

# Leading Second Podcast

## Episode Guide



## Leading Second Podcast - Season 7 Episode 183

Summer Series - For The Kingdom - Where the Church and Politics Meet ft. Jason Warman & Josh Bingle

There are tensions going on in our world. It is vital for all of us to speak Kingdom truth in all situations. Brandon, Jason Warman, Lead Pastor at CoastLife Church in Venice, FL, and Josh Bingle, Lead Pastor at Genesis Church in Spokane, WA, discuss how leaders in the Church can rise up and speak truth to a culture that is working to devalue the Church's opinions.

### WHY SHOULD LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS CARE AND BE ENGAGED?

- Politics: the truth of the Word of God.
- Politics: partisanship.
- Politics: engaging with the political process.
- If our pastors (and leaders) don't help our people, how are they going to respond in their worlds outside of church?
- Politics (the process) is one of the most direct ways that we can love our neighbor.
  - Policy will affect people negatively or positively.
- In Jeremiah, God tells the Israelites to flourish in the city that they live in.
- We care about politics because we care about people.
  - Politics shape the world we live in.
  - If we genuinely care about people then we should genuinely care about the world that we are creating in which they live.
  - Talking about politics is most of the time talking about theological issues and the world has labeled it political.
  - The enemy has worked to get Christians to not talk about politics and then make everything political.

- Matthew 5:13-16 NIV “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
  - Jesus never said, “except politics.”
- We need to own the responsibility to bring Christian values into this world.

### **THE WORLD HAS COMBINED CRITICISM AND HATE.**

- The world tells you that if you criticize an idea you also hate that person.
- Christians end up in a backward mindset that we are to love everyone so that means don't say anything against their ideas.
  - The world says that you are attacking the person because culture has made people believe that the idea is your identity.
  - We have to recognize that when we're talking about ideas, many people in the world are thinking identity.
  - We have to help them separate their ideas from their personhood.
  - Ideas are things that you have and they change.
  - Part of sanctification is to untangle bad ideas (strongholds) that are going against what Christ has spoken over us.
- Existentialism denies a creator.
  - You exist but you have no purpose for your existence.
  - Then people go and define a purpose/meaning for their lives.
  - They have made their ideas of their purpose their identity.
  - When challenged, you are now attacking their identity.
- We can't let someone else's brokenness set our boundaries.
  - We're going to speak the truth in love and I know it's going to affect people but there are people who are looking for answers.
  - We have to bring grace and truth.

## **WHERE SHOULD THE CHURCH SPEAK UP AND WHEN? WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DOES THE CHURCH HAVE IN ENGAGING CULTURAL MOMENTS?**

- The church has trended towards being passive.
  - The most important voices are missing from the most important conversations.
  - We have to get more vocal.
  - When you look for great leaders in history, are you looking for ones who did or didn't say anything?
- We paint Jesus as a passivist.
  - But Jesus didn't get crucified for what He didn't say. He was crucified for what He did say.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't bow down.
- What Christians abstain from sends a powerful message to companies, organizations, and governments.
- We need to set boundaries as Christians.
- It's encouraging to see that Christianity doesn't fall to pieces when it's mocked.
  - It doesn't change anything.
  - We stand for truth and turn the other cheek at the same time.
  - Our faith has a long history of being degraded and mocked, just like our King, and you can't stop it or slow it down.
  - We still show love.
  - The fact that you can make fun of Christianity and everyone knows it's safe to mock Christianity is a confirmation of the grace and mercy of the heritage of Christianity.
- 2 Timothy 2 and Colossians 2
  - If we only say what we're for, we aren't properly defining the term.
  - We also can't only say what we're against.
- We have a lot of people with a Christian identity without a Christian doctrine.
- People's soul resonates with truth.

### **CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM. IS IT GOOD OR BAD?**

- Everyone has a different definition of it.
  - Most people think it's that Christians will take over the government and make everyone become Christian.
- It would be good to get Christian leaders elected to public spaces and legislate Christian morality into the framework of our nation.
  - Every law is a moral law.
  - Someone's morality is going to get legislated.
  - We are to take the Kingdom of God in all places at all times.
- You can't legislate righteousness.
- Only Jesus can do that.
- NT Wright said, "The Bible is optimal for human flourishing."
- There's no spiritual Switzerland.
  - If we don't advance the light, the darkness takes over.
- The Great Commission says we are supposed to disciple nations.

### **HOW DO WE HANDLE PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCHES HAVING DIFFERENT POLITICAL VIEWS?**

- Have conversations earlier rather than later.
- Make sure people know who your church is and what you believe.
- Understand if there is disagreement and have the conversation.
- Allow time. Every person is welcome but not every idea.
- Our goal is to maintain the unity of the spirit until we come to the unity of the faith.
- Pastor your team on how to handle these moments.
- Ask your pastor how they would like you to respond.
- Train people on the theological but also pastor them.

## **Additional Resources**

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