



FEBRUARY 15/16

TAKING A STAND

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INTRODUCTION

Pastor John taught us we should not find our anchor in politics but in Jesus. Our politics should be filtered through our faith and what the Bible says, not the other way around. We are all in a position to show our Little Iowa what unity looks like and how we can love one another unconditionally despite our political differences.

DISCUSSION

1. We need to have integrity when it comes to speaking, writing and sending messages. **Read 1 Peter 3:15-17.** How does this guide us when it comes to disagreeing on political stances?
2. God is our ultimate authority. Using **Titus 3:3-11**, discuss what it looks like to have God as our authority when we come across political conflict.
3. In John 17, Jesus prays that His followers will be one. How do you plan to stay united with other Christians when you encounter disagreements, witness Christ followers verbally attacking one another and negative political ads?
4. **Read 1 Peter 4:8-11.** What does this tell us about unconditionally loving our Little Iowa?

DO SOMETHING

1. Get beyond political party walls - demonstrate God's love by serving at one of our local church partners with your family, friends or small group. Go to prairielakeschurch.org for the entire list.
2. Spend time in prayer this week, asking God what you need to do to best represent unity in the church. Take steps as the Spirit prompts you.
3. Make a point this week of avoiding politically charged conversations that could lead to division. Think through a typical conversation and how you can react appropriately with love and respect.

RESOURCES

1. In *Love First* on *RightNow Media*, Dan McLaughlin offers a clear-eyed assessment of the current love/hate crisis and a practical strategy for how Christians can begin to truly love, especially those who do not love us in return.
2. In the book *Character of the Kingdom*, authors Sean Feucht and Andy Byrd asked their "mothers and fathers in the faith" to explain what integrity really means. The result is a compilation full of insight and vulnerability on how to walk with integrity in communication, ministry, marriage, family relationships, leadership, personal finances and times of trial.
3. On *RightNow Media*, watch *One: Why True Biblical Unity is Essential* by Tom Kraeuter. In this series, you'll discover – with the help of leaders from across the nation – why unity is vital for a congregation, what it should look like and how it can become a reality.