

Podcast Episode Notes

Season 2 Episode 4 Is It Time to Shut Up?

It's Election Day and everyone is talking about who will lead our country on the national level, state level and local level (we often forget about that last one). Instead of talking about Christians and voting, Christians and political parties, and how the Church is viewed by the world, let's focus on the thing we should all agree on—being a godly leader and developing godly leaders. Our guest Heather Zempel, discipleship pastor at National Community Church in Washington, D.C. talks about what is going right in the world of faith and politics, what she says to Christians who are struggling to be in relationship with fellow believers who are “on the other side,” and the ministry of “shut up!”

Observations

- Generational span is getting smaller, shifts between generations is picking up speed
- Emerging generation is not millennials. Oldest members of that generation are now executive team members, leaders of our society
- Emerging generation are Generation Z – they are looking for authenticity, real, raw, transparency, connection, be connected beyond technology, desire for what is tangible, looking for mentoring, wary of authority, crave people to speak into their lives (wisdom) and the opportunity to make a difference
- Programs don't disciple people. People disciple people. We can't educate ourselves to be like Jesus. Discipleship isn't dispensing wisdom from one person to another (Yoda to mentees). It's inviting someone into my life with me as I live it, being as open and honest about every failure and temptation
- Discipleship seen through two lenses: 1) Travel Agent – tells you where to go, what to see and how to prepare 2) Tour Guide – goes on that journey with you, takes people where they have already been or some place like it
- NCC youth have come up with principles of peacemaking: listen well, disagree, freely, love regardless, unity not uniformity
- Kingdoms come and go but God is in the throne forever
- Historical context from Acts 15 about Jews and Gentiles (Galatians 6:28 – There is neither Jew nor Gentile..for you are all one in Christ Jesus) – look at how different these two groups were, makes our disagreements today look small in comparison
- How to show the ways of God to others who share your vocation: walking in humility, showing honor, reacting in the opposite spirit, hurling blessings when we encounter others, courage (humble confidence to do the right thing when it's hard), play the long game (Jesus is thinking nations and generations, don't trade what you want most for what you want now)
- Take a listening posture – leaning in, not to speak more loudly or clearly but in recognition that I don't have to agree with you but I want to understand you, listening well is an expression of love
- We all need the ministry of “shut up”/the ministry of a listening posture – it communicates value, honor and love. But's got to be both. If you only have the ministry of “shut up,” we can check out. But to really stay in the game, to be a peacemaker not just a peacekeeper, to walk in unity requires that we all listen well.

References:

National Community Church <https://national.cc/>

Upper Zoom: <https://national.cc/events/details/upper-zoom>

Every day during election week: Monday-Friday, November 2-6, 7:14am ncc.re/upperzoom

Protege program for young, emerging leaders: national.cc/protege1

Be the Bridge – resources for families regarding kids and politics: BetheBridge.com

“Revenge of Analog: Real Things and Why They Matter” by David Sax

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