

The background of the slide is a stylized, wavy American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. The text is overlaid on this background.

The Dangers of Political Ideology in the Lord's Church

Ideology: the body of doctrine, myth, belief, etc., that guides an individual, social movement, institution, class, or large group

The Dangers of Political Ideology in the Lord's Church

1. Can lead to “speaking evil of dignitaries”

(2 Pet. 2:10; Jude 1:8; Titus 3:1-2)

- Speaking evil = vilify, defame, blaspheme, rail at
- Rom. 13:1-7 – At what point does practicing our rights as Americans to disagree with the President (administration, government) cross over to “speaking evil”?
- 1 Pet. 2:13-17 – We are not to use our liberty in Christ as a cloak for vice, i.e. to resist governing authorities, seek anarchy, seek our own will

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2. Can lead to unwillingness to yield my liberties for the sake of the brethren

- **I Cor. 8:1-13 – Do not allow my liberty (rights) to be a stumbling block, v.9**
- **I Cor. 9:1-6, 11-12, 15, 19 – Paul yielded his rights to “win the more”**
- **I Cor. 10:23-33 – All things are lawful but not all things are helpful, edify**

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2. Can lead to unwillingness to yield my liberties for the sake of the brethren

- Gal. 5:13-15 – Do not use your liberty at the expense of your brethren
- The wearing of masks, changes in the passing of communion, changes in service times, etc.
- There is a difference between fear and reasonable caution; what might seem to be fear to me can be reasonable caution to another; who am I to define the difference?

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3. Can lead to the loss of perspective

- In Teaching Others – 1 Cor. 9:19

- Republican vs. Democrat?

- In showing love for my brethren – Gal. 5:22-25

- Am I going to allow the fruit of the Spirit to be swallowed up by pride?

- In living as a “pilgrim” – 1 Pet. 2:9-12

- While my rights and liberties as an American are to be valued, my home in Heaven is of infinitely more value!