

God and Country

Philippians 3:17-21

Because our citizenship is in heaven...

1. We keep our eyes set on godly leaders, not political leaders (3:17)

- As human beings, we are prideful and struggle with the command to follow someone else in their faith.
- If you are in Christ, are you living a life that other people should model? If not, are you pursuing Christ as you should be, then?
- When the rest of the world looks at the church, they should think “oh those are the people who follow Jesus”, not “oh those are the people that follow (insert political figure here)”
- **So should we be engaged in politics as Christians? Engaged yes, but not obsessed.**
- Question to ask yourself: do you spend more time thinking about politics, or about God's work in the world? Does your favorite politician give you more hope than your pastor preaching the gospel? Does the world see someone set apart by hope, or someone just as hopeless as everyone else?
 - Clarity of values
 - Compassion for others
 - Commitment to truth

2. We keep our minds set on heavenly things, not earthly things.

- Do you weep for those who don't know Christ, or categorize them as enemies against your political understanding?
- Paul views people not through a political lens, but a spiritual lens, knowing that there are enemies to the cross of Christ because they do not know him.
- Paul describes people that are ever filling themselves with the things of this world, not godly desires. They are proud of what is sinful and promote it as the good life.
- **So would you ever promote a political candidate from the pulpit? No. Because the pastor gets to promote the name of Jesus for a very short time, that is what the pulpit will be used for.**

3. We keep our hopes set on Christ's return, not America's return.

- We hope for America that we had before, and for many of us that wish has become our greatest hope
- We need to know that even if America never returns to what it was, or any idealized version of America, we have an unwavering hope because our savior is still coming back, ushering in the Kingdom of Heaven!
- Is it a sin to be patriotic? No. It is a sin to be idolatrous. So if/when patriotism becomes idolatry, it is then a sin.
 - When we think offending America is the greatest sin.
 - When our political alignment overshadows our spiritual identity
 - When our greatest hopes and fears center around this country instead of around our God
- **Are we to fight for God and country? Yes, but we are to worship only one.**