

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD VS. POLITICS OF MEN

## RC BLAKES

If a non-believer looked at your life this week—your calendar, your spending, your conversations, and your worries—what would they conclude is the ultimate priority of your faith?

Many of us who follow Christ navigate a complex landscape. We are told to seek God's Kingdom, yet we live in earthly nations with political responsibilities. We cherish a personal relationship with Jesus, yet we often find ourselves participating in the structures of organized religion. It is easy for these categories to become blurred, for our highest allegiance to be quietly transferred to a lesser thing.

We must examine the biblical distinction and priority between four critical concepts: the Kingdom of God, an Authentic Relationship with Christ, Religion, and Politics.

Our goal is to ensure that our lives are built upon the foundation of what is eternally primary, not what is temporarily pressing.

## **ISAIAH 9:6-7 CWSB**

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order -- it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

There are varying degrees of Christian: Carnal Christians - Religious Christians- Relational Christians and Political Christians

**BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN:** A believer who submits to the Bible as the final authority

and finds salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ's atoning death and resurrection, which produces a transformed life of obedience.

## **1. KINGDOM OF GOD – THE SUPREME PRIORITY**

Definition: God's sovereign and eternal reign, inaugurated by Jesus Christ, where His will is perfectly manifested. It is both a present spiritual reality and a future consummated order.

Priority: Highest.

MATTHEW 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

The Kingdom is the central mission and message of Jesus. It is the ultimate reality believers are to seek and serve, and the framework for understanding God's work in the world. Our primary allegiance and citizenship belong here.

MARK 1:15

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

COLOSSIANS 1:13

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

## **2. AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST**

Definition: A personal, saving union with Jesus, established by grace through faith, marked by love, worship, obedience, and ongoing discipleship.

Priority: Second, as the only gateway to the Kingdom.

JOHN 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Eternal life is defined not by duration but by a knowing relationship with God through Christ. This union, where Christ indwells the believer by faith, is the essence of salvation and the source of all spiritual life and fruitfulness, distinguishing it from mere intellectual assent or ritual observance.

GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

### **3. RELIGION - THE INADEQUATE OUTER FORM**

Definition: External systems of rituals, rules, and institutional observances. In Scripture, it is often contrasted with heart-driven faith.

Priority: Third, and subordinate.

MATTHEW 15:8-9

This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

Jesus condemned religion that substitutes human tradition for true devotion. James clarifies that authentic faith before God ("pure religion") manifests in practical love and personal holiness, not in empty ritual. Religion, at best, is an imperfect expression of a heart changed by relationship with Christ; at worst, it is a deceptive replacement for it.

JAMES 1:26-27

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

## 4. POLITICS - THE TEMPORAL SPHERE OF HUMAN GOVERNANCE

Definition: The structures and activities related to civil government and societal order.

Priority: Fourth, and provisional.

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.

God institutes human government for temporal order, and believers are to be responsible, submissive citizens.

However, Jesus starkly divided civic duty from ultimate allegiance. A believer's primary identity and hope are as a citizen of heaven, not of any earthly nation.

Political engagement is a matter of wise stewardship and seeking justice within a fallen temporal order, but it is never to be conflated with advancing the Kingdom of God.

MATTHEW 22:21

Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

CONCLUSION IN PRIORITY:

The order is theological and logical: One enters the KINGDOM OF GOD through an AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. That relationship, when genuine, produces the outward fruit of compassionate action and holiness (the pure form of RELIGION). From this eternal foundation, the believer then navigates the temporal sphere of POLITICS with wisdom and prophetic witness, without placing ultimate hope in it.

