

American GODS

discussion questions | April 6, 2014

We all love to feel like we belong to something. But belonging easily becomes an idol. When we assume God is on our side, supports our views and policies, we turn a good - belonging - into a god. We sanctify our group, become incapable of admitting that our tribes are as sinful as we are. The only way we can find life is to follow Jesus into the Kingdom of God, to embrace our status as resident aliens. To live as faithful pictures of Jesus, to serve as ambassadors for God.

Scriptures for Further Reading

Exodus 19:5-6; Joshua 5:13-14; Matthew 5:43-48; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 1 Peter 1:1-2, 2:11-17; Revelation 7:9-10

Questions for Discussion

1. What nations, groups or tribes do you belong to?
2. What positive benefits have you seen in belonging to those groups? What negative effects have you seen in those groups?
3. What does Peter mean when he calls Christians "resident aliens"?
4. How does understanding the Church as an embassy and Christians as ambassadors help us to resist idolizing our nation?
5. What does it look like for you to live as a resident alien this week?

