



- As a Christ follower, we can choose to not be **offended**.

A person with good sense is patient, and it is to his credit that he overlooks an offense. Proverbs 19:11 (GWT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

**Things we need to know in this election year:**

- We all have a privilege and responsibility to **vote**.
- **Jesus** doesn't belong to or define one political party.

- As Christ-followers, The **Holy Spirit's** leading should shape our vote.

A kingdom divided against itself will collapse. A home filled with strife and division destroys itself. Mark 3:24-25 (TLB)

**We experience division because:**

- We have different **values**.
- As believers, the gospel of Jesus **unites** us.
- There should be nothing between us that our **love** for one another does not also give us **grace** for one another.

...clothe yourself in love. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14 (NCV)

I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:20-21 (NLT)

Is our love for others great enough to embrace them and not **condemn** them because of their politics?

- We don't trust **leaders**.

- Trusting God means changing how we view **leaders**.

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. Romans 13:1 (NLT)

People who oppose the authorities are opposing what God has done, and they will be punished. Romans 13:2 (CEV)

Every leader is **flawed**.

We trust God:

- When we accept that God can **use flawed** people.

...I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command, 'Rebuild Jerusalem'; he will say, 'Restore the Temple.'" Isaiah 44:28 (NLT)

...I have equipped you for battle, though you don't even know me... Isaiah 45:5 (NLT)

Trusting God means...

We look to God and trust His **plan** and His **person**.

- We are **fearful**.

We learn to trust God:

- When we focus on **faith** in God rather than **fear** of man.

The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Psalm 118:6 (NLT)

... Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10

- God knows everything about your **future**.

You, LORD, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. Psalms 16:5

- Our mentality is **us versus them**.

..let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19 (ESV)

We're either part of the **solution** or part of the problem.

Be passionate about policies and **peaceful** with people.

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. Proverbs 15:1 (NLT)

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But— When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. Titus 3:1-8 (NLT)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE  
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

### **Questions for Connection Groups:**

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Did Dave say anything in the Talk that bothered you? Did you forgive Dave?
- What emotions are you dealing with during this election? How would you define the emotion of our culture?
- How do we choose to not be offended? How does Galatian's 5:22-23 prevent us from being offended?
- Do you think it's important for a Christian to vote? Explain. How do we try to identify Jesus with our political party (whatever party that might be)? How can we allow the Holy Spirit to shape our vote?
- What does it mean to have grace for others during this election? Why is that important?
- Is it difficult for you to trust the leaders that God puts into office? How does that keep us from trusting God?
- Do you find fear keeps you from trusting God? How do we develop faith during this election?
- Do you experience an "Us versus them" mentality? How does that keep us from trusting God?
- How can we be passionate about policies, that we cared about, and peaceful with people?
- Read Titus 3:1-8; What are a couple of things you see that tell us how to live during this election?

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