

# Follow the Lamb: The Christian's Primary Allegiance

Bethany Assembly of God

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**Central Proposition: Your allegiance to Jesus should set the tone of your politics.**

## **Introduction**

Have you ever wondered if Jesus was born in 21st century America rather than in 1st century Israel if He would have been red or blue, Elephant or Donkey, Republican or Democrat? When Jesus came to earth, there were multiple political parties– the Pharisees, the Saducees, the Zealots – and He didn't subscribe to any of them. Just listen to the group of men that He named His apostles, "The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him." (Matthew 10:2–4) Notice that two of those named were also identified by their occupation or political associations: Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot. Jesus called both of these men to a different party, His party, the Kingdom of God.

This is not to say that Christians can't participate in politics or subscribe more to the values and beliefs of a particular party. But there is an ultimate allegiance that supersedes all others. That allegiance will inform how we vote, how we treat our political enemies, how we engage with cultural issues, and it will sometimes mean that we must stand outside any party and raise a prophetic voice for the Kingdom of God. And today, we need to lay the foundation for a Christian's relationship to politics by establishing the Christian's primary political allegiance, which is to Jesus. How does God's Word teach us that allegiance to Jesus will be foundational for our political engagement?

**1. You will walk by faith.** See Hebrews 11:13-16; Psalm 47:8; Job 12:23.

We talk about faith often. We speak of faith in Jesus that brings us salvation. We speak about faith in God's promises. We talk about walking by faith and not by sight in our personal temptations and trials. But have you ever considered that you also ought to walk by faith politically? We are residents and citizens of the United States of America. But the Scripture says that we live as exiles here or in any other nation in the world. This means that all of our living and all our political engagement will be done in faith that we are looking for another country and belong to a different Kingdom and, for those who walk by faith, the situation is never hopeless. There is not a moment when we should throw up our hands and give up on the mission of God to reach the lost with the Gospel because the culture and politics have become so bad that we don't think it's worth it anymore. As we engage in political conversations and political actions, we can exude hope because our hope is not in this nation. Our hope is in the Lord who rules the nations.

**2. You will act in humility.** See John 3:17; Philippians 2:8.

This humility flows from Jesus in two veins. Of course, Jesus Himself was humble and He acted humbly though He knows everything. How much more, then, should we act with humility when we should readily be able to admit that we don't know everything? Humility will change our tone and attitude toward those who disagree, even if they disagree over something that we think is essential. We must speak and act in humility because the ultimate goal is to help people and our nation flourish, particularly by recognizing that Jesus is King and He became King by death on the cross.

## **Conclusion**

The point of today's message was not to say that Christians should not care about politics, shouldn't have firm convictions, or shouldn't talk about politics. Quite the opposite. I think that Christians should seek to influence politics in a manner that advances the Kingdom of God and blesses people.