

#### FINDINGHOPE

**Navigating The Political Tension** 

#### John Wesley | October 6, 1774

"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them, 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against; And 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those who voted on the other side." We are FINDINGHOPE by engaging scripture as the lens through which we see the issues of today. Use it, don't abuse it!

**Economy** Democracy Terrorism Supreme Court Immigration

Healthcare **Gun Policy** Abortion Taxes Crime

\* Gallup News | Poll conducted Sept. 16-28, 2024

### I believe scripture is the living Word of God; helping us know who He is and who we are in Him.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

#### Let's talk about the ECONOMY

The largest economic driver is consumer spending; this is threatened by the higher cost of goods and unemployment.

What's your relationship with stuff?

# Let's talk about the <u>ECONOMY</u> What does the Bible say?

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

- 1 Timothy 6:10

# Let's talk about the <u>ECONOMY</u> What does the Bible say?

Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

As Christ-Followers, money cannot be the emphasis of our existence. Scripture does not demonize money, but it does warn us against the slippery slope of idolatry.

#### Let's talk about IMMIGRATION

In 2022 there were 11 million unauthorized immigrants living in the USA; most seeking a better life for themselves.

How are you supposed to engage them?

# Let's talk about <u>IMMIGRATION</u> What does the Bible say?

Treat (foreigners) like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

- Leviticus 19:34

# Let's talk about <u>IMMIGRATION</u> What does the Bible say?

Matthew 25:31-46

While scripture reminds us that everyone must submit to governing authorities, Christ-Followers cannot allow our patriotic preservation to surpass our call to care.

#### Let's talk about DEMOCRACY

Our "for and by the people" government feels vulnerable; it's harder to see ourselves in those who govern us.

Who are you choosing to lead you?

# Let's talk about <u>DEMOCRACY</u> What does the Bible say?

Choose some well-respected men from each tribe who are known for their wisdom and understanding, and I will appoint them as your leaders.

- Deuteronomy 1:13

# Let's talk about <u>DEMOCRACY</u> What does the Bible say?

1 Samuel 8:10-22

Beyond electing someone to represent us, Christ-Followers must focus on the image in whom we were created; choosing Christ is more important than choosing a president.

### At the core of these issues are the truths of scripture...

- What emphasis do we put on worldly things?
- How can we love our neighbor as ourselves?
  - Who are we putting our faith in and why?
- ...these issues cannot be siloed; they're deeply connected.

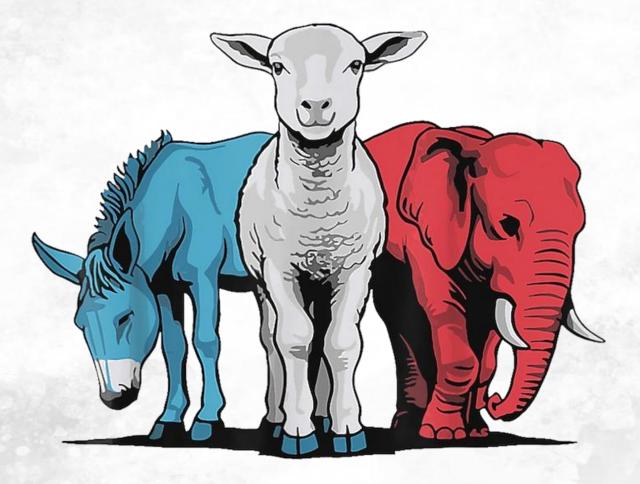
Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you love in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:6-7

#### NEXT WEEK

The results are in; how do we handle our disappointment or delight in who's elected?

And what do Jelly Bellies have to do with it?!?!



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