

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE

# Andy Stanley on How to Lead a Divided Church - Episode 219

*A candid conversation with Tony Morgan and Andy Stanley*

We know the Church is called to unity, but it feels like we're more divided than ever. Church leaders are caught in the middle as political and cultural issues fracture congregations, families, and relationships. Some are even considering leaving ministry altogether.

How can we lead boldly from a place of unity and peace? Tony Morgan recently sat down with Andy Stanley, Lead Pastor of North Point Community Church and host of the Andy Stanley Leadership Podcast, to discuss how leaders can navigate this tension. Here are some highlights from that conversation with Andy:

## *How to Lead a Divided Church*

- “Let’s not make it difficult for people who are turning to God. And the way you don’t make it difficult is you **remove every unnecessary obstacle**—and constantly identify new obstacles we need to be sensitive to.”
- “Jesus skips over the political social issues of the day and just addresses the heart of the people right in front of him. Then he turns right around and meets the immediate needs of people who had been unjustly treated by the system, and yet **he never addresses the system**. I think that's the model for the church, which means we can't allow ourselves to be dragged into political debate. When we do, we step down from what we've been called to do, and we get in this murky middle where there's just never going to be a hundred percent agreement.”
- “Jesus came to be a servant. Jesus gave his life. He never powered up. He never played the God card. **He did not come into this world to win, he came into this world to lose**. And the moment the church begins to play to win, we have already lost because the only way to win in this world is to adapt the instruments or the methods of the kingdoms of this world.”
- “Pastors, help your churches **identify the enemy**. It is not the Democrats. It is not the Republicans. It is not state and local government. The enemy is division. That's exactly what Jesus prayed we would never give in to, because he knew at the end of the day, if we're divided, the world will not have a clear picture of who he is and who sent him.”

- “When we're disturbed by behavior outside the church, inside the church, from unchurched people or church people, whatever it might be, Jesus has said, step number one: you look in the mirror and you ask, **is there any of that in me?**”
- “When I can't love my enemy, when I can't speak well of my enemy, when I'm unwilling to find common ground with an enemy, or a political opponent, or somebody who doesn't see the world the way I do, clearly **my faith filter** is not my first filter.”
- “There are times in the life of pastors and Christians where you walk towards Jerusalem because it's the thing to do. And you just trust God that on the other side, something good will come about, either in your lifetime or maybe in the future. But faithfulness in this for pastors right now, I believe, is staying the course, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, and trying to help the people in our church, regardless of their political persuasion, to fix their eyes on Jesus and to allow him to shape our behavior and shape our responses to the world around us.

And then if Jesus is correct, and I always believe Jesus is correct, we will let our light shine in such a way that **people will see our good deeds and ultimately look up and glorify our father in Heaven.**”

## *Discover the Unstuck Process*

We would love to help you and your team clarify your mission and vision—because that alignment is key for unity and moving forward to accomplish what God has called you to.

[Start a conversation today.](#)

Listen to the episode on Apple Podcasts or at [theunstuckgroup.com/episode219](https://theunstuckgroup.com/episode219).