

Questions For Session 2 of “*Compassion & Conviction*”

Chapter 3: Compassion & Conviction & Chapter 4: “Partnership & Partisanship”

1. *No one makes political decisions from a neutral position. To make a policy decision is to choose certain values and goods over others. Political decisions are inevitably informed by a certain worldview or outlook. (36)*

These words at the beginning of chapter 3 set the tone for all of it. What are some reasons for remembering these words?

2. What is the foundation for the worldview of a follower of Christ?

3. But what do we need to be careful of when it comes to forming our political beliefs? Summarize the book’s argument on pp.36-38.

4. What is the “false choice” described on pp.38 and following? What should be our response when this happens?

5. In your own words, what is the gospel-centered “framework” we should set up to look at all the political and moral decisions that confront us? What are the essential elements we need to always keep in mind?

6. What did Tim Keller mean when he said, “Love without truth is sentimentality (overly emotional and lacking substance) and truth without love is harshness” (quoted on page 48)?

7. *Christians are usually proficient at identifying the flaws on the other side of the political spectrum and pointing out how our political opponents fall short of the gospel. But we're less willing or able to identify the issues on our own end of the spectrum. (50)*

Let's try to get outside of the boxes we usually put ourselves into. Take a few minutes to discuss what's potentially good and bad about both left (progressive) and right (conservative) thinking.

Progressivism:

Conservatism:

8. Let's workshop some of the principles we've learned in this chapter by examining an idea that's being bantered around a lot these days. On your mark, get set, let's discuss:

9. *The public square can be a tricky and even treacherous place... The church's reputation can be damaged by negligently teaming up with bad actors...Unfortunately, Christians rarely go through an arduous due diligence process in evaluating cultural and political partners before joining forces. Many Christians rush into such relationships while others avoid partnering with non-believers altogether.*

Why are partnerships potentially important when it comes to shaping policy in the public square?

10. What are some examples of fruitful partnerships we find in the Bible?

11. How about in American life and history?

12. What dangers lurk in these waters for followers of Christ?

13. Review, then discuss the 7 practical steps the book provides at the end of chapter 4 for cultivating healthy partnerships.