

FAITH, FEAR, AND ★ POLITICS

WEEK FIVE

So, What Do We Do With All This?

MAIN IDEA

The Gospel can be offensive, but you don't have to be.

STARTER

If you had to choose one or the other for the rest of your life: Would you rather be offended by someone once a day or be offensive to someone once a day?

SCRIPTURE EMPHASIS

As a group, read this section of Pauls' letter to Timothy before you begin your discussion:

- 2 Tim 3:1-9, 14-17

UNPACKING WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT . . .

- Have you ever been offended by someone in an argument about your faith, culture or politics? How did that go?
- How would you define the word 'offensive?'
- Take a few minutes and read these verses out loud - take turns sharing one or two of them a piece. Take notice of the idea of being offended or being 'a stumbling block' which means 'being offended.'
 - 1 Cor 10:32-33
 - Prov 18:19
 - 2 Cor 6;3
 - Matt 15:12-14
 - Prov 19:11
 - Rom 12:17-18

- 1 Cor 8:13
 - Heb 12:14-15
 - 1 Peter 2:23
 - The emphasis in these passages seems to be on not being offensive as Christians. So why do you think we worry so much
 - Make a list of things that you do or say or present to others that are seen as offensive in our culture. Share them with the group.
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- Look at your list - how can you adjust things so that only the truth is offensive in your life and not the way you present the truth?

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Treat your discussions and interactions with people online as a traffic signal.

Red light - whenever you want to blow someone up STOP. Wait 24 hours and respond when you have a clear mind.

Yellow light - when it comes to politics, SLOW DOWN. Listen more than you speak and look to learn rather than lecture.

Green - If it is about Jesus or the Bible, GO and speak freely.

Get someone who you know very well (best friend, teacher, mom, wife, fiancé) and ask them to give you a red, yellow, green light when it comes to your conversations. Be accountable in your actions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Jon Piper has a great interview on desiringgod.com called - Humbly Handling the offense of the Gospel with Non-Christians