

Theme: Christians are citizens of the common kingdom because they are humans, but they are also citizens of the redemptive kingdom because they have been born again in Christ, and they must never confuse or merge these kingdoms

## I. Intro – Coming Full Circle

- A. Last teaching on Christ, Church, Christians, Culture
- B. This text displays a tension for believers in this age
- C. As God's people we are not of this world (John 17:14, 16)
- D. Yet, as humans we are still part of this world!
- E. Further, Jesus send us into the world (John 17:15,18)
- F. We are called into the world but must not be of the world
- G. How do we live as dual citizens?
- H. What does that mean in practice?
- I. NOTE: A lot of review this morning; tie together ideas
- J. If need to - listen to other teachings for full explanation

## II. The Foundation - Christ' Rulership of All

- A. The 'world' is not an autonomous region!
  - 1. It is not outside of God's rule
  - 2. Jesus rules every square inch of this world!
  - 3. He rules - so we go! (Mat 28:18-20)
- B. Struggle is not because Christ's rulership is insufficient
  - 1. He rules - even when we do not see it!

- 2. He rules - even when we do not feel it!
- 3. He rules - and send us into this world!

## III. The Dilemma Of Dual Citizenship

- A. Christians are citizens of both kingdoms
  - 1. As sons of Adam, we are born citizens of common kingdom of this world
  - 2. As born again, we become citizens of redemptive kingdom
  - 3. But we do not leave the world (John 17:15, 18)
  - 4. This is a BIG dilemma! How do we do this?
  - 5. How do we relate to the world/culture around us?
- B. Typical models of "Christ and culture"
  - 1. Christ under the culture - absorbed by the world
    - a. See culture as good; embrace totally; liberal "Christianity"
    - b. Ignores that this world hates Christ; no tension
    - c. Ignores John 14,16 - not of this world
  - 2. Christ against culture - avoid the world
    - a. See culture as evil, tries to avoid it; fundamentalists; Amish
    - b. Can not avoid culture; ignores that creation is good
    - c. Ignores John 17:18 - sent into the world/culture
  - 3. Christ transformer of culture - take over the world

- a. Church's role is to Christianize culture; take over; religious right
  - b. This is not the role of church; ignores our time in redemptive history
4. The problems with these models
- a. All of these try remove tension of dual citizenship
  - b. All blur the role of Church and individual Christians
  - c. It is not Christ and culture but Christ, Church, Christians and Culture

C. The best model - Christ and His two kingdoms

- 1. Common and redemptive kingdom have two different purposes
- 2. At this time** God leaves them distinct
- 3. Christian is part of both - dual citizenship

#### IV. History - A Tale of Two Kingdoms

A. When work was worship (Gen 1:27-28; 2:15)

- 1. Creators image - fill, subdue, rule (Gen 1:27-28)
- 2. Our task was to make something of God's creation
- 3. Culture - what we make of creation (Andy Crouch)
- 4. Work and take care of Garden (Genesis 2:15)
- 5. Same words usually used for priestly work
- 6. Only one kingdom - and work is worship
- 7. Same kingdom - culture is holy

B. After the fall - two kingdoms by God's design

- 1. My description of the two kingdoms model
- 2. As sons of Adam cultural work continues - common kingdom (line of Cain)
- 3. But only those in Christ can worship - redemptive kingdom (line of Seth)
- 4. Common kingdom articulated in covenant with Noah
- 5. Redemptive kingdom articulated in covenant with Abraham
- 6. Both kingdoms ruled by God - but in different manner for different purposes

C. Christians have dual citizenship

- 1. As sons of Adam we are born into common kingdom
- 2. As sons of God we are born again into redemptive kingdom
- 3. We must not confuse the two kingdoms!

#### V. Living As Citizens of Two Kingdoms

- A. Remember that the church is not a citizen of two kingdoms - individual believers are
- B. Remember that our primary loyalty is now to the redemptive kingdom - our true home
- C. The common kingdom is not redemptive - it is not the church, and does not do redemptive, church work
- D. When we do cultural work, we do it as sons of Adam
- E. Normally we base cultural work, arguments on general

revelation (but we know truth from special revelation)

F. Example: the political struggle over marriage

1. As citizens of redemptive kingdom we must follow biblical teachings in personal life
2. As citizens in common kingdom we work with others to craft good policies on marriage
3. Our arguments in common realm should usually be put in terms of general revelation - not Scripture
4. Base on importance of family, procreation, next generation, distinctions between men and women
5. If culture goes against our beliefs we do not coerce them
6. If culture tries to coerce us - we must disobey

**VI. Applying the Word**

A. Am I living as a dual citizen?

1. Am I in the world but not of it?
2. Do I have a greater tendency to be out of the world, or to be of the world?
3. Have I tried to make the common kingdom the redemptive kingdom?
4. In my common kingdom labors have I tried to illegitimately use Scripture?

B. Living here, longing for home

1. This is a very tough call!
2. It is meant to cause us to long for home!

3. One day all will be set right!
4. One day, God's law will be the law of the land!
5. One day everyone will worship the One True God
6. One day the two kingdoms will be one again!
7. But this will only happen in the age to come
8. This will only happen in New Heavens and New Earth
9. We must keep this vision before us

C. The Table - Foreshadow of the Wedding Feast

Living As Citizens of Two Kingdoms

John 17:14-18  
Psalm 47:1-9  
January 16, 2011  
Communion  
Hebrews 13:20-21

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.  
John 17:14-18

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...  
Matthew 28:18-19

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."  
Genesis 1:27-28

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.  
Genesis 2:15

After the fall, God instituted a distinction between the common kingdom, the realm of common grace ruled through general revelation, and the redemptive kingdom, the realm of saving grace ruled through special revelation.