



PART 2: SHINE

Disagreement is unavoidable, especially in the polarizing political culture we are currently a part of. But division is a choice. In fact, it is in the tension created by disagreement that we grow. We gain empathy. We adjust our attitudes and shift our thinking. We can disagree politically and love unconditionally.

CONNECT

How has the political climate of the past few years impacted your relationships?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what you talked about today.

APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Do you avoid people who believe differently than you politically? If so, why? If not, talk about some ways you've learned to move toward people who think differently than you.
2. Read **John 13:34–35**, where Jesus gives a clear guideline on how to love others.
 - What stands out to you?
 - If you lived this out, how could it affect your immediate circle of influence? Do you have someone in mind to whom you hope to be a shining light? Who? What is it about that situation that you see as an opportunity?
3. When the next election cycle approaches, what are some practical ways we can make people feel more important than their political beliefs? How can we demonstrate that we are not “in it to win it”?





WRAP UP

The more politically diverse our relationships are, the harder it will be for us to love one another. As followers of Jesus, we are required to love unconditionally even when we disagree politically. Take some time this week to read Philippians 2:14–15 and reflect on how this attitude could change the way you interact with others politically. Then, consider what you can do to prioritize your faith and follow Jesus's example.

PRAY

Use part of Andy's prayer as a guide:

Heavenly Father, it's a lot easier to stand up here and talk about than to do. But we can do this; you called us to do this. For some of us, it's just so emotional. We get so worked up. I pray that you would open our eyes to our own sin, to our own need of grace, our own need of mercy, and that we would find it in ourselves by your Spirit to extend that same grace and mercy to others, especially to those we don't see eye to eye with. So, give us wisdom to know what to do; give us the courage to do it. And I pray all of that in the matchless name of Jesus, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

