



Pastor Tom Kang

pt4: Practicality

Icebreaker: *Think of the person closest to you with whom you disagree most politically. Share what keeps that relationship strong, regardless of the differences.*

1. Read and discuss the account of Jesus choosing his first twelve disciples in Luke 6:12-16. What are some things you noticed in this passage. Do you think this was an easy decision? Explain why or why not based on the details of the passage. What might this passage have to say about the company you choose to keep? Finally, discuss why you think Jesus would deliberately choose to men on the opposite sides of the political spectrum (Matthew, a Jew collecting taxes for Rome & Simon the Zealot).

2. Reading *The Atlantic* article [“Where Did Evangelicals Go Wrong?”](#) may be well worth your time. Until then, reflect on the excerpt below and share your thoughts. Where do you agree or disagree and why?

*Christians need to reacquaint themselves with the Jesus of the New Testament, not the Jesus of the American right (or left). The real Jesus demonstrated a profound mistrust of political power and did not encourage his disciples to become involved in political movements of any kind.*

*The most meaningful emblem of Christianity is not the sword but the cross, which is the antithesis of world power. Jesus made clear time and again that his kingdom is not of this world. And the New Testament does not provide anything like a governing blueprint.*

*This does not mean that Christians, Christian institutions, and churches should never under any circumstances be involved in politics, because politics has profound human consequences. It is one arena in which to pursue justice, which matters. What this does mean is that Christians need to assume a much different posture, to move away from hyper-partisanship toward a more detached and prophetic role, and to take more seriously than many do the idea of dual citizenship—the belief that we may be citizens of the City of Man but that our deepest loyalties are to the City of God.*

3. What does the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) as well as what the Apostle Paul encouraged believers to “think about” and “practice” (Philippians 4:8-9) have to do with our engagement with anything political? Provide one, concrete example of what this might look like in your everyday life.

4. Which of the three, free resources ([Political Typology Quiz](#); [Peace in Politics devotional](#); [Pour Over news resource](#)) do you think might be most helpful to you as well as share with others this week?

Additional resources not previously mentioned in order of time-commitment levels from least to greatest:

- [Podcast](#) – N.T. Wright on *How The Gospel is Political* (and other related topics)
- [Audiobook](#) – *Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals* (Shane Claiborne)
- [Book](#) – *Not In It To Win It* (Andy Stanley)

The screenshot shows the Pew Research Center website. On the left, there's a navigation menu with 'RESEARCH TOPICS', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'OUR METHODS', 'SHORT READS', 'TOOLS & RESOURCES', and 'EXPERTS'. The main content area features the 'Political Typology Quiz' with the question 'Where do you fit in the political typology?' and a sub-question 'Are you a Faith and Flag Conservative? Progressive Left? Or somewhere in between?'. Below the quiz is a graphic of 10 stylized human figures in different colors. To the right, there's a section for 'Peace in Politics: A Guide to Thriving in This Divisive Time' with a 'PEACE in POLITICS' graphic. Below this is a 'Your politically neutral, Christ-first news source.' section with a 'try it' button and a note 'Join over 800,000 readers. Always free. Unsubscribe anytime.'