



Theology Pub October 10, 2017

## Protests, Patriotism, and Faith: What do we “Kneed” to do?

### Questions:

1. What does it mean to be patriotic?
2. How is your patriotism informed by your faith?
3. Do you view the recent NFL protests of kneeling during the national anthem as patriotic or unpatriotic?
  - How do you view kneeling in protest as opposed to sitting down or standing with raised fist?
  - In September 2016, the president of the NAACP compared Colin Kaepernick’s refusal to stand during the national anthem to Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in 1955. Do you agree with this parallel?
  - What do you think of Trump’s tweet of Sept. 23: *If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!*
4. American Christians are divided on the NFL protest issue. Why are people within the same Christian faith arguing against one another primarily from political positions instead of theological ones?
5. Some sanctuaries have U.S. flags. What is your opinion on having a U.S. flag displayed in a place of worship?
6. There seems to be an inability in our country to have civil discourse around difficult subjects.
  - Why? Is this unique to our current time?
7. In 2014 artist Patrick Campbell painted “The New Age of Slavery” in response to Eric Garner’s death. (Garner is the NYC man who was arrested for selling loose cigarettes and died in a police chokehold.) Campbell says of his painting: “I agree that my flag is disrespectful but it’s grounded on hard truths.”
  - What is your reaction to his painting?



### Quote:

“Protest is never convenient for the people being protested against. The real question is, when is it time for justice? If it is really justice we seek, it’s always the right time.” ----Valerie Cooper, associate professor of religion and black church studies at Duke Divinity School