



# THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Today, we wrap up our series "The Elephant in the Room." We'll finish our series with the easiest topic of them all: POLITICS. The political climate of our country today is perhaps best described as polarized. We have conservatives and liberals who don't like one another - probably more accurate to say they hate one another. Both sides of the aisle do their best to convince you that if the other candidate wins, it is our country's end. This is the environment we all live and operate in as followers of Jesus. So, what are we to do? Are we supposed to care about politics or not? Do we stick our heads in the sand or roll up our sleeves? Thankfully, we have some guiding principles given to us in the Bible.

## Warm Up:

1. What's something big or small that happened this week that you're thankful for?

**Key Passage:** Titus 3:1-3, 1 Timothy 2:1-4

## Discussion Questions:

2. What encouraged you the most from the sermon? What challenged you the most?
3. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 says, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." What might it look like to live this kind of life in 2023/2024? What practical things can we implement to help us live this out?
4. In general, how does our culture handle politics? What types of behavior have been normalized? In what ways does the average behavior of this "world" differ from how we've been called to behave in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 and throughout God's Word?
5. In Galatians 6:14, Paul famously wrote, "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." What might it look like to follow Paul's example in navigating politics?
6. Proverbs 15:1 says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." How have you experienced this to be true in your own life? How might we apply this wisdom to our lives, especially when interacting with people with different political opinions?
7. As we enter another election year, how can we rally together to love each other well and lift the name of Jesus? How can we practically live out the call from 1 Timothy 2:1-2 together as a group?
8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?