



Pastor Tom Kang

pt3: Centrality, Complexity, Simplicity & Beauty

Icebreaker: *Dare we ask ... have you registered to vote? And perhaps more importantly, why does this seem like such a question today?*

1. Spend some time reflecting upon and discussing the 5 convictions of a “Political Therapeutic Deist” (listed below) as identified by author, Michael Wear.

- *God is on my political party's side.*
- *My views on political issues are a leading indication that I am a true Christian.*
- *My actions in politics are justified in light of God's general approval of my politics.*
- *I do not understand how other “Christians” could vote for my candidate's opponent.*
- *It is clear and obvious which political issues are most important to God.*

What do you find problematic about the assertions above?



2. Jesus says in Matthew 10:34-36 that He has come to bring a sword, not peace. How does this disrupt our understanding of Him as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)? In what ways might following Jesus cause disruption in our personal or family life?

3. Reflect on the following 4 themes, some of their corresponding verses and the quote from Pastor Tim Keller in the NYT. What are some things that strike you about all these elements? How might it shape your view of politics today?

The New York Times

OPINION

How Do Christians Fit Into the Two-Party System? They Don't

The historical Christian positions on social issues don't match up with contemporary political alignments.

“The historical Christian positions on social issues do not fit into contemporary political alignments.”

Tim Keller

Racial Justice & Equality: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28); John 13:34; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:9-11; Col 3:11*

Serve the Poor: *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (1 John 3:17); Proverbs 22:9; Matthew 5:42; Luke 12:33; Gal 2:10*

Sex Within Marriage: *Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24); Genesis 1:28; 1 Cor 7:2-5; Heb 13:4*

Right to Life: *Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you.” (Jeremiah 1:45); Psalm 22:10; 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24; Luke 1:41-45*

4. With “the medium is the message” in mind, what does the Lord's Table (medium) communicate to you (message)? More specifically, what does the *centrality, complexity, simplicity and beauty* of the Communion Table communicate to you? (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20) What do you suppose believers who remember Christ's broken body and shed blood, might have to do with the gospel & politics?