah writing this? Why does Jeremiah give this advice to them at this time?
2. In vs 7, Jeremiah tells his hearers that seeking the good of their city will be good for them, how do these two things come together?

APPLYING THE WORD

3. How does recognizing that we are not living in Jerusalem help shape our expectations of our political system and our approach to civic engagement?
4. What are some political issues that you are most passionate about? How does Romans 14 help us understand how to hold a conviction and embrace those who don't hold the exact same conviction?

PRAYING & ACTING

1. How can our group show the gospel in our community when it comes to politics? What practical steps could we take to help our neighbourhood hear the gospel?
2. Pray that God would use our words and our actions to show the superior greatness of Jesus through our lives.

