Lesson 3 - The Citizens of The Kingdom

What does life as Kingdom citizens look like?

1. **Life lived to the glory of God**
   We have been restored to God to glorify him (see video 1: the King of the Kingdom).

2. **Life as a Elect Exiles**
   We are *elect* because we are chosen and saved by God for his Kingdom. We are *exiles* because we are in this world where so many around us are not living to the glory of God. God has put us where we are and we can trust his sovereignty in that. He calls us to love our neighbors and honor our authorities, but at the same time, to never forget our true citizenship.

3. **Life with citizenship privileges**
   The power and life of heaven breaks into our life now. We have eternal life with God, which is to know the Father, and the One he sent, Jesus, through the power of the Spirit. This can only happen in us because of the spiritual power of the Kingdom breaking into our hearts. This is ours now in part, and when the New Creation comes, it will be ours fully.

4. **Life with citizenship responsibilities**
   Our responsibility is to grow in righteousness to be more like Jesus. This is the goal, both for individual believers, and for the life of the church. Jesus gives us the grace and power to become more like him, and help others become more like him.

5. **Life of repentance and faith**
   Repentance is when we, body and soul, turn from sin to Christ. It's More than just feeling bad or moral reform, and stems from your renewed relationship to God. *Faith* grabs onto the power of God to do something that is completely outside our control. Our faithful reliance on God for everything changes and transforms everything in our life. You can see then that repentance and faith go together, they are responses to God's grace in Jesus, and are like the dual-engines that drive us forward in the Kingdom.

Conclusion: What does all this mean for our politics and public life?
I hope you can see that you really can't separate your faith from your politics. Your faith in Christ informs everything you do. The way we vote, talk about our political leaders, and relate to our neighbors, is lived as a sacrifice of worship to the Lord Jesus. He has restored us to God, so we would bring God glory in everything we do. This is the Kingdom life.