

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. In the center, there is a dark silhouette of a city skyline. The text is overlaid on this background.

# How to Change the World:

Living as a Disciple  
in America

Pastor Mark Koschmann

Bible Study Fall 2016

Woodbury Lutheran Church

# WLC Class Objectives:

- 1) Apply our Christian faith to the most pressing of issues today.
- 2) Equip ourselves for mission and ministry, especially in urban, suburban, and multicultural settings.
- 3) Grow as disciples of Jesus by placing a greater trust in Christ as our Lord and Savior and, by the Spirit's power, love and serve others.



# How have Christians interacted with politics, society, and culture?

H. Richard Niebuhr's *Christ and Culture* paradigm:

- Christ against culture
- Christ of culture
- Christ and culture in paradox
- Christ transforming culture



# How to Change the World: Living as a Disciple in America

Sep. 11: Living as a Disciple in America

**Sep. 18: American Politics**

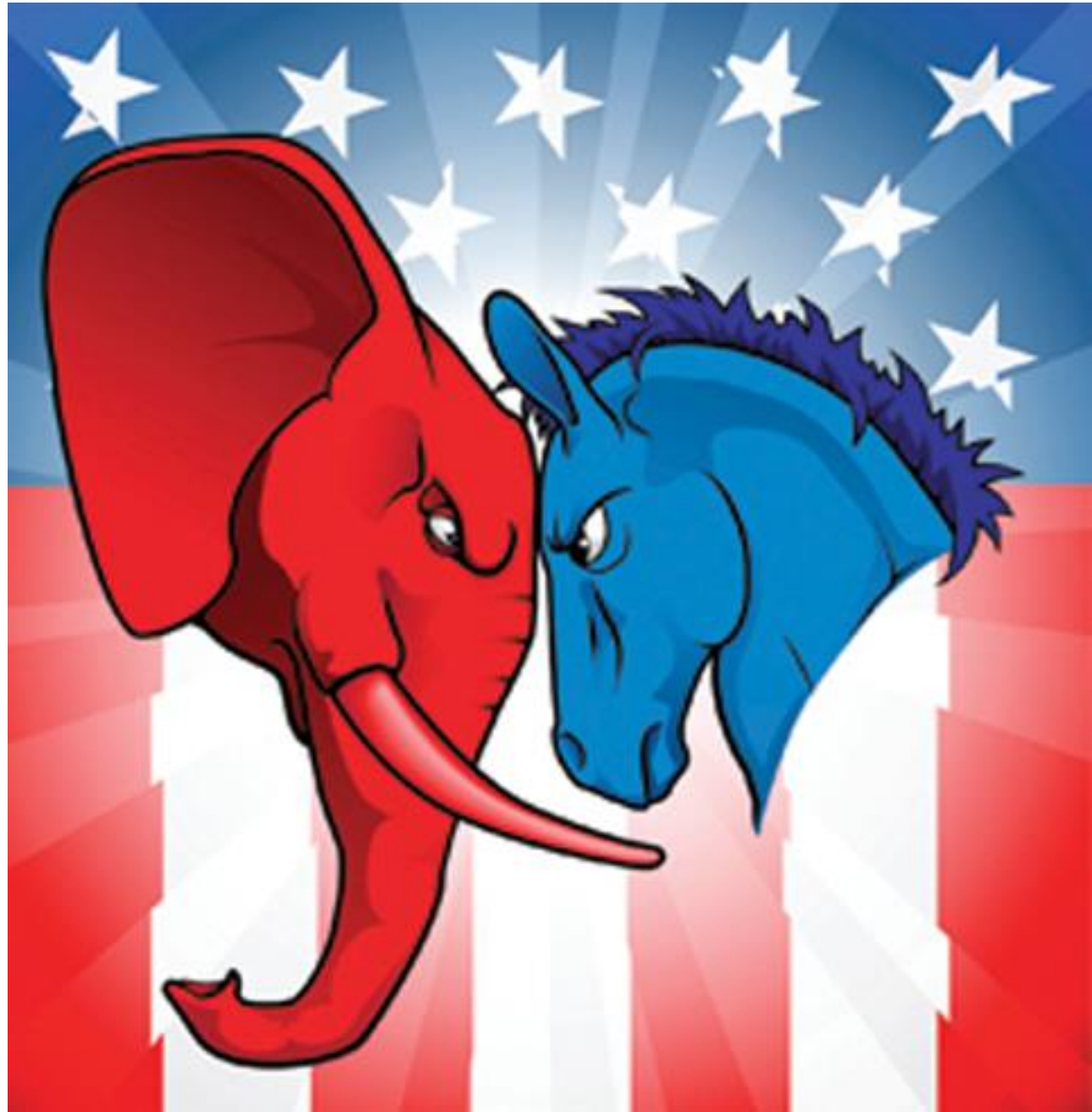
Sep. 25: War & Peace

Oct. 2: Immigrants and Refugees

Oct. 9: Black Lives Matter

Oct. 16: The Messiness of Social Justice & the Beauty of the Gospel





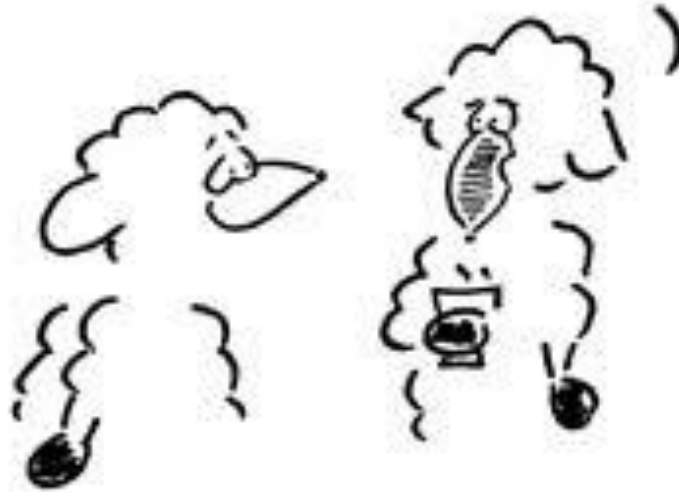
When your people tell you that they're praying for you, you're being put in your place and that's a good thing.

EVEN AFTER HE WAS **UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED**, PAUL TELLS US TO PRAY FOR THE AUTHORITIES?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES, WE PRAY **FOR** THOSE IN CHARGE, NOT **TO** THEM. THE ONLY SAVIOR IS **JESUS**.



OOOH, THAT'S **SUBTLE... BUT GOOD.**



1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8



## 1 Timothy 2:1-8

First of all, then, I urge that **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings** be made for **everyone**, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a **quiet and peaceable life** in all **godliness and dignity**. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth**. For there is one God; there is also **one mediator** between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a **herald** and an **apostle** (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire, then, that **in every place** the men should **pray**, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument.



How to Change  
the World:

# Theology of the Two Kingdoms

## Left hand kingdom

God governs civil affairs in the left hand realm through the law.

## Right hand kingdom

God governs the church (gathering of believers) through the gospel.



# ~~Church and State~~

## Left hand kingdom

The church as “an association of external ties.”

**Law**

## Right hand kingdom

The church as “gathering of believers through the gospel.”

**Gospel**

# God's Two Sustaining Hands

## Creation:

Redeemed and  
renewed co-workers of  
God  
(Genesis 1:26-31).

## Redemption:

God has rescued us and  
brought us into the  
kingdom of the Son  
(Colossians 1:9-14)

## **Discuss:**

1. What does it mean for us to be redeemed and renewed co-workers of God (Genesis 1:26-31)?
2. How does the theology of the two kingdoms shape our interaction in American politics?





## Discuss:

1. How would you rate Minnesota (and America) based on Andy Crouch's test of the common good: the flourishing of the vulnerable? What evidence would you give to support your rating?
2. How might Christian congregations contribute to the common good of society?



The *Atlantic*

The Meaning of O. J. Simpson  
BY TA-NEHISI COATES

THE  
POLITICS  
ISSUE



# WHO WILL WIN?

The Debates ... and the Election

By James Fallows

What to Do With a Problem  
Like Bill Clinton

BY JEFFREY GOLDBERG

Does Political Consulting  
Actually Work?

BY MOLLY BALL

+

The Genius  
of HBO's  
*Westworld*

Pity the  
Substitute  
Teacher



“When offered a choice between two politically intolerable alternatives, it is important to choose neither. And when that choice is presented in rival arguments and debates that exclude from public consideration any other set of possibilities, it becomes a duty to withdraw from those arguments and debates, so as to resist the imposition of this false choice by those who have arrogated to themselves the power of framing the alternatives. These are propositions which in the abstract may seem to invite easy agreement. But, when they find application to the coming presidential election, they are likely to be rejected out of hand. For it has become an ingrained piece of received wisdom that voting is one mark of a good citizen, not voting a sign of irresponsibility. But the only vote worth casting in November is a vote that no one will be able to cast, a vote against a system that presents one with a choice between Bush's conservatism and Kerry's liberalism, those two partners in ideological debate, both of whom need the other as a target.”

**- Alasdair MacIntyre, University of Notre Dame**





# OUR PRINCIPLES



Common good. Common ground. Common Sense.

These are the three principles that guide the American Solidarity Party, the only active Christian Democratic party in the United States. We seek to promote the common good and the material and spiritual welfare of all people, thereby raising consciousness of the Christian worldview. We don't seek to be a proselytizing party but, in a broken and increasingly callous, secularized world, we offer a positive vision bringing communities together.

Guided by these three principles, The American Solidarity Party stands for the sanctity of human life, the necessity of social justice, responsibility for the environment, and hopes for the possibility of a peaceful world

PRINCIPLES

“For those of us who are people of faith and moral conscience, how do we lift up love over hate in this angry election season? How do we point to justice instead of revenge? How do we love our neighbors as ourselves — which all our religious traditions tell us to do — and vote that way? And if our faith traditions also tell us that a society is ultimately judged by how it treats its most vulnerable people, how do we best vote for the concerns of the most vulnerable in this coming election?”

- Jim Wallis, Sojourners



“I have told you these things, so that **in me you may have peace.**  
In this world you will have trouble. **But take heart! I have  
overcome the world.”**

- John 16:33





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