

Peace and Unity

I. Jesus didn't come to bring peace or unity (Matt 10:34-39)

A. If you are committed to Jesus you will run into opposition from those who are not. (John 15:18-25)

1. Jesus told people that they sin. He told people they were wrong and didn't know what was best for them.
2. Without just cause. Jealousy, guilt, greed, selfishness feed hatred and rejecting Jesus.
3. Most just seem content without Him and are just not interested. Don't be surprised when non-Christians act like it.

B. Yes we should be socially and politically active, but the primary battle ground is in hearts and minds, not policy and laws. (Eph 6:12, Mark 7:1-13)

1. This was to spiritual leaders, not technically political leaders
2. Vote, protest, speak up, but sit with tax collectors and sinners

II. Jesus came to bring peace and unity

A. I may not agree with you, but I can love and invest in you (Matt 9:10-13)

1. That tax collector would be similar to that political party you despise so much. Do you want what is best for them?
2. That sinner could be that crude acquaintance that you keep running into.
 - a) *It's so easy to leave that zinger of a Facebook response that "puts them in their place", but really does nothing but aggravates things.*
 - b) *Don't pretend to be their friend, but maybe pray for them and ask God what He wants. You'll notice the tax collectors and sinners were drawn to Jesus.*

B. Be peace makers through the Peace Jesus gives (Matt 5:9, John 14:23-27)

1. Don't make a difference for difference sake, just follow Jesus where He is leading.
2. People are looking for peace and want to be a part of something.

C. No God No Peace Know God Know Peace (Phil 4:6-9)

1. God will guard your heart and mind if you look to Him. We get drawn into all kinds of trouble we let our anxiety drive our actions. Talk to Him. Be grateful.
2. Think on good things. God created and dispenses peace.