

Thinking Biblically about 2020

Week 5: How should Christians think about the election crisis?

Mickey Klink

(1) In a third world culture, religion (transcendence) is replaced by politics (immanence).

- How does this explain what happened in the 2020 presidential election?
- How does this explain an increase in fears, conspiracies, and protest in this past election?
- How does this explain political discourse, political pundits, and political advertisements?

(2) According to Scripture, the primary nation and citizenship of the Christian is the Kingdom of God.

- How should this guide the Christian's political thoughts and actions?
- How should the Christian show "allegiance" to the Kingdom of God?
- How should a Christian live as a "dual citizen?"

(3) A Test Case: The Barmen Declaration of 1934

In the struggle against the Nazi regime, a group of church leaders in Germany wrote the Barmen Declaration in May of 1934, to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and its influence in many German churches. In the form of six theses, the Barmen Declaration places a biblical wedge between the church and the state, rejecting the subordination of the church to the state. Modeling the Declaration's format, Miraslov Volf offers us his own thesis for the church that helps keep a wedge between the kingdoms of God and humanity.

All the churches of Jesus Christ, scattered in diverse cultures, have been redeemed for God by the blood of the Lamb to form one multicultural community of faith. The 'blood' that binds them as brothers and sisters is more precious than the 'blood,' the language, the customs, political allegiances, or economic interests that may separate them.

We reject the false doctrine, as though a church should place allegiance to the culture it inhabits and the nation to which it belongs above the commitment to brothers and sisters from other cultures and nations, servants of the one Jesus Christ, their common Lord, and members of God's new community (Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*, 46-47).

(4) The election crisis in our country is a manifestation of a third world culture, and the same crisis in the church is a manifestation of the fracturing of Evangelicalism.

- Does allegiance to the Kingdom of God hinder or reject a love and support of country?
 - Patriotism: "devoted love, support, and defense of one's country; national loyalty."
 - Nationalism: "excessive patriotism; the policy or doctrine of asserting the interests of one's own nation viewed as separate from the interests of other nations or the common interests of all nations."

Application:

- How can Christians prepare for the 2022 election?
- How can Christians Make the Kingdom Great Again?