

KINGDOM OF THE WORLD (COSMOS)



God instituted governments on earth for the purpose of order. Without governments man, in his sinful condition, can do nothing but sin. Dissappointments will abound perpetually. Government is a means of restraint by administrating law and order in a realm (Ro.13:1-3; 1Pe.2:13-15).

Every man is marked by sin (Ro.3:23). This earth is a fallen world made up of people full of sin. Peace, by the world's standards, is only that pause between wars it can't help but fight. The dream of real peace, in a world full of sinful people, is nothing short of ludicrous.

COMPROMISE

If we take the truth and try to play the political games of the world, it only serves to reduce the realities and truth of who and what we are. The world will be changed only as its people are transformed, and government cannot do this. If we continue to immerse ourselves in the ways of the world for the purposes of inclusion or security or manipulate towards our private purposes, we will fail to represent God. We will no longer function as God's Ambassadors.

When believers become close, or friends, to the world system, it dissects or fractures God's kingdom truths leaving aspects as if they are mere options to pick and choose. The physical eclipses the reality of the spiritual world.

Conscientious believers, who desire to follow God, do not have to take political sides in order to advance a truth. The church has to become a contrast to the world, which will expose the emptiness, foolishness and futility of the world's way. We cannot do this and hope to maintain our rights, privileges and security.

Believers tend to stand to fight for the cause of freedom. But the freedom Christ offers is freedom from sin, not from worldly aggressors.



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KINGDOM OF GOD



The Kingdom of God is all about spiritual truth, and exalting Jesus Christ. It is designed to be in the midst of the world yet distinct. God did not intend for His kingdom to belong to any of the kingdoms of the world. The kingdom of God and the world systems are to coexist with tension (Mt.24:10; Jn.15:18-20). Tension comes from the difference between the two systems.

The Word of God does not instruct believers to work through the governments of men. (Some may argue that it also does not restrict us from doing so). We do not see scripture teaching us to push into the realm of men and demand our way. Yet scripture does teach that we should be little cities set upon a hill amidst the dark realms of men (Mt.5:14-16). The tension from the differences is expected.

Our job is not to make the world a better place in which to live. Our job is to offer the exclusive truth of God to all who will listen. We do not need the government of men to uphold the righteousness we know in God. Our goal should not be to conform, synthesize, or assimilate with the world (Ro.12:2). Our job is to live the truth of the kingdom of God amongst the kingdoms of men, so that Christ is lifted up (Jn.12:32). Like Ambassadors, we are to represent God and His eternal purposes to the kingdoms of men.

Absolute peace on earth, aside from the Kingdom of God, will never be known until the Prince of Peace comes to rule in the physical world (cf. Isa. 2:4, 60:18-20, Mic. 4:1-4; Re. 20:1-4).



EXAMPLE OR TENSION

We need to stand clear of governments to be a testimony of righteousness, whether they believe it or not. We can warn, advise, and offer our help. If we take sides on issues we will not be available to minister to man's needs on either side of the issue. If we think we can change the world and make it a better place we deny God's assessment of this fallen world (Ro.3:9-18; 1Co.2:6; 1Jn.2:17). It places a futile cause in front of believers that keeps them pre-occupied with worldly affairs. The culture around us must freely choose what they will do. When they fail, it opens a door for us to provide answers they do not have.

God wants a clear contrast between the world and His church. The separation or contrast is truth verses a lie (Jn.8:44). This is why we are so easily frustrated with politics and politicians. The state cannot be the kingdom, and the church cannot be the state. The difference between the two systems brings tension. Tension maintains a balance for truth to be demonstrated properly. The world's dreams will be destabilized if believers stop empowering them by their patronage in order to concentrate on our own kingdom's work. There is nothing the world system's political machine can do that the kingdom of God isn't already far superior.

The unbelieving world will mock us, but if we are doing God's will their aggression against us will merely be evidence that we are doing what God wants (Mt.10:22; Jn. 15:18-19; 17:14; Ja.4:4).

Jesus is our example to follow. He was unconnected with the encumbering political system. He said My kingdom is not of this world (Jn.18:36-19:16). He said this to the ruler of the world system in that region, namely, Pontius Pilate. Though Pilate was the worldly ruler, it was clear that it was Jesus who was in control. Jesus was an Ambassador for God. Pilate knew he could not manipulate Jesus. Jesus stood resolute. His quiet way and standing in comparison to the excesses and weakness of the political realm of the world system, gave an alternative to see, feel, and touch to those who would listen.



SUMMARY

Governments can only hold off anarchy and keep corruption to a bearable level. Jesus made His Father and His Kingdom real for all men to see so they could know the difference between the god of this world and his kingdom and that which God offers. This never could have happened from within the systems of men. As believers we need to get back to whole thinking and living as Ambassadors of God. The realms of men are temporary but we have the eternal way of peace, love, equity, conservation, and concern for others. Unregenerate men may be able to mimic these aspects with limited success, but they will be contrasted sharply wherever they encounter real followers of Christ. Conscientious believers that have fallen for the political Left or Right need to come back to the Kingdom of God. They need to rid themselves of the dogma and ideals the political factions have wrapped truth into and begin to stand as Jesus stood: as an identifiable alternative. Believers should not be special interest groups, being given the impression of representation in a political arena. We are the only representation of God in the world. Let's not play it in and by the world's fallen system.