

P O L I T I C A L

G O S P E L

P A T R I C K S C H R E I N E R

D I S C U S S I O N G U I D E





INTRODUCTION

1. What are your expectations for this book based on its title and premise? What position do you currently hold regarding the political nature of Jesus?
2. How do you respond to the statement, *Christianity is political*?
3. What does the author mean by “putting politics in its place”? How do you respond to his explanation?

CHAPTER 1

1. How are Jesus’ words, *gospel*, *kingdom*, and *believe*, political?
2. How are Jesus’ actions—the exorcism of Legion, his trial, and his ascension—political?
3. Give a few other examples of Jesus’ subversive political message.

CHAPTER 2

1. Why is it important that Jesus was submissive in addition to being subversive? How does considering this paradox affect your faith?
2. How does the dove’s descent on Jesus at his baptism relate to the political nature of his message and ministry?
3. The author highlights Jesus’ teaching, his words on paying taxes, his innocence before Pilate, and his trial and crucifixion. Discuss how each of these reveals Jesus’ submissive nature.

CHAPTER 3

1. Define *nationalism* and *nonconformity*. Does either represent Jesus’ stance toward governing authorities? Explain your answer.
2. How should Christians view governing authorities? Explain your answer.
3. What are some practical ways you can live as a member of the kingdom of God amid the kingdom of man?

CHAPTER 4

1. How did Paul subvert the Empire? Choose one or two examples and discuss how they affect your faith.
2. How do you respond to the idea that the church is a political assembly? How would you describe the political nature of the church?
3. How are baptism and the Lord’s Supper political acts? How do you react to viewing them in this manner?

CHAPTER 5

1. Discuss how Paul advocated for the kingdom of God but was never implicated in wrongdoing. How does his example compel you to do the same?
2. How do you understand Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2:13-17? When have you seen them misinterpreted, and when have you seen them treated correctly?
3. How do you explain the sentence, “Submission is an expression of freedom”? How does it relate to the discussion of submitting to government authorities?





CHAPTER 6

1. Define *triumphalism* and *escapism*. Give examples of how you've seen both play out in recent years.
2. How do you respond to the idea that God created all power for good, he works through non-Christian institutions to bless the world, and governing authorities are common grace? Do you agree with these statements? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the author's point that "To claim that America is a Christian nation is a confusion of categories. America and Christianity are two very different things." Why is it important to recognize we have dual citizenship?

CHAPTER 7

1. Why is the book of Revelation helpful as we consider political theology?
2. How does Revelation depict Jesus? How is this similar to or different from the way you've always regarded him?
3. Why is it important to understand that only one king and one city will endure? Why is it significant that Jesus' second coming is strongly contrasted to Caesar's?

CHAPTER 8

1. The author opens the chapter looking at Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. How are we tempted in the same manner? How did Jesus conquer those temptations?
2. According to this chapter, what are the three ways we are called to conquer?
3. How does this change your understanding of what it means to be a conqueror?

CHAPTER 9

1. Discuss the three distorted views on politics—The Way of Judas, Jonah, and Jeroboam—and summarize the author's presentation of each. What did you learn new about these biblical characters?
2. Summarize The Way of Jeremiah. Compare and contrast it with the three distorted views.
3. Discuss a few examples each of how Jeremiah displayed *witness* and *wisdom*.

CONCLUSION

1. Summarize what you've learned about Christianity's political past (gospel), political present (church), and political future (return of Jesus) from this book.
2. Describe how our situation is both the same as and different from the first Christians.
3. What are your key takeaways from this book? How will they inform the way you live out your dual citizenship?

