

the Venues
Go Deep
A New Rebellion
7.2.17

What are your celebration plans for July 4?

What is the most hot dogs you have ever eaten at one sitting?

In what way was the American Revolution a rebellion?

What is your general feeling about rebellions?

In what ways was Jesus a religious and political rebel (Matthew 26:51-52; Matthew 21:12-17)?

Early Christians like Tertullian (155—240AD) and Justin Martyr (100-165AD) were political rebels “charged with sacrilege and high treason” because they wouldn’t follow the religion of Caesar.

In what ways do the actions of the early Christians apply to us today?

1. What does it mean to be a Christian Nation?

Surveys show that anywhere from 45% to 97% of people think the United States used to be a Christian nation and just as many think the United States should be a Christian nation.

What does it mean for a nation to be Christian? Take a look at 1 John 2:6, Luke 6:40.

What do you think of this definition of a Christian Nation: “The United States is Christian inasmuch as it looks like Christ”?

How did Jesus live and what did Jesus value (Matthew 5:39, 4:42, 20:16, John 8:7)?

How does 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 shape our understanding of a Christian Nation and what we should look for in leaders who are calling for a Christian Nation?

2. Where is our allegiance?

What do you think of San Francisco QB Colin Kaepernick’s protest of not standing during the singing of the National Anthem? (Please be civil to each other in this discussion.)

Read the “Random Thoughts” from this week. What did you learn about the Pledge of Allegiance that you didn’t know before? What surprised you about it? What lessons do you take away from it?

The early Christians would not pledge their allegiance to Rome, only to Jesus. *What do we learn from that?*

The Bible presents two kingdoms with two sets of values and methods (John 18:36, Philippians 3:20).

To which kingdom do we owe our allegiance? What do we do if the entity to which we make the pledge contradicts the values of Jesus (Matt. 6:24)? How do we love America and follow Jesus?