

KINGDOM POWER

Romans 13:1-7; 12:2; 1 Peter 2:17

- **In our *Kingdom Come* series, we are discovering how Christians can overcome political divisiveness and unite around the Gospel.**
- Jesus - *"Pray like this…May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10)
- *"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 14:17)
- "Your political views really denote your spiritual views." - *Alanis Morissette*
- **Many of our political views denote that we don't actually believe that an all-powerful God is involved in the events of our world.**
- *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, <u>but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think</u>. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* (Romans 12:2)
- **Power works differently in the Kingdom of God.**
- Paul - *"All authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God."* (Romans 13:1)
- **When Christians exhibit insecurity about the politics of the day, it shows we don't understand how the power of God's Kingdom works.**
- Peter - *"Fear God, and respect the king."* (1 Peter 2:17)
- ***What will it take for Christians to walk in Kingdom Power?***

To Walk In Kingdom Power We Need To:

RESPECT OUR <u>EARTHLY</u> AUTHORITIES

- *"Everyone must submit to governing authorities. <u>For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God</u>."* (Romans 13:1)
- Peter - *"...Respect the king."* (1 Peter 2:17)
- **Christians must be careful in relating to authority.**

- Samuel - *"Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols."* (1 Samuel 15:23)
- **In relating to authority, Christians need to *properly assess their situation.***
- Paul - *"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise."* (Ephesians 5:15)
- **There have been seasons when God's people have been: 1) Powerless and oppressed, 2) held a measure of informal influence, or 3) Held complete autonomous power.**
- **In relating to authority, Christians need to *calmly consider their options.***
- Paul - *"Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days."* (Ephesians 5:16)
- **When we disagree with our authorities, we can: 1) Submit, 2) Plea, 3) Negotiate, 4) Protest, 5) Resist, or 6) Rebel.**
- **In relating to authority, Christians need to *righteously act as the Lord leads.***
- Paul - *"Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do."* (Ephesians 5:17)
- **In relation to authority, Christians need to *faithfully pray for their leaders.***
- Paul - *"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity."* (1 Timothy 2:2)
- ***How can I more faithfully pray for our political leaders?***

To Walk In Kingdom Power We Need To:
REVERE OUR <u>HEAVENLY</u> AUTHORITY

- Paul - *"The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good."* (Romans 13:4)
- Peter - *"Fear God. . ."* (1 Peter 2:17)
- **The Lord's objective is not domination, but the transformation of our world.**
- *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, <u>but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think</u>. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* (Romans 12:2)
- **When we see Jesus as the transformer of our culture, it means our politics don't have to do so.**
- Jesus - *"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."* (Matthew 5:16)
- **Seeing Jesus as the transformer of the world means *our enemies are not physical.***
- *"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."* (1 Peter 5:8)
- **Seeing Jesus as the transformer of the world means *our weapons are not political.***

- *"We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments."* (2 Corinthians 10:4)
- **Seeing Jesus as the transformer of the world means *our battleground is not cultural.***
- James - *"And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God."* (Acts 15:19)
- **Seeing Jesus as the transformer of the world means *our postures are not hostile.***
- *"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation."* (Romans 5:3-4)
- ***What types of transformation do I need to be praying for more faithfully?***

- **Living with Kingdom Power requires being less concerned with domination and more concerned with transformation.**
- **At the heart of living with Kingdom Power is the practice of prayer.**
- *"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity."* (1 Timothy 2:2)
- **Each week in our *Kingdom Come* series, we are adopting a weekly practice, and this week's practice is to PRAY:**
    - **PRAY for our current national leaders - President Biden, leaders in the US Senate and House of Representatives, our Supreme Court Justices, and the heads of government agencies. Pray for them to have godly counsel and for the Holy Spirit to lead them in accordance with God's will.**
    - **PRAY for our 2024 Presidential candidates to faithfully serve the interests of the citizens of the United States with godly character and demeanor.**
    - **PRAY for the Christians and churches of the United States to respect earthly government power and to revere the Lord's goodness and power.**
- *"The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; He guides it wherever He pleases."* (Proverbs 21:1)
- Prayer - *"Lord, whether or not I like the way our nation is being led, I know that you have even greater authority. So I trust in You to direct the hearts of our nation's leaders. I trust in You to be my ultimate provider and protector however*

our elected officials may lead. And I ask You to fill me with Your Spirit so that I can participate in your mission to transform our nation and our world."