

Theme: God is the Sovereign Lord over every sphere of life and culture, and has given unique calls, gifts, and responsibilities to each sphere, which must not be infringed upon by other spheres.

## I. Intro – Multi Faceted Diamond

- A. Diamonds known for their brilliance
- B. To really appreciate, must be seen from every angle, facet
- C. Same true of beautiful landscapes
- D. Also true of complex topics like C4
- E. Have viewed from key angle of two kingdoms
- F. Now will look from the angle of sphere sovereignty

## II. Paul's Authoritative Commands & Limited Role

- A. Paul's authoritative commands
  - 1. Command - don't associate w/ wicked (v9,11)
  - 2. Expel the immoral one! (v13)
  - 3. Paul is alluding to Dt 17:7; 19:9, etc. - stoning
  - 4. No problem using authority!
- B. Paul's limited role
  - 1. Command limited in scope (vv9-11)
  - 2. Paul's limited role & authority (vv12-13)
- C. Big questions from this text:
  - 1. Is Paul schizophrenic?

- 2. Seeming total authority & no authority!
- 3. Expel him... but eat with others? Really?
- 4. What business is it of mine? Really?
- 5. The important concept of sphere sovereignty

## III. Understanding Sphere Sovereignty

- A. A basic definition (theme)
- B. Two graphics to represent sphere sovereignty
- C. God is Sovereign over every sphere
  - 1. Eph 1:21-22; Col 2:10
  - 2. Every square inch! Every sphere of life!!
  - 3. This is why Paul speaks with such authority!
- D. Each sphere has distinct call, gifts, responsibility
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 5:12
  - 2. Paul and Christians judge inside Church
  - 3. Called and gifted by God to do this
  - 4. True in each sphere - doctrine of vocation
  - 5. Best if we let those expert in each area work
- E. Spheres should not try to usurp others role
  - 1. 1 Cor 5:12-13 - no business; God judges
  - 2. They do not judge in other spheres - God does

3. 2 Chr 26:16-20 - Uzziah - don't usurp!!!
4. Will deal with Israel church & state & us in future
5. Each sphere answers to God directly - graph
6. The spheres interact - but do not control
7. Middle Ages - graphic of church control
8. Graphic of State usurping
9. Today some Christians want the church to do this again

#### IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the importance of understanding sphere sovereignty?
  1. God is a God of order - from Genesis 1 on
    - a. Spirit moved on chaos to bring order
    - b. Separated things from one another
    - c. Created and reproduced by kind
  2. Things go poorly when spheres usurp
    - a. Example - Nancy Pelosi on Catholic doctrine
    - b. Example - church positions on global warming
    - c. Example - Churches dictate school choice for parents
    - d. Example - family communion or baptism
    - e. Don't confuse the spheres!!!
  3. This is not a constitutional issue, but a biblical one
    - a. Not talking about first amendment - different question

- b. I am talking about God's will revealed in Scripture
- B. Do we recognize the temptation to usurp authority?
  1. We have all wanted to be gods since the fall!
  2. We want to exert control over others - all do
  3. Fundy parents - wont let kids grow up
  4. Church leaders speak where Scripture doesn't
  5. Christian want to MAKE others live right
  6. This tendency is unholy, manipulative
  7. God deliver us - and others - from this
- C. Communion - the covenant meal of the Church
  1. This is what the church is called to proclaim
  2. This is where our focus must lie
  3. We alone can offer the Gospel, call to Christ
  4. Come to the Table of forgiveness - deepest need
  5. Come to the Table to forsake claim to be gods
  6. Come to the Table trusting God

#### The Lord of the Rings - Understanding Sphere

**Sovereignty**  
 1 Corinthians 5:9-13  
 Psalm 9:7-11  
 November 7, 2010  
 Communion  
 Psalm 128:5-6

God is the Sovereign Lord over every sphere of life and culture, and has given unique calls and responsibilities to each sphere, which must not be infringed upon by other spheres.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Matthew 28:18

which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and **seated him at his right hand** in the heavenly realms, **21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given**, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22 And God placed all things under his feet...** Ephesians 1:20-22

and you have been given fullness in **Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.** Colossians 2:10

But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. 18 They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God." 19 Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. 20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him. 2 Chronicles 26:16-20

May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, 6 and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel. Psalm 128:5-6