

**Romans 13:1-7 • “Choose Your Kingdom”
“Either Or, Not Both And”**

“So for the sake of your **tradition** you have made void the word of God”

Jesus

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the **mercies of God**, to present **your bodies** as a living sacrifice, **holy and acceptable to God**, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:2 **Do not be conformed to this world**, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 13:1 Let **every person be subject to the governing authorities**. For there is no authority **except from God**, and those that exist have been **instituted by God**.

Romans 13:2 Therefore whoever **resists the authorities resists what God has appointed**, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

Romans 13:4 for he is **God’s servant** for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for **he does not bear the sword in vain**. For he is the servant of God, **an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer**.

Romans 13:5 Therefore **one must be in subjection**, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

Romans 13:6 For because of this you also **pay taxes**, for the authorities are **ministers of God**, attending to this very thing.

Romans 13:7 **Pay to all what is owed to them**: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Key Question: How do we participate in the bringing of God's kingdom to earth, with a goal of the will of God being done on earth as it is in heaven?

Brief history of attempts (*very broad brush*)

Israel - 3 parts of the law

Christians in the Roman Empire

The Roman Empire and the Church

Reformation

Separatists

1647 WCF

*The civil magistrate may not assume to himself the administration of the word and sacraments, or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven: **yet he hath authority, and it is his duty, to take order, that unity and peace be preserved in the church, that the truth of God be kept pure and entire, that all blasphemies and heresies be suppressed, all corruptions and abuses in worship and discipline prevented or reformed, and all the ordinances of God duly settled, administrated, and observed. For the better effecting whereof, he hath power to call synods, to be present at them, and to provide that whatsoever is transacted in them be according to the mind of God.***

1706 revised WCF

*Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments; or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven; or, in the least, interfere in matters of faith. **Yet, as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the church of our common Lord, without giving the preference to any denomination of Christians above the rest, in such a manner that all ecclesiastical persons whatever shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger.** And, as Jesus Christ hath appointed a regular government and discipline in his church, no law of any commonwealth should interfere with, let, or hinder, the due exercise thereof, among the voluntary members of any denomination of Christians, according to their own profession and belief. It is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the person and good name of all their people, in such an effectual manner as that no person be suffered, either upon pretense of religion or of infidelity, to offer any indignity, violence, abuse, or injury to any other person whatsoever: and to take order, that all religious and ecclesiastical assemblies be held without molestation or disturbance.*

Key to success: Do not mix kingdoms

John 18:33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “**Are you the King of the Jews?**”

John 18:34 Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?”

John 18:35 Pilate answered, “Am I a **Jew? Your own nation** and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”

John 18:36 Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that **I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.**”

The church is not the kingdom. The church (called out ones) are the citizens of the kingdom. King Jesus is the King of this Kingdom that is not of this world.

John 4:20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”

John 4:21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming **when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.**

Philippians 3:20 But our **citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and **having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**

Hebrews 11:15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a **heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for he has prepared for them a city.**

1Peter 2:9 But you are a **chosen race**, a royal priesthood, a **holy nation**, a people for his own possession, that you may **proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

1Peter 2:10 Once you were not a people, but **now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as **sojourners** and **exiles** to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1Peter 2:12 **Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

1Peter 2:13 **Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution**, whether it be to the **emperor as supreme**,

1Peter 2:14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

1Peter 2:15 For this is the will of God, **that by doing good you should put to silence** the ignorance of foolish people.

1Peter 2:16 **Live as people who are free**, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, **but living as servants of God.**

1Peter 2:17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **Honor the emperor.**

Matthew 22:17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

Matthew 22:19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

Matthew 22:20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

Matthew 22:21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, **"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."**

What is God's will that is done in heaven and will be done on earth?

Ephesians 1:9 **making known to us the mystery of his will**, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

Ephesians 1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.**

What is the God ordained process for this taking place?

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

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

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:20 **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 5:13 “**You are the salt of the earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

Matthew 5:14 “**You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Jeremiah 29:4 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, **to all the exiles** whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Jeremiah 29:5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

Jeremiah 29:6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

Jeremiah 29:7 But **seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.**

1Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for** all people,

1 Timothy 2:2 **for kings and all who are in high positions**, that we may lead a **peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.**

“The biblical evidence suggests that where a state either demands what God prohibits or prohibits what God demands, the believer is to obey God and graciously accept the state’s imposed consequences.”

Acts 5:17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy

Acts 5:18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

Acts 5:19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

Acts 5:20 “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

Acts 5:21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

Acts 5:22 But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported,

Acts 5:23 “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.”

Acts 5:24 Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to.

Acts 5:25 And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.”

Acts 5:26 Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them,

Acts 5:28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.”

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, **“We must obey God rather than men.**

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God **from every tribe and language and people and nation,**

Revelation 5:10 and **you have made them a kingdom** and priests to our God, and **they shall reign on the earth.”**

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, **“Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**