

# beautiful

LIVES THAT SHOW THE GOSPEL

**Message Topic:** Harmony

**Focus:** Election week: How to stay united and love people on the other side

**Message Date:** November 8, 2020

**Primary biblical texts:** Romans 12:2, Colossians 3, Ephesians 6:12

## Introduction

This week we are pausing our *Beautiful* series of messages. The election has uncovered just how divided our country is—two sides, completely at odds. Jesus challenges his followers to resist this way of relating to others, to let him transform their thinking, so they live faithfully as citizens of his kingdom.

## Purpose of Community Groups

To engage with the ideas and scripture presented in the messages, to build connections with each other, and apply what we have learned to our lives.

## Gathering

*Mixer Question:* How are you doing right now?

“Thumb Check:” Thumbs up, thumbs down, thumbs in the middle. You may want to use the chat feature.

## Message Content

*Review Message:*

Christian gave us three thoughts to meditate on so that we can have our minds renewed:

1. Our true citizenship is in Jesus’ kingdom.
2. Our real enemy is not on the other side of the political aisle.
3. Our chief responsibility is love.

*Discussion Questions:*

1. What stood out to you from the message this week? What were your take-aways? What did it challenge you to do or to think about differently?
2. What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven?
3. Who is our enemy and how have you seen the enemy working during this election/past year?

## Scripture Study and Personal Reflection

Re-read Romans 12:2 and then Romans 12:9–20.

In Romans 12:2, we are called to renew our minds. Later in the chapter, Paul lists actions that are marks of a true Christian.

1. What does it look like to conform to this world? How does it lead to polarization and disharmony?
2. Practically, how do we renew our minds?
3. What stands out to you from this list in verses 9–20? Why? What should you do?
4. What from this list is the hardest for you to do? Why?

# beautiful

LIVES THAT SHOW THE GOSPEL

## Challenge

Christian gave us five virtues to focus on this holiday season: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

1. Memorize Colossians 3:12
2. Each morning this week, ask God to help you clothe yourself with these virtues.
3. As a person who is beloved by God, your responsibility is to bear Christ's light in the world. Your manner should exhibit these characteristics. Before you spend time with someone who differs with you politically, pray for strength to wear these virtues.

## Prayer

Pray for our country, for our leaders, and pray for each other that you might show Jesus' love.