

## Kingdom Politics: Allegiance

**It's interesting & convicting how God has highlighted truth for us in the last several months:**

- Vulnerabilities Revealed by Covid19
- Racism and Injustice
- Human Politics

**He has revealed a much deeper and fundamental sickness in the Church...**

- An unchecked and uncrucified Selfishness and Self-Centeredness;
- Distortion of Priorities
- Action and Inaction that is Destructive

***“What is a Christian’s responsibility in politics...how are we supposed to walk this out?”***

To truly answer this question, we must first consider some important truths that have been *“choked out by the cares of this world...”*

- **Allegiance**
- **Priorities**
- **Methods**

### Allegiance

In some ways, ***“What is a Christian’s responsibility in politics...”*** is a loaded question.

- It assumes allegiance to human philosophies and structures of power

This is why I keep using the adjective **“human”** to describe the politics I think we’re talking about

- I am, of course, implying that there is **another type of politics** - **Kingdom Politics** - that has a much greater, if not exclusive claim to our passion, time, energy, and wealth...

#### Abraham: “The Father of All Who Believe”

##### Hebrews 11:8-10

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to **leave home** and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>And even when he reached the land God promised him, **he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents**. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. <sup>10</sup>**Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.**

- **“God called him to leave home...”**
- Reminiscent of Jesus’s Firmness with Those Wanting to Follow Him

##### Luke 9:57-62

<sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him, **“The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”** <sup>59</sup>And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup>But He said to him, **“Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”** <sup>61</sup>Another also said, **“I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.”** <sup>62</sup>But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

## An Allegiance of Exclusive Devotion

- It trumps the comforts of wealth and home
- It outweighs the responsibilities to what is temporary
- It supersedes family

**In case you missed his unyielding firmness, Jesus says it again with even more emphasis:**

### Luke 14:25-27, 33-35

A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them,<sup>26</sup> “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple...you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

- Much more important than family
- Overrides your desire to avoid suffering
- Ends any claim to ownership

<sup>34</sup> “Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? <sup>35</sup> Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!”

- **This is why the American Church is sick, weak, and ineffective...**
- **Barna Survey in 2015: God, Family, & Country – Family, Country, & God**

## “For King and Country”

### 1 Peter 2:9-11

You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> “Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people...Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

- See **Mark 4:19**
- **When You Swear Allegiance to a King, You Give Up All Rights to Your Life**
  - **Your King is Jesus; Your Country is the Eternal Kingdom of God**

**Gal. 2:20** My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

### Why is this important? Because:

- Division, racism, and resistance in the Church over issues of Racial Reconciliation...
- The ugly, hurtful, sarcastic, and arrogant tone of distorted devotion and determination given to human politics, with little or no commitment to sharing the good news of the Kingdom
- The determination to protect one’s rights, position, wealth, and power in this world
- The dimming light of the Church’s effectiveness and credibility in the world

**All points to a Misplaced Allegiance...Next Week: Kingdom Priorities**