

## UNITED WE STAND

### Part 3: Kingdoms in Conflict

**Objective:** To challenge us to focus our energy in fighting the right battle in the way that Jesus would.

*From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

*22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”*

*23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”*

Matthew 16:21-23

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Ephesians 6:12

- When you think of the term “Culture Wars” what comes to mind? Where do you see the battle lines being drawn in the culture wars? What, if any, role should the church have in the Culture Wars?
- Why is it so easy to view those with different political ideologies or social/cultural perspectives as ‘the enemy?’ How did Jesus view those who didn’t align with his kingdom values? (Give examples)
- If the church is not called to ‘win’ politically, then how can we effect meaningful change that will advance the kingdom of Jesus in our nation?
- What does it mean to you to give your allegiance fully to Jesus? What would you do if you discovered loyalty to Jesus meant you had to change/abandon some of your political views?
- When you think of Spiritual Warfare, what comes to mind? How can recognizing that our battle is a spiritual battle and not a battle against, “flesh and blood” change the way you approach those on the ‘other side’ of the political divide/culture war in our nation?

#### Consider this week:

- What can you do different than what you have been doing that will advance the true Kingdom of Jesus?

**Final Thought:** Rather than seeking to defeat our political enemies, focus on advancing the Kingdom of Jesus the same way Jesus did.

