



Political Disciple: Permission to Engage

Eugene Peterson:

“The gospel of Jesus Christ is more political than anyone imagines, but in a way that no one guesses.”

~ Reversed Thunder, p. 117

My presuppositions:

- **We come to politics with preset opinions**
- **We must move beyond sound-bites**
- **The goal isn't to win but to determine the best outcome**
- **We may not share the same political philosophy, but we want to think about how to engage more thoughtfully and substantially**
- **We can then move towards decisions that are wiser and more sensitive to the common good and human flourishing**

Politics – defined:

πολιτικά, *Politiká*

- affairs of the cities

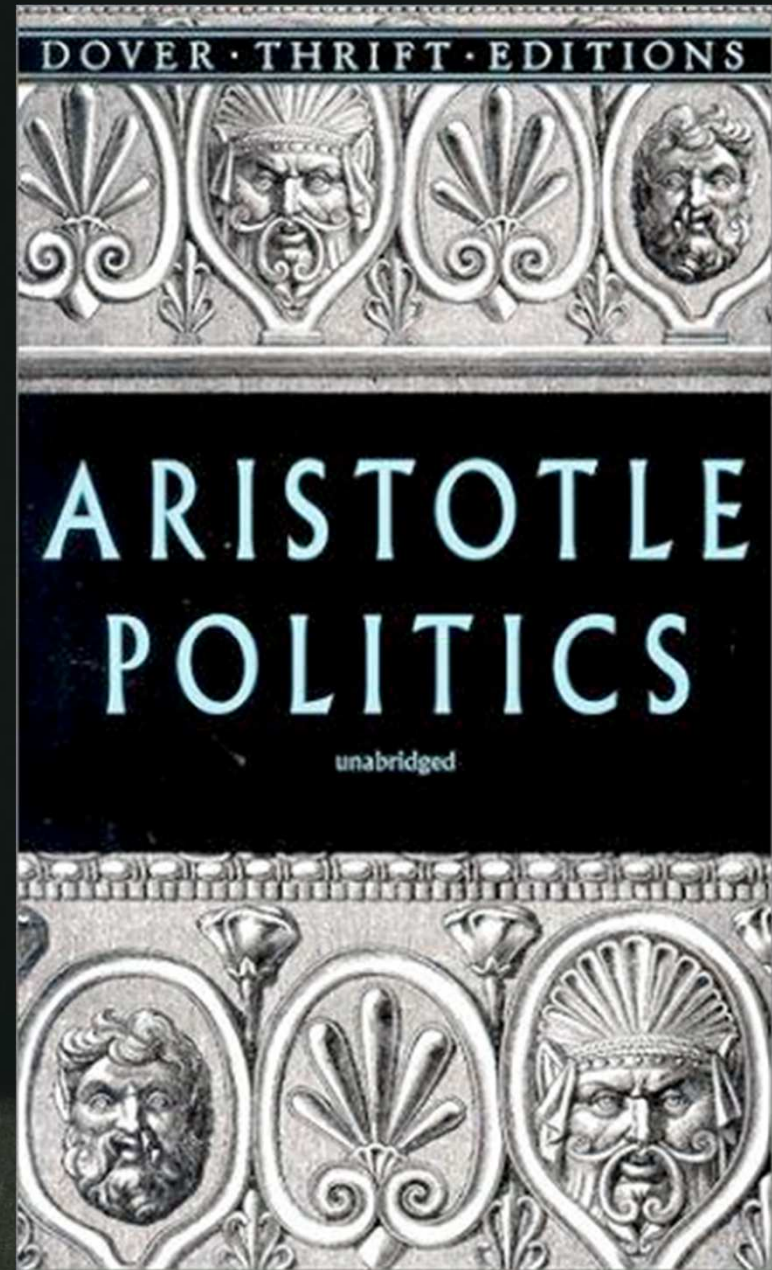
Disciple – defined:

Disciple: a student or follower of Jesus Christ

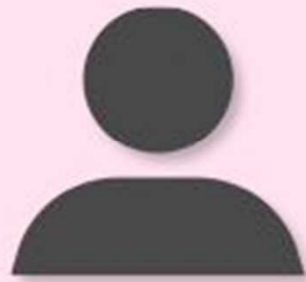
Aristotle

1. The family is the primary unit of political society

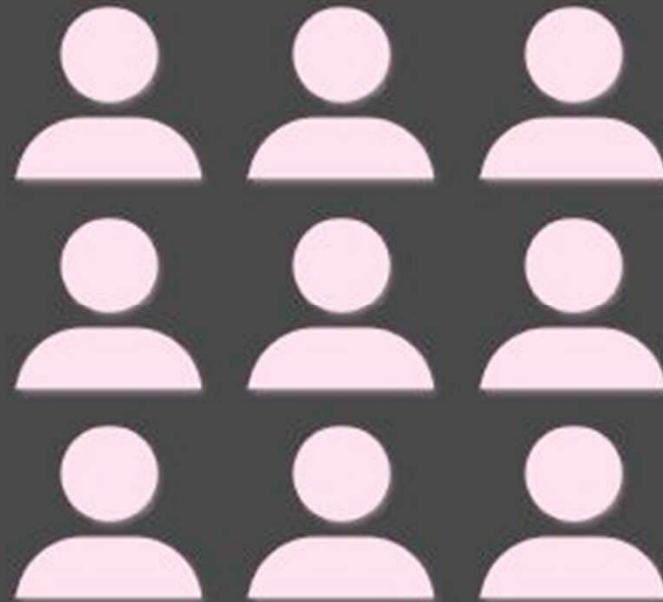
What do we learn in the context of family?



How will we live together? Collectivism vs. Individualism



vs.



How will we live together?

- **Free individuals living together = society (Thomas Payne)**
- **Government – the involuntary part of living together**
 - **How big will this involuntary part of society (government) be?**

What is a 'social contract'?

- ◆ the agreement through which each person enters into civil society
- ◆ The contract binds people into a community that exists for mutual preservation.
- ◆ We sacrifice physical freedom to gain civil freedom (rational thought!)

What is a just claim to power?

If we stripped politics down to nature and tried to determine what is a just claim to power, what we come up with?

- Thomas Hobbes – Order**
- Jean Jacques Rousseau – Equality**
- John Locke - Liberty**

What is the human condition?

What we value

Canadian values:

American values:

What we value

Canadian values: peace, order, good government

American values: life, liberty, pursuit of happiness

