

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019**

**PULL UP A CHAIR POLITICS**

**Scripture Reading** 1 Peter 2:11–17

### **FROM THE SERMON**

**Video: “Open Your World”** Watch the video [here](#).

Christians have failed to embody the church as an alternative politic and have instead opted for influencing and improving Caesar or transforming culture or using the political process to accomplish their wishes ... Many fall for the belief that the next candidate or vote can bring kingdom conditions; some give themselves to politics; and an increasing number have joined hands with the political process through social activism. To be blunt, many have abandoned the church and opted for the political process and are now calling it kingdom work. In one simple sentence, what Christians want for the nation should first be a witnessed reality in their local church. Until that local church embodies that desire for the nation, the church's witness has no credibility ... Too many Christians have ignored the politic of the local church and bowed down to the politics of the world. Politics is a colossal distraction from kingdom mission. Politics entails the weakening of our kingdom message ... Politics entails energies and time that could be used more directly for kingdom mission tasks. Politics means seeking to influence the state in the direction of the kingdom, but in doing so it is asking the public and the state to put into law and policy the kingdom story. Politics sees victory when a candidate wins or when a law passes or a policy is reformed. I speak directly now: we kingdom people don't need the state, we don't need the majority, and we must refrain from equating victory in the

world with kingdom mission.

Scot McKnight, [\*Kingdom Conspiracy\*](#)

In public discourse, the challenge is not to stifle robust debate, but to make sure that it is real debate. The first obligation for Christians is to listen carefully to opponents and if they are not willing to do so, then Christians should simply be silent. To engage in a war of words is to engage in a symbolic violence that is fundamentally at odds with the gospel.

James Davison Hunter, [\*To Change the World\*](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THIS SERIES

Earlier this year, Oak Hillian Michael Zacharia, Co-Director of Faith-Based Diplomacy Project and adjunct professor at Pepperdine University Law School, gave a talk on difficult conversations. This great resource has been made available. View his talk [here](#). Access the worksheets for the talk [here](#).

## ADDITIONAL READING

[\*A Fellowship of Differents\*](#), Scot McKnight

[\*Kingdom Conspiracy\*](#), Scot McKnight

[\*The Church of Us Versus Them\*](#), David Fitch

[\*Glittering Vices\*](#), Rebeccas Konyndyk DeYoung

[\*Christians in the Age of Outrage\*](#), Ed Stetzer

[\*Every Step An Arrival\*](#), Eugene Peterson

[\*Uncommon Decency\*](#), Richard Mouw