

Are we Political Enough? – by Thailer Jimerson

With all of the negativity surrounding the election, the ostracizing of those who support a political candidate that you happen to think is Satan incarnate, and the immense polarization that occurs when such topics are addressed, or mentioned in group settings, one would think we are too political. *But I wonder if we're political enough.*

I didn't realize until fairly recently that the claims of Jesus, and the gospel writers about Jesus, carried heavy political implications in their day. If you look carefully, studying their carefully chosen words against the backdrop of the Caesar worship and the Roman government of the day, you begin to realize that their **main point** is *Jesus is Lord, therefore Caesar isn't.*

Consider just a few supporting points:

- The gospel is first the proclamation of the good news that God reigns in Christ – **Ro.10.15 (Is.52.7).**
- Mark very obviously (through use of language only associated with Caesar) points out that Christ is the true Caesar of the world – **Mk.1.1**
- The teaching of the resurrection was the most troubling of all since it ultimately meant the declawing of the Roman government whose only power to control was threat of death. Death is no longer a problem for believers of resurrection.

And Paul openly taught that the resurrection of Christ meant some troubling things for the powers that be, that through his resurrection he would “destroy every rule and every authority and power – until he puts all enemies under his feet” (**1Co.15.24f**).

I mean, it's no wonder Christians experienced such intense persecutions. Their serving Christ was direct rebellion against the emperor of the day. We serve the Lord bold enough to say this to a chief Roman authority: ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world...You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice....You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.” (**Jn.18.36-19.11**)

What does this mean for us? Politically speaking, we serve the true Lord of the world and therefore should be unremittingly dedicated to Christ the Lord above any earthly governing authority (**Ac.5.29**) – even challenging them when they improperly steward the responsibility given to them by God to exact justice (**Ro.13.1f**). But, in the end, it is sad when governments seek to crush God's people, because if they were only aware of what our God calls us to while underneath their power, they would realize that we are no real threat at all, that, in fact, we have the ability to be the best citizens (**1Pe.2.13-17**).

(For more material along this line, check out Joshua Webber's Revelation talk on the website entitled “The Imperial Cult”).

