

Sunday Leftovers

Sermon Title: "Intersections – Faith and Government"

What's this message about – As America enters its 242nd year, we have come to rely on our political system- our government to provide security, stability, prosperity and direction. Is that really who we want to place our faith and trust in? In the midst of America's prosperity, we have forgotten who is really the source of all of these things: God and God alone. That being said, does that mean that we ought to abandon government and the democratic enterprise? Absolutely not! It is our right and our duty to continue to exert influence in meaningful and productive ways. Even in the face of the increased sentiment encouraging the separation of church and state, we MUST allow our theological convictions to drive our political actions. To divorce the two is to divorce faith and ethics from a process that has a direct affect on every one of our lives. As believers, we must not allow that to happen. We can't compartmentalize our faith in a way that excludes decisions that affect our everyday lives.

So how can we do this? Provide perspective. Encourage conversations that provide people with an alternative look at possible outcomes and solutions. Elevate the conversation; Stay Local; Pursue the Achievable Good (what makes us better and is achievable).

Questions for discussion:

- *What do you think the main point of Matt's message was?*
- *Where do you stand with regard to the role faith plays in government and politics?*
- *How can we create an environment that lessens the divisiveness of politics?*

Do something about it:

Look for opportunities to create safe environments for people to share their political views. Consider these conversations as an opportunity to broaden your perspective and share your faith in a very practical way. Use your opportunities to incorporate your faith to make a difference in your city, your state and your country.

Digging deeper:

Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-7; Proverbs 29:2;26; Luke 22:25-27; Ephesians 1:17-23;
Colossians 1:15-17