

Application Guide

NOT IN IT TO WIN IT WITH JOHN MAXWELL



BOTTOM LINE:

You can extend kindness to those you disagree with and pursue unity for your community.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- I. There are Christians who are just as concerned as everyone else with what's happening politically in our country and in the world.
- II. The concept behind the title *Not in It to Win It* is to emulate the posture Jesus took in culture.
 - A. Jesus didn't come to win the way we define winning. He came to do something different.
 - B. Jesus came to love, not to win.
 - C. It's not an anti-political thing; it's an allegiance thing—an allegiance to live and love and lead like Jesus did... above winning a point.
- III. The majority of the U.S. population knows enough about Jesus to know he wouldn't react the way many Christians are reacting today.
 - A. The moment we (Christians) step into culture wars, we lose in terms of what Jesus modeled for us and what God has called us to do.
 - B. Many Christians today have a tendency to lead with their beliefs rather than their values, which creates division and conflict.
- IV. *"The sad truth is, the fear fueling our division has been created, cultivated, and stoked by those who benefit from it."* —Andy Stanley, *Not in It to Win It*.
 - A. Political leaders benefit from division.
 1. The message of politics says, "The goal is to always look like we're losing, but you can help me win, which will help you."
 2. The goal is to make individuals fear the other party by stating if they win, something bad is going to happen to you.
 - B. Find common ground. Democracy only works when we move to the middle, because different perspectives are needed in order to come out with the best possible solution.
- IV. To make the world great, adopt Jesus' definition of great.
 - A. Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant."
 - B. Any time we see this kind of servant leadership, we admire it and aspire to lead like it because we know it's the best way forward.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR TEAM DISCUSSION

1. During the past few election cycles, how have you witnessed leaders reacting? How have their reactions affected your willingness to follow them?
2. Whether you are a Christian or not, what has your experience with the church been in the past two years? Has this impacted your view of Christianity?

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3. In your experience, what is the biggest factor that has caused individuals to move toward extremes?
4. What can you do in your organization today to open up space for individuals to begin residing in the middle again?

RESOURCES MENTIONED

1. [*Not in It to Win It*](#) by Andy Stanley

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