



**CITIZENS**

**OF**

**HEAVEN**

# Political Factions

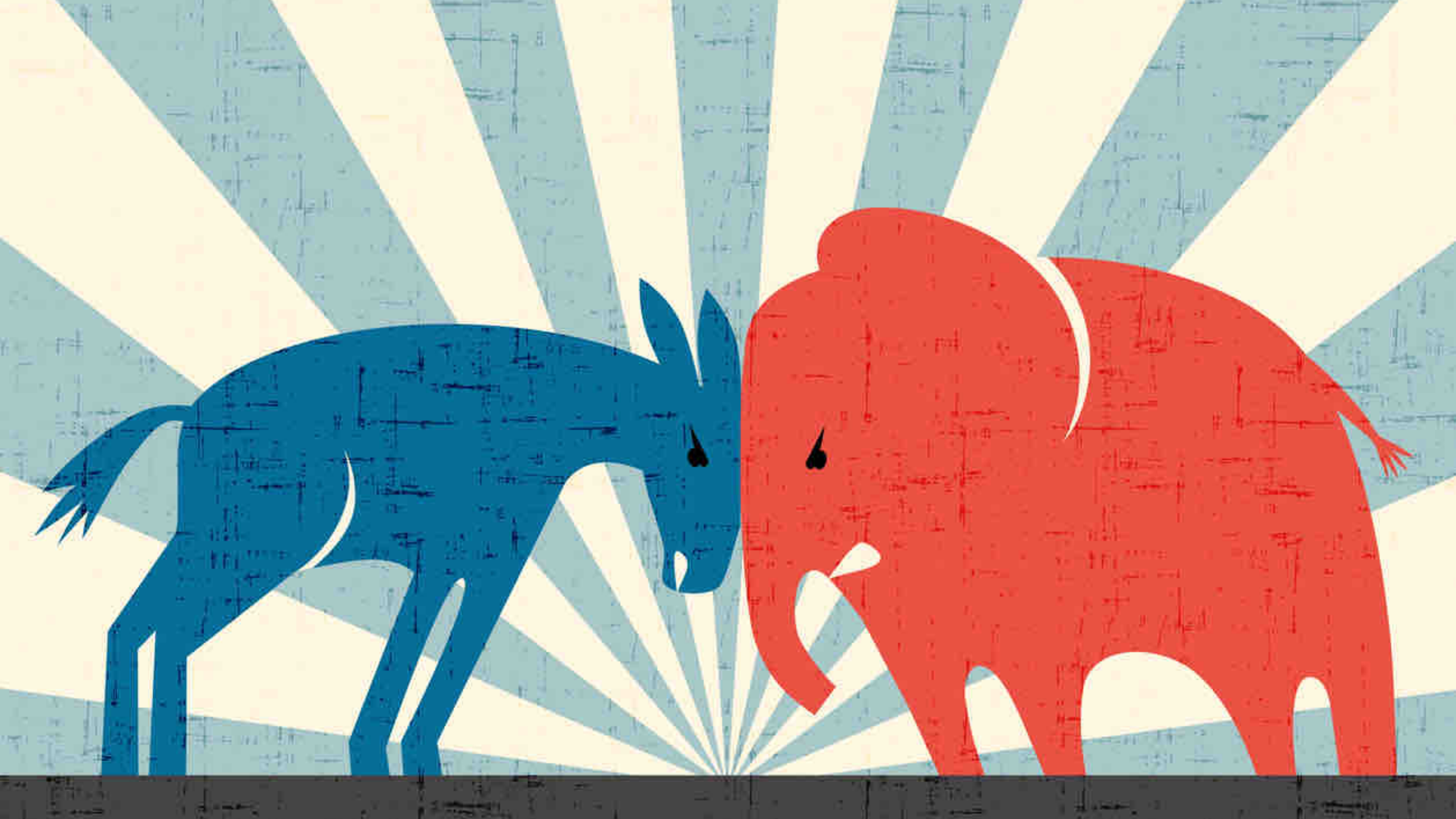
**Zealots** – Revolutionaries

**Essenes** – Separatists

**Sadducees** – Collaborators

**Pharisees** – Traditionalist





A stylized illustration featuring a blue donkey on the left and a red ox on the right. The background consists of a central point from which several lines radiate outwards, alternating between light blue and white. The overall style is graphic and modern.

**How do we faithfully follow Jesus in a world of political conflict?**

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

**1 Peter 2:11-12 ESV**



<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

**1 Peter 2:13-14 esv**



<sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**1 Peter 2:15-17 esv**



# Faithful in a Divided World

## I. Remember our Identity





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a. This world is not our home.



<sup>14</sup> For here we have no lasting city, but ***we seek the city that is to come.***

**Hebrews 13:14 ESV**



<sup>20</sup> But our ***citizenship is in heaven***, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

**1 Peter 3:20** ESV





# Our Primary Identity

## Identity in Christ

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- ~~Race~~
- Gender
- Nationality
- Family Role
- Political affiliation
- Career



# I. Remember our Identity

- a. This world is not our home.
- b. We live by a different value system.



# Different Value System

1. Abstain from sinful desires



# Cultural Temptations

- Materialism
- Individualism
- Sexual Immorality
- Political Power
- Comfort





# Different Value System

1. Abstain from sinful desires
2. Live good lives



<sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they **may see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day of visitation.

**1 Peter 2:12** ESV



<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who ***asks you for a reason*** for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

**1 Peter 3:15 esv**





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# Faithful in a Divided World

- I. Remember our Identity
- II. Recognize Earthly Authorities



<sup>13</sup> ***Submit for the Lord's sake*** to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

**1 Peter 2:13-14 esv**



<sup>13</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For ***there is no authority except from God***, and God has instituted those that exist.

**Romans 13:1 ESV**



*"Christians are, by God's grace, cockroaches...  
we can survive anything."*

**Mark Dever**





**When the government asks us to disobey  
God, we must obey God rather than man.**



# Faithful in a Divided World

- I. Remember our Identity
- II. Recognize Earthly Authorities
- III. Render to God what is God's



<sup>13</sup> And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. <sup>14</sup> And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" <sup>15</sup> But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."

**Mark 12:13-15 ESV**



<sup>16</sup> And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him.

**Mark 12:16-17 ESV**



# Silver Denarius

Worth one day's wages

Coin bearing Caesar's image in  
Matthew 22:17–22



# Questions:

1. Are my thoughts and conversations about politics outweighing my time with God and His Word?



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# Questions:

1. Are my thoughts and conversations about politics outweighing my time with God and His Word?
2. Do my political beliefs and actions reflect a biblical ethic, or am I compromising my gospel witness?
3. Am I trusting in God's sovereignty over nations, or have I placed my hope in specific political outcomes?

