



# BEING THE CHURCH IN A POLITICAL SEASON

I am a Christian Pastor and I seek to influence people

- ✘ I challenge you to:
  - + THINK!
  - + to be led by God.
- ✘ The Bible tells us how we are to act in HIS kingdom, the church.
- ✘ God tells us the basic ways to treat people well.
- ✘ Then we, as Christians, take those principles and place them into our politics.

# LIVE IN UNITY

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- ✘ Col 3:7<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.
- ✘ <sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. NIV

# LIVE IN UNITY

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- ✦ **Col 3:7<sup>13</sup> Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. NIV**

# 1. PUT ON LOVE

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- ✘ **And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**
- ✘ **Last week talked of uniform**
- ✘ **This speaks of a uniform as a garment**
  - + **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (virtues)**
- ✘ **Thickness of material to protect heart, spleen, etc.**
- ✘ **Over all these things... put on the garment of love**

## 1.5 BIND US TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY

- ✘ John 17: <sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. NIV
  - + Us!
  - + United!
  - + As a testimony to the world.

## 2. YOU ARE CALLED TO PEACE; LET IT RULE

- ✘ <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.
- ✘ Remember who Paul is talking about:
  - + Gentile or Jew,
  - + circumcised or uncircumcised,
  - + barbarian, Scythian,
  - + slave or free,
- ✘ Live in the peace you were called to in Jesus

### 3. BE THANKFUL

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- ✘ <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace...
- ✘ ...And be thankful
- ✘ Are you grateful for people in the church different than you?
  - + Tree of life

## 4. MAKE THE MESSAGE RICH!

- ✘ <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you...
  - + teach and admonish one another
  - + with all wisdom
  - + through psalms, (the only Bible they had)
  - + hymns, and
  - + songs from the Spirit, singing to God
  - + with gratitude in your hearts.

# 5. **FOCUS ON JESUS!**

- ✘ <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- + <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,

# FOR EXAMPLE: THE HUNGRY

- ✘ **should be fed:**
- ✘ **Put your Christianity in place to say they should be fed:**
- ✘ Mt 25: 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ <sup>45</sup> “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ NIV

# FOR EXAMPLE: THE HUNGRY

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- ✘ should be fed:
- ✘ Put your Christianity in place to say they should be fed:
- ✘ Politically what would you say?
  - + I should feed the hungry
  - + The church should feed the hungry
  - + The government should feed the hungry
  - + The government should provide training or jobs so the hungry can feed themselves and family

# POLITICAL ISSUES WITH VARIOUS STANCES

- ✘ What rights does a person/citizen have?
  - + Constitutional
  - + Prisoner
  - + Bodily
  - + Health
  - + Undocumented immigrant
  - + Child
- ✘ Who can be married?
- ✘ Who is our country responsible for/to?
- ✘ What makes an acceptable/ unacceptable lifestyle?
- ✘ Who deserves /gets financial assistance?

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✘ So What?

# SO WHAT?

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- ✘ Live as a Christian
- ✘ THINK!
- ✘ Vote your conscience
- ✘ Commit yourself to love those who love Jesus but differ from you.
- ✘ You will never understand them.
  - + The slave didn't understand the slave owner
  - + The Jew didn't understand the moral laxity of the Gentile
  - + Men don't understand women! ( male & female)
- ✘ But we love one another