

Notes from 11/5/24

This was election day and in today's political environment, there is a lot of political extremes in our society.

So tonight Rich facilitated the group with some thoughts from St Augustine on forgiveness and how to be civil in our political discourse. St. Augustine attacked the The Donatist Controversy on the conception of the holiness and purity of the church. St Augustine was trying to heal the split in the church with a 2 step process.

1. Have a civil public forum/debate focusing on the what the 2 factions had in common as Christians.
2. used the argument that the beliefs of Donatus Titonius, one of the influential leaders of Donatist, who agreed with the basis of St. Augustine argument.

Neither of these 2 approaches worked so finally used the political and legal power of the Roman Empire to suppress the Donatist church.

St. Augustine's approach is what we used for our discussion for having respectful dialogue despite political differences. Many views were discussed by the group but we did try very hard to hold to have respect towards each other's view and thoughts.