



The Truth About Christian Triumphalism (When Christians Want to Take Over)

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Series Review:

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Part Two: The Truth About Christian Triumphalism (When Christians Want to Take Over)

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Part Four: The Truth About Being Spiritual In a Secular World (What If They Don't Want to Be a Christian Nation: Living With and Loving Secular People)

Word for the Day: Triumphalism

Oxford Definition: Excessive exultation over one's success or achievements (used especially in a political context). "An air of triumphalism reigns in his administration"

Note: Jack Hayford introduced me to this concept in his book

- "I don't believe in triumphalism—that pretend-world of the religious idealist who supposes that a band of super-saints will rise to take the earth by force and dominate society through supernatural power or political control. However, there is a kingdom to take and there is a force to exert, and the People of the Highest are the ones to do both." (Majesty: God Enthroned in Our Worship by Jack Hayford)

Text: Matthew 20:20-28 (NIV)

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "**Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.**" 22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. 23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is **not for me to grant**. These places **belong to those for whom they have been prepared** by my Father." 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the **Gentiles lord** it over them, and their **high officials exercise authority over** them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your **servant (diakoneo, waiter or attendant)**, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your **slave (doulos, bond servant)**—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served (**waited upon**), but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

I. Four Political Questions to think About

1. Can you be a Republican Christian?
2. Can you be a Democratic Christian?
3. Can you be an Independent Christian?
4. Can you be a non-voting Christian?



Note: The reason the United States was established by the colonist was to advance themselves financially and escaped the tyranny of the European leadership culture. The kings and rulers of Europe did not give the ordinary man the liberties the founders of this country dreamed of for all men. The revolutionary war was a declaration of independence and a chance for all men to be free to pursue their dreams. They could be Republican, Democrat, Independent, or have any political or religious view they chose. The problem was the dream never reached all those it was promised to.

II. Four Take-aways From a Political Conversation With the Zebedee Family

Note:

- They asked for top political positions
- They were asked about their leadership abilities
- They were given political and leadership boundaries
- They were challenged to be Servant Leaders

1. They Asked For Top Political Power

Matthew 20:20: Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "**Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.**"

Note: It is political because they were asking about governing authority

Note: Jesus did not rebuke them for the desire to be politically influential in his future physical Kingdom

Note: Their concept of kingdom was a physical Kingdom (**Acts 1:6-11**)

- **6** Then they gathered around him and asked him, "**Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**" **7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.** 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

2. They Were Asked About Their Leadership Abilities

Matthew 20:22: "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "**Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?**" "We can," they answered

Question: What can you do?

3. They Were Given Political and Leadership Boundaries

Matthew 20:23: Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is **not for me to grant**. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

Question: Can you live within boundaries and accept that everything is not prepared for you?

Joshua 1:4 (NIV): 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.

4. They Were Boldly Challenged to Be Servant Leaders

24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over** them, and their high officials **exercise authority over** them. 26 **Not so with you. Instead**, whoever wants to become great among you must be your **servant**, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to **serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Conclusion:

Question: Can you serve those that do not agree with you?

- **Matthew 5:43–48 (NIV):** 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
- 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect (**teleios, mature**), therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect (**teleios, mature**).

Final Question:

What if a political party has views that are inconsistent with the bible?

Answer: All political parties have views that are inconsistent with the bible.

Review: Jack Hayford’s Quote:

- “I don’t believe in triumphalism—**that pretend**-world of the religious idealist who supposes that a band of super-saints will rise to take the earth by force and dominate society through supernatural power or political control.
- Democrats over the years have had biblical issues with abortions, slavery, creating social dependence for the poor, government spending, and other issues.



- Republicans over the years have had biblical issues with a conflicting abortion message, insensitivity to the poor, support unbalance government spending to benefit business more than the average person, and other issues.

Note: Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘**Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.**’

Final Big Question: Who should I vote for?

Answer:

1. Vote for the issues that affect your life
2. Vote for the issues that advance the issues and causes you believe in
3. Vote for the issues that matter the most to you **and those around you.**
4. Vote for the leader you would hire to work for you in your home or business

Next Week

Part Three: The Truth About Lying To Yourself (Why we Lie to Ourselves During Political Seasons)

Hint: Hubris (on all sides of the issues)

Oxford Definition: Excessive pride or self-confidence

The Hubris of Diotrephes

3 John 9–12 (NIV): **9** I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us.

10 So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. **12** Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.