



APPNOTES

Date: July 6-10 , 2020

Series: James: Faith That Works

John 17:20-26 Last words hold weight. When someone wants to say something to you on their deathbed, you lean in and never forget. Final words are typically of first importance. In this passage, Jesus is sitting down to pray one last time before He is arrested and crucified. When we read these verses, we should all lean in. His final words of prayer can show us what's important to Jesus. And what does He pray for? Unity. Unity for all who call themselves followers of Jesus. No exclusions, no clarifications, no room for rebuttal. It's crystal clear for Jesus. Why is it so easy for us to forget during election years?

Ephesians 4:1-6 Political parties come and go. When America was first founded, the two major parties were Federalists and Anti-Federalists. Many more came and went before our primarily two-party system landed on the Republican and Democratic parties. But Jesus abides by a one-party system, not a two-party system. Jesus' party is founded on unity, peace, and loving their neighbor as themselves. If you are a follower of Jesus, you are a member of His party. We should never let political parties of the physical world overshadow the Kingdom party we are called to represent.

Matthew 22:15-22 Stamping faces on currency was once an indication of who the money belongs to in the end. Caesar's face was on the coin because it was his coin in the first place. Jesus never needed His face on currency because His kingdom isn't of this world and His currency isn't tangible. Jesus' currency is love. In one brilliant statement in verse 21, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, honored earthly authorities, and, most of all, reminded everyone that our highest calling is to invest in God's Kingdom with our love.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 How far would you go to make sure your influence and relationships remains intact? Maybe you'd say "pretty far". Paul was even willing to give up meat. But let's ask the question a different way: How far would you go to make sure your influence and relationships remain intact even if you think or know you are right? Paul knew the meat was just meat, but his fellow brothers and sisters weren't on the same page as him. He could have feasted with zero guilt but he knew that relationships were more important than being right. As this election year progresses, be sure to ask yourself what's more important before speaking. Relationships or being right?

John 13:35 It's never been easier to identify your allegiance publicly. As 2020 progresses, more bumper stickers, yard signs, and hats are showing up wherever we go. The overall tone on social media will change, and people will begin to reveal their allegiances by who they endorse - and often times, by who they oppose through the words behind their keyboard. But Jesus never embroidered hats or asked His followers to stick a fish on their car or even gave them t-shirts to wear. He gave a clear-cut test on how to know when our allegiance is fixed on Him - by how we love one another. Hats, bumper stickers and social media posts are all well and good, but don't let those replace the true sign of allegiance Jesus asks of us - our love.

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