

DRAWING LINES IN THE SAND

April 20th & 21st, 2024



READ Acts 4:1-20.

1. Take some time to share some personal moments where obedience to God and obedience to authority came in conflict with one another. What were the specific disagreements and what was the result of the clash?
2. **Read Exodus 1:15-2:10.** This story showed the Hebrew midwives and Moses parents lying to authorities to preserve life and being blessed by God. What implications can we draw from this story in our ethical decision-making? How would you have handled this or similar moral dilemma?
3. What matters of faith do you see our or other governments infringing upon in our modern time?
4. Where has our or another government abandoned its responsibility to provide order, protection and justice to its citizens?

5. How do you discern which hills are worth dying on in the public arena? What are some non-negotiables politically for you?
6. How involved are you in being a voice that resists or influences within the systems as they are now? What needs to change in your involvement?
7. Where is the church as a whole failing at honoring God in resisting authority in the public arena? Where are we succeeding?
8. **Read Titus 3:1-11.** What kind of picture is Paul painting of how we should approach our relationship with authority? How about divisive debates and controversies between others?
9. What are some of your hardest political conversations you have had with others whom you disagree with? In looking back, how well did you model Christ in those interactions?
10. What is your opinion of the best historical example of civil disobedience from a Christian perspective? What made it best?