

Talking Points

One Is the Win

Andy Stanley

Scripture: John 13:34–35; 17:1, 11, 20–23; Matthew 16:18

Idea: We can disagree politically and love unconditionally.

Introduction

[Today we begin a three-part series that will make us uncomfortable and better. It's entitled...]

*[Talking Points: The Perfect Blend of **Politics** and **Religion**]*

[It's impossible to stay away from the topic of religion at church, but I usually stay away from politics.]

[Yet when a topic intersects with the teaching of Jesus, it's my responsibility to talk about it. The division in the church created by our current political climate intersects directly with Jesus.]

[Since our churches are large, diverse, and geographically dispersed, we are set up to be divided. I became painfully aware of this the Sunday following the 2016 presidential election.]

[I was at one of our more suburban campuses. I was in my pickup truck in line to exit the parking lot. I was scrolling through Twitter (my truck was in park), and I noticed that I got a mention from an African-American woman who attends one of our churches closer to town. This is what she said:]

*"I came to church this morning looking for **reassurance**. I'm **scared**. No one even mentioned the election. I feel abandoned by my church."*

[To which Republicans would have responded, "Scared of what? There's nothing to be scared of. Now, if the Democrats had won? That would've been scary."]

[But she had experienced this in a totally different way.]

Nothing divides like **politics**...

