

KING AND COUNTRY

Christians will not always agree on how to best vote their faith convictions, but we can agree on the importance of following the way of Jesus during an election season. What does that look like?

KING AND COUNTRY (Rick Atchley – September 8, 2024)

1. Rick began by reminding us that, *“When you follow Jesus it should shape how you follow anything else.”* Why is that so pivotal to remember (especially during this election season)? Follow up: What role should your faith play in shaping your political engagement, and how do you balance that with respecting differing views within the church?
2. **YOUR QUESTION: *What is my engagement in the process doing for my witness. Read 1 Timothy 3:7 and Romans 12:18.*** In what ways can political divisions hinder our witness to those outside the church, and how can we strive to maintain a good reputation with outsiders? Follow up: How does fear play a role in political discourse, and what steps can we take as followers of Jesus to counteract this fear with faith?
3. In **Matthew 22:15-22**, Jesus navigates a politically charged question about paying taxes to Caesar. How does His response demonstrate the balance between fulfilling our civic duties and maintaining our ultimate allegiance to God?
4. **MY DECISION: I will honor my leaders, but my allegiance belongs to Jesus.** In what ways is government a good thing? Follow up: How do we balance honoring our leaders (as instructed in **Romans 13:6-7 & 1 Timothy 2:2**) while maintaining our primary allegiance to Jesus? What does this look like in practice?
5. **MY DECISION: I will love my country, but my primary citizenship is his kingdom.** In what ways can patriotism be a positive force in our lives, and how do we ensure it does not conflict with our primary identity as citizens of God’s kingdom (**Philippians 3:20**)?
6. **MY DECISION: I will vote my conscience, but my discipleship does not depend on election outcomes.** How does this perspective change the way you view political events?
7. **OUR COMMISSION: Elections come and go, but the mission remains until our King returns.** How can we focus on seeking God’s kingdom first, even in the midst of political turmoil (**Philippians 1:27**)? Follow up: What disciplines or habits should we consider practicing during this election season to nurture and protect our spiritual health?

