

# Your Politics Will Fail, But the Politics of Jesus Will Not

(updated 8/17/21)

All kingdoms eventually crumble, and this includes every current government in the world. By their very nature, governments are organizations whose ultimate weapon is deadly force, wielded to protect their interests and maintain order. In the best case, their God-given authority is used to execute justice and minimize chaos. But often instead of eliminating oppression they allow it or participate in it, and in the worst case society descends into turmoil and mayhem.

King Jesus sits above this tangle of power and violence. One time, Satan offered Jesus the chance to rule all the nations of the world, and he refused (Matthew 4:8-10). Still, many people call Jesus their Savior while aligning themselves with political movements that do not reflect what he taught.

In fact, Jesus doesn't align with any political party. He came declaring the kingdom of God, and his teachings show us what that kingdom is like. He taught his followers to love their enemies rather than retaliate against them (Matthew 5:44), to resist evil in nonviolent ways (Matthew 5:39; John 18:36), and to simply tell the truth instead of swearing (Matthew 5:33-37). He values and elevates the poor and oppressed (Luke 4:17-21) while also upholding traditional sexual ethics (Matthew 5:27-28). In short, he scrambles the political ideologies and worldview assumptions of our day.

If you can find me a political party that faithfully enacts Jesus' agenda while honoring him as King, sign me up!

I expect to be waiting awhile.

We should recognize Jesus for what he was: a political figure, but not one whose politics align with any human political movement.

It may be jarring to consider Jesus as a political figure, but consider that the word *politics* comes from a Greek term which refers to the citizens and affairs of a state. As mentioned above, Jesus came as the head of a kingdom (Mark 1:14-15; Luke 17:20-21). Since many of us are not accustomed to thinking about kings as heads of state, it may be more natural to think of Jesus as the President of God's nation. The nature this kingdom is different than any other state in the world, since it doesn't possess physical boundaries and its citizenship is global. Jesus's apostles repeatedly referred to his followers in political terms: citizens (Philippians 3:20), ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:16-20), foreigners (Hebrews 11:13-16), and even soldiers (2

Timothy 2:3-5). The early Christians even used the Greek word for a political assembly, *ekklesia*, to describe the gathering of Christian believers.

But if Jesus is political, with politics that don't fit into human categories, what should we do?

First, we should join God's kingdom by giving our unalloyed allegiance to its King, Jesus. Second, we should "come out from among them and be separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17). Bail on worldly politics because they are built upon violence rather than peace, coercion rather than love. They fail to solve the most basic problem of humanity – separation from God.

The politics of Jesus got him killed. His death was not only the ultimate example of enemy love, it also broke the grip that sin and death have on us (Colossians 2:13-15). He then came back to life by the power of God. Someone who rose from the dead after he claimed to be God and Savior of the world is someone you should listen to. Accept his invitation to be a part of a political reality that will last forever and will ultimately conquer all other nations.

If you'd like to discuss more about the politics of Jesus, please contact Byran at [absmucker@gmail.com](mailto:absmucker@gmail.com).