

A GOSPEL RULE OF LIFE FOR THIS POLITICAL SEASON

12 Gospel-Centered Commitments*

In light of the Gospel of Grace that motivates and shapes all my thoughts and actions:

1. **Worship** (Exodus 20:1-3, Philippians 2:9-11): I commit my allegiance to King Jesus over all other idols and ideologies.
2. **Love of Neighbor** (Leviticus 19:17-18, Matthew 22:34-40): I commit to participating in civic life as a means of loving and serving my neighbor rather than just serving my own interests.
3. **Image of God** (Genesis 1:26; James 3:9): I commit to honoring the image of God in all people by treating them with respect and abstaining from dehumanizing caricatures.
4. **Biblical Authority** (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12): I commit to submitting my political positions and conduct to the authority of God's word. I commit to having my views, feelings, and thoughts challenged and corrected by the Biblical story rather than using the Bible to proof text my predetermined positions as well as my justifiable actions.
5. **Conviction and Care** (John 1:14, Colossians 1:3-6): As I live out my faith in this political season, I commit to asking myself the question, "How can I hold fast in my Biblical convictions surrounding important issues AND seek to preserve and strengthen relationships at the same time?"
6. **Remove the Log** (Matthew 7:1-5, James 4:12): When I find myself judging others and writing people off, I commit to having the Holy Spirit remove the log in my eye so that I can meaningfully engage others, even when I don't see eye to eye with them.
7. **Political Disagreement** (Proverbs 4:7; James 3:13, Galatians 5:22-23): I will recognize that political disagreement can and should be a healthy by-product of democratic government. But I will lament when the disagreement becomes an unhealthy by-product that manifests in anger, fear, manipulation, and violence. Instead, because of the gospel at work in my life, I commit my speech and conduct to be marked by the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
8. **Buzz Words** (Romans 12:2, Philippians 1:9-11): Instead of accepting buzz words at face value, I commit myself in the gospel to better understand the topics and issues at hand. Out of a desire to honor the Lord and love others, I commit to seeking clarity with people's understanding and definition of those terms.

9. **Social Media** (Proverbs 15:1-2; Matthew 12:36): I commit to being prayerful and discerning when it comes to any social media usage or engagement. With my words, I commit to being wise and well-informed. I will seek care and precision with my words because language is a gift endowed by a God who speaks with care and works his will through words.
10. **Biblical Peacemaking** (Psalm 34:14, Matthew 5:9, 2 Corinthians 13:11): I will reject any call to political violence and remember my calling as a follower of Jesus to make peace. Through the gospel, I commit to pursuing conflict resolution in-person rather than engaging in arguments on social media.
11. **Loving Enemies** (Matthew 5:43-44; 1 Timothy 2:1-4): I commit to loving and praying for my so-called “political enemies”, especially those I have the hardest time loving and praying for. This includes a commitment to pray for our government leaders regardless of who wins the election, that they love good and despise evil.
12. **Gospel Differentiation** (1 Peter 5:7, Galatians 1:10, 2 Timothy 1:7): When politics bring relational tensions, in the gospel I commit to having healthy relational connections with others (loving my neighbor) while remaining secure in my identity in Christ, regardless of the pressure from an individual or larger group of people (or even outcomes) related to politics.

Closing Thoughts/Takeaways