

Jesus: Post-Election 2024

Nothing's Changed

Overview

Presidential elections are a big deal. For months leading up to the election, we're blanketed with messaging about the significance of the election: what it would mean for our country if this leader vs. that leader were elected. And when election night comes, many of us will sit up late into the night and early morning to find out what the future of the nation might hold.

But regardless of what an election holds for the country, for those of us who follow Jesus, our role doesn't change. We're still called to represent him to a world desperate for hope that no politician or political party can offer.

Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:16–6:2 (NIV)

2Cor. 5:16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

2Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2Cor. 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

2Cor. 5:19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

2Cor. 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2Cor. 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2Cor. 6:1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

2Cor. 6:2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. Was there anything that surprised you? Was there anything you found confusing?
2. In v. 16, Paul says that one of the results of knowing Jesus is that we no longer see people the way we once did. When you meet someone, what's the first thing you typically notice about them or use to categorize them? For example, how they talk, how they dress, what they do, etc.?
3. A better translation of verse 17 is "if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation." In other words, there is a new work of creation happening inside every person whose life is defined by Jesus. Do you tend to think of yourself as a finished product, a lost cause, or a work in progress?
4. According to vv. 18–20, what is our role as followers of Jesus? What does being an ambassador entail? What does that mean for

how we should live each day of our lives?

5. For many people politics has taken on a quasi-religious feel. Do you think it's more likely for someone to compromise their theology for their political ideology or their political affiliation for Jesus? Why?
6. As Christ's ambassador, does Jesus have your whole allegiance, or have you confused some other agenda for his? How do you know?
7. Paul concludes the section with a final challenge: don't waste this amazing new life God has given you; step into the fullness of life he's offering right here and now (6:1-2). Does the political party in the White House or Congress affect whether you embrace your new life as Jesus' ambassador to your friends, family, and neighbors?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality that occurs. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God's power.

- Praise God for all the good he's done in our nation and for the free elections we enjoy.
- Acknowledge that, regardless of who's in power in our country, as a follower of Jesus, you have an obligation to represent him to those around you.

- Confess any ways in which you've compromised his agenda in your actions or attitude toward others.
- Thank Jesus that he became sin for you so that you could be reconciled to God.
- Ask him to help you live in light of the new work of creation he's bringing to life in you.