

Two Myths About America

In your opinion....*What is the nation's biggest problem?*

You may have a similar background as me. I grew up in a home where the biggest problem facing our country was political. That was followed by education coming in a very close second. Solving our nation's problems came down to Politics and Education. From that experience I learned this:

How you identify a problem determines the solution to that problem.

There seems to be a growing belief in our culture that the problem is political. Which means the solution is political as well.

Here's the sum of what I want you to hear today:

Myth #1: The problem is political

Myth #2: The solution is political

Let's apply a Biblical Worldview to our culture:

A spiritual problem requires a spiritual solution.

You can summarize the Bible in three words:

Creation – Gen 1:27

In this perfect world, there was no death, there was no sin, there was no war, there was no cancer. There was no fear or anger or bitterness. There was no barrier between people and God. Adam and Eve were right with God and right with each other. They had freedom and authority to rule over God's perfect world.

Fall - Gen 3:1-7 AND...notice the consequences in Gen 3:8-13

The relationship with God takes a hit.

Their marriage relationship takes a hit.

Think about: They sin against God and yet the entrance of sin into their lives impacts their relationship with each other. We are still dealing with this today.

Notice in Gen 5:1-5, the sin nature is passed on to the **next generation**. Adam's children are in *his* image. They still retain the *image of God* but not in its perfection. They now have a sin nature. This is true of you as well.

Redemption – Gen 3:15 contains the first promise of the Messiah. From that point on, the rest of OT history looks forward to the cross. The Church age looks back at the cross and looks forward to the return of Jesus. You live inside of this great redemptive story.

What I am suggesting today is simply this: ***We need to keep the main thing, the main thing.***

In my opinion, the problem in our nation is not political, it's spiritual. ***A spiritual problem requires a spiritual solution.*** I am not suggesting that there are no political problems or educational problems or poverty problems or abortion problems. I am suggesting that we can never lose our passion for the gospel because the gospel is what we need most.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Begin with some general feedback on Sunday's message. There may have been some pieces which you felt were good, not-so-good, hard, challenging, etc. Feel free to mention those. It's good to hear feedback from other people. This is intended to be a series that makes you uncomfortable at times.

- Are there pieces of this message that give you assurance?
- Are there pieces of this message that make you uncomfortable?
- Do you anticipate any changes in your worldview or perspective on life that may occur as a result of this study?

2. You may have heard Pastor Karl say something like this:

History is not a long series of unrelated and unconnected events. History is going somewhere. All of OT history points to the cross. All of Church history looks back at the cross and forward to the return of Jesus Christ.

- How might it help a Christian in today's world to know that God is sovereign and in control?
- Does this idea bring comfort or challenge to you?

3. Think about what was lost in the Fall in terms of relationships. Adam and Eve are at odds with one another and then in Gen 4, their son Cain murders his brother. The impact of sin is severe.

You may have heard Pastor Karl say something like this:

Every relationship is comprised of a sinner connected with another sinner. This helps us to understand racial divide; income inequality, mistrust, abuse of power, neglect of the poor.

- How can the gospel help?
- Have you seen any changes in your life in recent years?
- Has God changed your heart in such a way that your values, priorities and relationships are different?

4. In what ways can you as a Christian, or you as a Home Group make a difference for good in our culture?