

This course has taught me the importance of looking deeper into what I see online. As a Gen-z, I get almost all of my news from social media, and—not that I didn't fact check beforehand—over the course of the semester, I've more consciously consumed information, double checked that it was correct, and double checked that it came from a reliable news source. I've had to think more critically about what I see. News headlines are shallow, but the problem addressed is usually very complex. What I've seen online is usually from right-leaning content creators/news influencers, because of the disparity between right wing and left wing content creators on most social media apps (the majority of which are right-leaning), so I try to find news from centrist and left-leaning sources to get the whole picture.

The gospel has definitely influenced my thinking. I try to approach all social issues with the mindset that I gained from Mosiah 4:16 and 19, "And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish...For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same Being, even God, for all the substance which we have, for both food and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind?" This is why I lean left politically, and it affects everything I do. It shapes how I think about controversial topics too. Immigration? We are all beggars, we need to succor *everyone*, and we cannot turn them out to perish. Abortion? This one is a little trickier, but in most cases it is needed, and we cannot allow people to put up their petitions for healthcare to petition in vain. We need to succor these women as well, they need support, and they need healthcare. This class has really opened my eyes to allow myself to make many more connections from the scriptures and the gospel to political issues and current events.

However, it is important to approach other's beliefs with love and respect. I may approach situations with the mindset above, but that doesn't mean I am completely close minded, or that I disrespect other people's beliefs. We believe that men can worship how, where, or what they may, and the same goes for political beliefs. Even if I very strongly disagree, I can still love the person. God isn't a respecter of persons, and I should try to be the same way.

My digital collage takes various pictures from news articles documenting violence in our world (the Gaza strip, the Brown University shooting, ICE abductions, etc.) and shows that there can still be peace found in Christ. If we all try to emulate Christ in all we do (including politics), the political violence, the division, and the hatred in the world will be diminished because of His light.

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