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*“division is real, but re-remembering is possible.”*

*– Sarah Bauer Anderson*

A while back, my dad read Sarah Bauer Anderson’s book, “The Space Between Us: How Jesus Teaches Us To Live Together When Politics and Religion Pull Us Apart.” He promptly sent it to me with the directive, “This is good. Read it.” He was right. It was a good book for me to read. I absolutely did not agree with all of her theology or her politics, but the entire point of the book was engaging with people, who do not agree. Nothing could be more crucial for me as a Christian during this political season in the USA.

My favorite chapter is one in which she describes relationships like a rope that can be cut or torn apart. She imagines a relationship being like a rope that is connecting two people to one another. When conflict arises, the connection can be broken. But, then what happens when we put the rope back together? The rope is shorter once it is tied together than it had been as one long piece. The same can be true for the divisions between people. Conflict is inevitable. Resolving conflict requires that we try to understand one another better, which brings us closer together than we had been before. The rope is shorter. The distance between us is smaller.

Anderson wrote, “When the rope between believers was broken over differences, there was one thing that re-bound them to one another – something fundamental, and basic, and foundational to who they had been and who they would become. Their shared faith.” This only works, though, when we put our faith in Jesus Christ above our faith in any politician, party, or nation.

We do not vote to bring about the reign of God here in our country. We vote in order to live as citizens of both the realm of God and a very flawed human-led country. Jesus Christ isn’t on the ballot and he is the only one that can save us. So, in a very flawed system made up of very flawed people, do your best to vote in a way that honors the greatest commandments of loving God and neighbor.

I know that there are faithful Christians, who vastly disagree about who should be the next president of the USA. I have some pretty strong opinions about it myself, but the truth of the matter is the entire existence of our country is but a small blip in the history of the world and not even a factor at all to God’s cosmic plan of world redemption.

As Christians, voting is important, but not anywhere near as important as how we live our daily lives. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that he *is* the hungry, the thirsty, the immigrant, the sick, and the prisoner. While voting does impact each of these groups, how we spend our time and money throughout our lives has a much greater impact. Jesus is telling us to care for our neighbors (which he defines as *everyone*) all the time and to the best of our ability.

On November 6, a lot of Christians are going to be unhappy, worried, and maybe even angry with the results of the election. If we aren’t careful, what we say to one another before, during, and after that day can cut the ropes that connect us to one another. But, please know that on November 10, we will be here ready to feast at the Lord’s Table and do the work to retie the connections. By the power of the Holy Spirit we can defy division and work to connect with the love of Jesus Christ.