

KINGDOM LIFE

Romans 14:14-19

- **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)
- "Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless." - *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- **Many Christians want to use politics to impact the culture around them, but often neglect to use their own godly example.**
- Jesus - *"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father."* (Matthew 5:16)
- **Part of living a "Kingdom Life" demands navigating conflict with those who don't share our values.**
- Jesus - *"The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you."* (John 15:19)
- ***What values should direct "Kingdom Life" for all Christians?***

Kingdom Life Is A Matter Of Choosing:

CONSCIENCE OVER LICENSE

- *"I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong."* (Romans 14:14)
- **Not everything that is legal is moral or good.**
- **Our nation declares a right to life, *but God tells us to live in the Spirit.***

- *"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."* (Galatians 5:25)
- **Our nation declares a right to liberty, *but God tells us to walk in the freedom of the Spirit.***
- *"For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* (2 Corinthians 3:17)
- **Our nation declares a right to the pursuit of happiness, *but God offers joy in the Spirit.***
- *"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)
- **The Holy Spirit will bother our conscience when He is calling us to a higher level of righteousness.**
- *"And when He [The Advocate] comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."* (John 16:8)
- ***In what areas has the Holy Spirit been bothering my conscience?***

Kingdom Life Is A Matter Of Choosing:

COURTESY OVER <u>LIBERTY</u>

- *"If another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died."* (Romans 14:15)
- **Kingdom-minded Christians are willing to sacrifice their earthly entitlements for the spiritual welfare of others.**
- *"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. . . He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."* (Philippians 2:5,7)
- **Never in our lifetimes will we be called upon to give more grace than Jesus has given us.**
- *"Think of all the hostility He [Jesus] endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin."* (Hebrews 12:3-4)
- ***In what areas do I really struggle to give courtesy instead of taking liberty?***

Kingdom Life Is A Matter Of Choosing:

CHARACTER OVER <u>INDULGENCE</u>

- *"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)
- *"You say, 'I am allowed to do anything' - but not everything is good for you. You say, 'I am allowed to do anything' - but not everything is beneficial."* (1 Corinthians 10:23)
- ***Kingdom Christians* learn to overcome *the demands of their desires.***

- *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there."* (Galatians 5:24)
- ***Kingdom Christians* learn to overcome *the extremes of their emotions.***
- *"Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city."* (Proverbs 16:32)
- ***What are some desires and emotions that I need to work on better controlling?***

Kingdom Life Is A Matter Of Choosing:

COMMUNITY WITH <u>INDIVIDUALITY</u>

- *"So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up."* (Romans 14:19)
- **Our relationship with the Lord is BOTH a personal faith and a communal faith.**
- *"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."* (Acts 16:31)
- **Faith *demands an individual impression.***
- *"As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?'"* (Acts 8:36)
- **Faith *commands a community expression.***
- *"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ."* (1 Corinthians 12:12)
- **While different faith traditions and political parties tend to favor either community or individuality, *Kingdom Christians* should seek to be well rounded.**
- ***Do I tend to favor Community or Individuality, and how can I be more well rounded?***

- Jesus - *"Pray like this…May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10)
- **We can help bring about the Kingdom of God when we remember that every person is made in the image of God.**
- *So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."* (Genesis 1:27)
- **Each week in our *Kingdom Come* series, we are adopting a weekly practice, and this week's practice is to PLEASE GOD:**
    - **Ask the Holy Spirit to bother your conscience about areas where you can be more righteous.**
    - **Consider any circumstances in which you have not given enough concern or courtesy to others.**

    - **Explore the desires and emotions you're feeling, and whether they seem to have power over you.**
    - **Commit to living individually accountable to God and communally connected to other believers.**
- Jesus - *"My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom."* (John 18:36)
- Prayer - *"Lord, help me to live as a citizen of Your Kingdom, walking with conscience and character. Help me to support my Christian community with courtesy and deference. And help me to trust in Your supreme rule and reign."*