

# PASTORING IN PARTISAN TIMES

## ***Listening Guide for Pastoring in Partisan Times Podcast Episode 1: Authority and Humility with Rev. Adam Hamilton***

[4:28] In a [2017 Atlantic article](#), the writer calls Hamilton's preaching non-partisan. Kim asks Adam if he feels the assessment is accurate. **Evaluate your own preaching. Would an outsider call it non-partisan?**

[6:05] Adam discusses how he approaches a divisive issue from the pulpit. **Whether its been in preaching or in other aspects of your ministry, how have you dealt with a hot button issue and a divided audience?**

[10:50] Part of Adam's approach to partisan issues is saying I could be wrong. **How do you weigh the authority given to you through Church as an ordained in our tradition and the authority of the gospel truth with this sense of staying engaged with someone you disagree with?**

[15:10] Adam offers a recommendation for using surveys to get a pulse on what his parishioners are thinking and feeling around certain topics. **Have you tried this in your context? What was the result? If you haven't tried it, offer one scenario in which you could implement it.**

[20:15] Kim asks Adam about issues where there aren't two sides. **What are those issues for you? What would your community say those issues are?**

[31:00] Adam discusses some of the negative feedback he has received as a result of preaching on difficult topics. **How have you experienced this? How did you handle it?**

[40:52] People leave the church for a variety of reasons, but sometimes they assert that it's to do with you. It's important that we surround ourselves with a support network to rally around us on these hard days. Adam shares experiences he has had in his ministry context and who he turns to when he feels like giving up. **Who has been your listening ear when ministry gets difficult? What advice or support did they offer?**

[45:43] Behind the pulpit isn't the only place pastors can address important issues. **Whether its through a Bible study, structured discussion or personal advocacy, what ways do you address topics outside of Sunday morning? How has it been received?**

Throughout this episode Adam offers practical tips on stretching your congregation, understanding both sides of an issue, and listening to your parishioners' feelings and opinions. **Which of these strategies could you add to your toolbox?**