

Politics and Blackhawk

A Statement from the Elders of Blackhawk

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Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:3-6)

We are often faced with the question: “Why does Blackhawk Church not promote one political perspective or candidate over others?” That is an excellent question - one that strikes to the core of both who we are as a congregation and how we should relate to our communities. We hope that people of any and all political persuasions feel welcome at Blackhawk.

As Christ-followers, our greatest command is to love God and love others. Everything we do should be motivated by love. Our refusal to take positions on partisan political issues and candidates is not because we are trying to avoid moral issues about which the Bible speaks. Our goal will always be to teach what the Bible says about principles of morality and justice, which we understand to mean:

- radical generosity (“The righteous are willing to disadvantage themselves to advantage the community.”)
- universal equality (“regardless of class, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or of any other social category.”)
- significant, life-changing advocacy for the poor (“While we are to treat all equally, and not show partiality to any, we are to have special concern for the poor, the weak, and the powerless.”)

Quotations from Timothy Keller, “Justice in the Bible”. See Additional Resource #4.

Our allegiance first and foremost will always be to Christ. Applying those principles in a fallen world often involves compromises and political trade-offs about which reasonable Christ-followers can differ. One reason why Blackhawk does not get involved in partisan politics concerns the more fundamental issue of how we as a congregation should interact with our culture and society as a whole.

We believe that God’s *primary* agent of redemption in the world today is the church under the lordship of King Jesus – not politicians or theologians or reformers, and not governments. God is using local congregations to reach people with the good news of redemption through Jesus Christ. Accordingly, we see the church’s role as announcing and living out the Kingdom of God, rather than promoting politicians or legislation.

Historically, Christ-followers have disagreed about the role of the church in society. We believe that in our communities we should relate to our surrounding culture as a mission field, not a battlefield. We desire to be agents of reconciliation and not soldiers in a culture war. As a “Missional” church we see others as people created by God and in need of God, not as the opposition. We should seek the welfare of our neighbors and

intercede prayerfully on their behalf (Jeremiah 29:7). We are commanded to love others as Christ loved us by sacrificially laying down His life for us. This is how the church should influence the culture.

Reasonable, Bible-believing Christ-followers can disagree about many theological issues and political issues. As a church we will not take a position on partisan political issues or matters of legislation about which Christians can reasonably disagree. Jesus prayed that all Christ-followers “may be one” so that the world may believe the gospel (John 17:22-23). Politics divides, the gospel unites, and unity is mission critical.

The truths of scripture are timeless, and we will continue to explore how current societal issues are impacted by these timeless truths. We will encourage people to become informed and then to vote, but we won’t tell them *how* to vote. We will encourage people to become politically active because we should all be working to improve our communities. Let us seek unity with all of our brothers and sisters, even those who in good faith apply those truths differently.

Questions? Contact elders@blackhawkchurch.org.

Additional Resources:

1. [Not In It to Win It](#) | Andy Stanley
2. [Divided We Fall](#) | David French
3. [How Do Christians Fit into the Two-Party System? “They Don’t...”](#) | Timothy Keller
4. [Justice in the Bible](#) | Timothy Keller