

- 7) Verse 15 says, “*your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.*” Sunday we heard that those who speak against Christians should find us living honorable lives as citizens. What might honorable living look like for you this week, at work, online, or around the Thanksgiving table later this month?

READ: Matthew 22:37–40 (NLT)

- 8) Jesus says, “*The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.*” Pastor Craig reminded us that everything God asks of us is anchored here, including how we handle politics. Who is a neighbor, friend, or family member who may feel very differently than you about this election, and how can you love them well this week
- 9) Sunday we looked at Joseph, Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah, people who loved God “*with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind*” while living under governments that weren’t their own, and who stepped into whatever influence they had to bring about God’s good. As people of hope, where might God be inviting you to step in and be a light in our community in the days ahead?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS



Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Ask God to show you where your hope has been resting lately, and invite Him to settle it back on Jesus, whose government and peace will never end.
- 2) Ask the Lord, “Is there anyone that I personally know that I have written off or spoken about with disrespect because of politics?” and ask Him to soften your heart toward them
- 3) Pray by name for our national, state, and local leaders this week, and ask God, “Where would You have me be a light right where I live?”

“We the People”

Thoughts From a Shepherd’s Heart

Pastor Craig Sweeney | November 1, 2026

Politics answers the question: “How will we live together as a people?”

Thread: How will we live together as a people?

1. Does the Bible speak about politics?

INDIRECTLY:

- Jesus was surrounded by political factions.
- Why did Jesus *not* join one of these religious political groups?
- Jesus is. “*Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’*”

John 14:6 NLT

But that isn’t to say that the Church, which is people, have no part in politics.

We stated from our beginning as a country, we choose to live holding “...these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” (As stated in the Declaration of Independence)

DIRECTLY:

Isaiah 9:6-7

- Jesus IS the government we have to look forward to.

1 Peter 2:13-17

- Those who wish evil against you, should find you living honorable lives as a citizen.

Matthew 22:37-40

- All God requires of you will be anchored to these 2 commands.

2. What is the Church’s role in a nation?

- To be a community of believers who follow Christ in that nation as part of that nation.
- To be an unashamed light and witness of Christ to that nation.

So for us as followers of Jesus:

- “*Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.*” “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*”

Matthew 22:37b,39b NLT

- Step into the opportunities to shape the conversation about how we live together.
- Don’t allow others to diminish/shout down your Christian voice. You have every right to your Christian Biblical perspective.

3. What should we be concerned about in this current election cycle? A few Pastoral Reflections:

- That we are excluded from the conversation.
 - Its meaningful that we are in the conversation.
- America was founded on the Judeo-Christian ethic. Our Constitution reflects the values of Judaism and Christianity, the Bible.
- If it's not The Judeo-Christian ethic, it's another ethic.
 - The rise of Socialism, Democratic-Socialism and the push for Communism are anchored in a different set of values.

The rise of Socialism/Communism seeks to:

- Demean and tear down our founding documents, our Christian Ethic.
- Replace God as the giver of our rights and replace Him with Government as THE giver of Rights.
- The genius of the Founding Fathers was to acknowledge God gave us our rights.
- We, as followers of Jesus should be concerned because we are increasingly becoming the targets of legislation.

4. Who are we supposed to be in the days leading up to and after the elections?

- Follow the example of others.
- Christians can live pursuing God, while in divisive political environments.
- Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and love others as yourself.
- Step into the opportunities to make change or hold our ground.
- Leverage whatever influence you have on the politics of the day to bring about God's GOOD.

Challenges:

- Don't be ashamed to protect the rights given to us in our Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- You can embrace being part of the American experience.
- Don't be afraid to cast your vote as a follower of Jesus.
- Make sure your vote is for the future you want and for your children and grandchildren.

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit:



Homework

We The People

Fall 2026 | Week 8

Message Date 11/1/2026



MY STORY

- 1) If your household held its own election tonight, what made-up office would you create, like Chief Snack Officer, Remote Control Commissioner, or Secretary of Thermostat Affairs, and who would win in a landslide?
- 2) What's something you are fiercely, maybe irrationally, loyal to, like a ketchup brand, a grocery store, a fast-food chain, or your side of the bed?

QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



READ: Isaiah 9:6–7 (NLT)

- 4) Isaiah says, *"The government will rest on his shoulders,"* and *"his government and its peace will never end."* Sunday we heard that government was never designed to be our savior. Whatever the results of Tuesday's election, how does it shape your heart this week to know Whose shoulders the government ultimately rests on?
- 5) Pastor Craig reminded us that Jesus was surrounded by political groups, the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Zealots, yet He never joined one. Instead, He stepped out in front and said, in effect, *"This is where God is, join me here."* Why do you think Jesus refused to align Himself with a faction, and where are you tempted to let a political identity speak louder than your identity in Him? **READ: 1 Peter 2:13–17 (NLT)**
- 6) Peter writes, *"Respect everyone... Fear God, and respect the king,"* and he wrote this to believers living under Roman emperors who did not honor Christ. Respecting leaders we voted for comes easily. What does honoring and praying for leaders look like when they aren't the ones we hoped would win?