



### **Above the Fray A Distinct Civility**

Republican. Democrat. Right. Left.

We've been suckered into believing that only ONE side, ONE ideology can be right (and naturally, it's OUR side!). But what if we've got it all wrong and the other side isn't ALL WRONG or ALL BAD? It's time for us to begin extending grace to our political enemies in the same way Jesus has extended grace to us.

#### **Scripture:**

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Philippians 3:20

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Colossians 4:5-6

"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."

Matthew 7:3-5

**Ice Breaker and Intro Question:**

1. Is there a topic where disagreement or argument tends to pull you in? (For example: politics, sports, The Bachelorette, etc.)
2. What resonated with you from Sunday's service? (Sermon, scripture, song, etc.)

**Discussion Questions**

3. Read Philippians 3:20 together as a group. How does this perspective affect our everyday life? Is there an area of your life where you especially need this reminder?
4. Read Colossians 4:5-6 quietly on your own. Have everyone take a moment to jot down some wisdom that comes from this passage. What stands out to you? How should we let this passage shape our lives in the coming weeks?
5. Read Matthew 7:3-5 together as a group. Why is it easier to give ourselves slack and grace that we aren't willing to extend to others?
6. Chip encouraged us to acknowledge that people are complex. Why is it easier sometimes to see people as totally good or totally evil, rather than more complicated (as we understand ourselves to be)? What does it look like in 2020 to wrestle with Jesus' command to "love your enemies?"
7. Get practical. What do you sense Jesus saying to you today through his word? Take some time to pray for one another – specifically based on what you share.

**Additional Resources:**

- We've put together some practices and prayers to help guide you during this teaching series. Visit [www.wschurch.org/resources](http://www.wschurch.org/resources) to learn more.

**Notes:**