

Sermon Outline

THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER VOICE REFERENDUM | Geoff Lin

Readings: Matt 28:16-20; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Philippians 2:5-11

Q. Why am I speaking on this topic today?

What I will NOT be doing ...

1. Don't be apathetic

Lk 10:27 He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself."

3 practical ways to get informed:

- i. read the Uluru Statement from the Heart
- ii. read both the official "Yes" and "No" pamphlets
- iii. read thoughtful Christian responses both "for" and "against"

Michael Jensen on "yes": <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-voice-a-christian-consideration/>

Sandy Grant on "no": <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/human-equality-and-permanent-privilege-concerns-with-the-voice-proposal/>

2. Resolve to listen generously and to speak graciously

The most compelling argument for me personally to vote yes ...

The most compelling argument for me personally to vote no ...

3. Resist the urge to vote out of self-interest

"What's in it for me?" vs "What's in it for others?"

"What might I give up for the sake of those who are less fortunate than I am?"

Php 2:5 **In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:** 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

4. Remember that reconciliation with God matters more than reconciliation with each other

2 Cor 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that **God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.** And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

- the vertical shapes and precedes the horizontal

Mt 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Q. What are you praying for?

5. Give thanks that God is still sovereign

Exodus => The Cross => Australia



Building two healthy all-age gatherings

We are working towards transitioning our morning gatherings into two healthy all-age gatherings (9am & 10:45am) on 18th February 2024. The reason we're doing so is, firstly, to encourage more families to attend with a view to future church planting, and secondly, to encourage ministry connection across generations.

All members of our English morning gatherings will have a decision to make about which gathering to attend once the transition happens, and we will take a survey on 15th October 2023 to find out which way you're leaning at that point. We understand that it's not necessarily a straightforward decision, so here is some help from the perspective of God's priorities:

MISSION - which gathering time would enable you to best invite your yet-to-believe friends and family? Or, which would enable you to best reach out to the various visitors to our church?

LOVE - consider whom amongst our church family you are seeking to love. Which brother or sister needs your help with transport, or you have been praying with, or are wanting to encourage and spur on?

SERVICE - how might you like to serve on Sundays? Which gathering time might need your involvement or leadership more?

May I encourage you to be open to discussing your thoughts and considerations as we seek to build two healthy all-age gatherings. To help facilitate this, Geoff and I will be making ourselves available to visit Growth Groups and ministries in October. Also, our next AM gathering forum will be held on Saturday 21st October, 9:30am. And of course, all the pastoral staff and our gathering leadership team are available for a chat at any time.

PTO...

We appreciate that there'll be some tough decisions to make. You will have your own life situations to consider, or family contexts to navigate, or friendships you value, or preferences you feel. Can I please encourage you to have your thoughts guided by God's mission to the world and his building of his church family. After all, first and foremost, we want God to be glorified.

"The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:7-11)

Join us in praying that God's will might be done.

Your brother in Christ,

Bernie Leo