

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

10 Rules for Mixing Politics



and Religion

10 Rules for Mixing Politics and Religion

Are Democrats allowed in your class?
What about Republicans? Liberals only?
Conservatives only?

I know it sounds silly, but to many it actually is a problem. The conservative right has given the world the impression that God joined the Tea Party, or at least that's the impression that the liberal left portrays. In case you are wondering or confused, God is neither Democrat nor Republican, conservative nor liberal. Actually, God doesn't even vote.

I recently read a blog by a Christian that got me thinking about this. He had invited someone to church and their response was that they couldn't attend his church because they were a Democrat.

It is sad that in possessing the truth of all ages, the good news that God forgives sinners, some Christians give the impression instead that God is primarily a supporter of right-wing conservative political parties. Others, that true believers can only embrace the opposite end of the political spectrum.

With eternity and real life transformation hanging in the balance, should we discuss politics in our Bible study classes?

My opinion is no. Below are ten reasons to avoid political discussions in class.

1. God is not a member of any political party.

This should be self-evident. God does not choose sides, He determines outcomes. There is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God (Romans 13:1).

God may choose to use the political process but He is not part of the political process.

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2. The Bible is more important than political values.

Of all of the things we could discuss nothing is as important or comes even close to discussing eternal, life changing, culture changing, world changing truth. That truth is found in the Scriptures.

3. Politics represent man's answer to the problems of getting along together.

4. The Bible represents God's answer to the problems of the whole world.

Really, whose answers do you want, some politician's? Or do you want God's answers for our world?

5. The cross is a stumbling block (1 Corinthians 1:23). Please don't add the stumbling block of politics.

Developing a loving and kind relationship with someone who is lost or hurting is difficult enough. Please don't add the artificial barriers of political affiliation. Keep the discussion on the Biblical text.

6. Political discussions during your Bible study will tend to drive away everyone who disagrees.

At that point you will find yourself with a class of like-minded people and you will essentially be talking to yourself.

7. If you continually focus on discussing the Bible, people's lives will be changed and those changed lives will draw even more people into Bible study. And then you will find that you are never talking only to yourself.

8. Praying for your President is better than criticizing your President.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 commands us to pray for those in authority over us. In the US we talk about freedom of speech, and you certainly are free to express your political opinions. But, maybe we should spend more time praying than complaining. There is no authority except what God has established. Since God gave us the President we have, I believe we should talk to God about him (or her).

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9. Criticizing leaders puts up barriers to evangelism. Be very careful on Facebook.

Constant criticizing only puts barriers between us and people who need the gospel.

10. Keep your perspective on things with eternal value; politics are temporal.

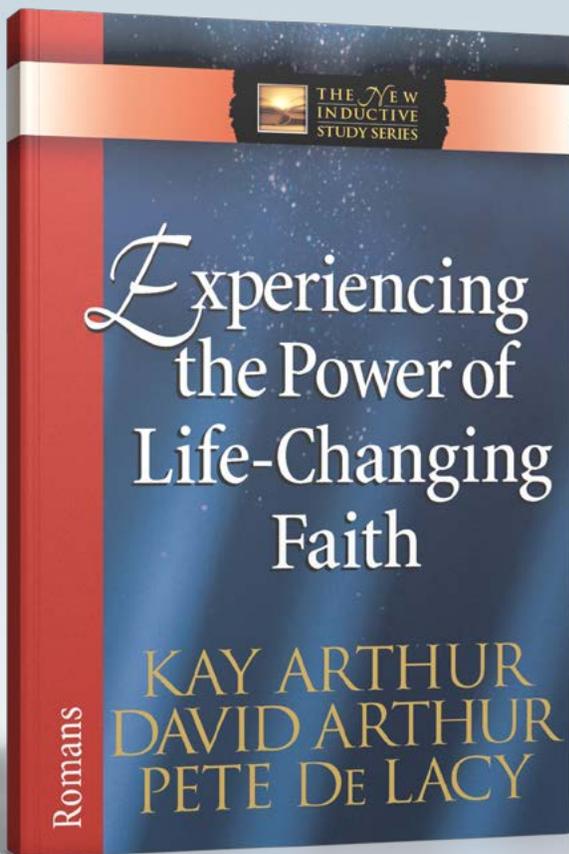
The Bible study class is the place for discussing Scripture; it is not the appropriate forum for a political bashing party. In addition, as believers, we must always be careful. The world is watching to see what you do because they want to see if you are real. Be careful to show them Christ instead of conservative or liberal politics. One will temporarily change our country, maybe. But the other will change the world.

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