

After the Elections

Recently a Facebook friend posted the following on the subject of elections
by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism:

October 6, 1774

I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

1. *To vote - without fee or reward - for the person they judged most worthy*
2. *To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and*
3. *To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.*

John Wesley, *The Journal of John Wesley*

Given how difficult this election season has been - and how fundamentally divided we, as Americans, seem to be - I have wondered how we can possibly come out on the other side and live peaceably with one another.

How do we accord to our neighbors the dignity to make their own choices, which may not agree with our own?

How can we move forward when one group or another feels that the group in power is fundamentally flawed and not representative of their values and viewpoints?

I don't know the answer to these questions. What I do know is this: there is no human being unworthy of respect as a living, breathing child of God. As such, while I may not agree with someone, I have no right or authority to dismiss anyone. And this means finding a way forward with loving care for my fellow humans.

I invite you to do the same.

Michelle Clement

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