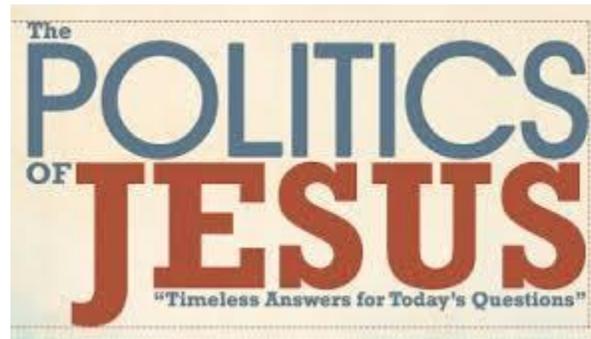


FIVE POLITICAL KINGDOM OPTIONS



1. Democrat Kingdom. Many in this “kingdom” do not recognize the human dignity of prominent Republicans. Many hate Trump and Republicans who support him. Their posts and tweets are filled with all kinds of vile things against Trump and his supporters. They take delight in mocking Trump and pointing out the hypocrisy of Republicans. However, they are blind to the hypocrisy of their own Democratic tribe. They love it when their team scores a touchdown and hate it when the other side scores on them. They also object to calls made against their team. They really are like fanatical football fans.
2. Republican Kingdom. Many in this “kingdom” do not recognize the human dignity of prominent Democrats. Many hate Pelosi and Schumer and Democrats who support them. Their posts and tweets are filled all kinds of vile things against them. They take delight in mocking Pelosi and pointing out hypocrisy of Democrats. However, they are blind to the hypocrisy of the own Republic tribe. They love it when their team scores a touchdown and hate it when the other side scores on them. They also object to calls made against their team. They really are like fanatical football fans.
3. Ideological Kingdom. Like the above, these ideologues tend to absolutize on positions that cannot be absolutized. Instead of absolutizing a party, they absolutize an idea. Like Rand Paul, who tends to absolutize the individual over the common good. They are blind to the fact that many things cannot be absolutized--like government and health care. It is worthy to note that he recently went to Canada (government health care) for a surgery.
4. Neutral. This would be the position of tuning out. While this might be tempting, it is to render oneself saltless "good for nothing" as far as society: Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." Consider the results of such an attitude in Hitler's Germany. We are mandated to bring the good of the Lord to bear on politics--something not dominant in either the Republican or Democrat parties.

5. Christ's Kingdom. Unlike the above, believers who are oriented to the Kingdom of God are intellectually and affectionately connected to Christ, His Kingdom, and His ethics. You will not find this believer reviling or mocking anyone. This does not mean he is shy about calling out evil as such. These believers may be registered Republicans or Democrats, but their heart and decisions are made according to the ethics of Jesus Christ. You will not find hypocrisy in these believers because they are committed to Truth and the ethics of the already/not yet Kingdom. These believers live according to the Kingdom Platform which includes (1) orientation to Christ as King (instead of Democrats/Obama or Republicans/Trump), (2) loving our neighbors (including unborn and the poor/marginalized), instead of vitriolic partisanship, (3) affirming the eternal dignity of everyone regardless of tribe or politics, and (4) living above self-interest that drives earthly politics, and (5) dedicated to contributing to the common good of the United States of American, rather than personal/self/partisan interests.

Though I do not have the space to develop God's politics here, I will just say that they are based on natural law, eternal law, the will of God, and the mind of God--and thus are unchanging, universal, and objective.

As the follower of Jesus avoids the politics partisanship and neutrality, he is able to bring the influences of Christ and His Kingdom to bear on our country even in the midst of hypocrisy, animus, and otherwise hopelessness.

Given that the Right gets it wrong (too Lockean/individualistic, sees all problems as personal), and the Left does not get it (too disconnected from God, see all problems as structural), and neutrality is not a Christian option, may the Lord give us the insight and strength to follow the better way of Jesus--for Him, for ourselves, and for our nation.

In His Matchless Grace,

Pastor Don