

PASTORING IN PARTISAN TIMES

Listening Guide for Pastoring in Partisan Times Podcast Episode 3: Working Class Rage with Rev. Dr. Tex Sample

[11:00-11:48] Tex talks about the stratification of wealth in our society and cites the negative connotation the word “welfare” has. He mentions the concept of wealth-fare in which the most affluent and influential stay that way. **Where do you see wealth-fare in your community? How does it affect those who need welfare benefits?**

[16:52-19:55] Tex discusses a group’s shared morality – its shared stories, proverbs and ideas. He will build on this concept as our discussion continues. **For now, identify what the shared stories, proverbs and ideals are in your ministry context.**

[26:30-30:25] Tex suggests the concept of a reciprocal circle of kinship, in which people in your circle help one another. Going against this concept breaks the group’s code of morality, the stories, proverbs and ideals shared by the group. Tex offers that instead of resisting or trying to dismantle this way of life, we should step into the circle and seek to widen it; to see the church as family and Christ as our brother. From this perspective, we can address systemic issues from the lens of kinship instead of other.

How can you widen the reciprocal circle of kinship in your ministry context?

How do those in power, in whatever context, divide those beneath them? How do we combat that?

[38:05-44:22] A listener offers a question on how to address nationalism in the church. Tex offers examples from scripture and our culture. He asks us to make a distinction between country and the nation-state. **What does the Bible have to say about patriotism and nationalism? What does it look like for Christians to love their country?**

[58:25-59:03] Tex talks about the power of community organizing, in which local organizations connect to impact and serve the greater good. **What ways does your church partner and collaborate to reach out? What new avenues could you try or pursue?**

How can you use the concept of family rhetoric to engage your congregation with challenging topics?