

## Avoiding Election Infection

### Key Scriptures

Rom. 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Job 12:9-10<sup>9</sup> Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,<sup>10</sup> In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?

Mark 12:30-31

Matt. 5:43-45<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'<sup>44</sup> "But I say to you, love your enemies,

Matt. 22:21 "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Col. 4:5-6<sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.<sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

### Key Point:

Because we are citizens of God's kingdom, we should not operate by fear or tribalism. We have an eternal allegiance and a "rule book" to guide us in this election.

## TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What are three things that really stress you out? Have you found any solutions to that stress?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Do you agree with this statement: "no matter where you stand politically, you can find something in the Bible to support your stand." Why or why not?
- Kyle made the statement that if you are a Christian and you agree with Romans 13:1, you would have to agree that God put president Trump in office. In what ways has this has been a blessing and a judgment?
- Referring to Matt 22:17-21, Kyle said "when you understand what is God's and in whose image you have been cast, it determines:
  - The purpose, responsibility, and degree of your participation in shaping the laws and culture of this land (for the gospel)
  - How you treat others in this election cycle
  - What and who you support in this election"How and why is this true?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Do politics play a role in your family's mealtime conversation during Thanksgiving and Christmas? If so, do you tend to join the debate or withdraw? Why do you respond the way you do?
- Think about a political belief you oppose so strongly that you can't imagine how someone else could hold it. What questions would you ask a person who holds that belief? What value might there be in asking questions.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Read 1 Tim 2:1-2 together and spend some time praying for our leaders.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- What is one practical step you can take this week to put others first and politics second? How can you put Colossians 4:5-6 in action?