



## Living in the Tension

Matthew 5:13-16

We live in the tension of belonging to God's Kingdom  
while residing in the kingdoms of this world.

### 1. Live Distinct, not \_\_\_\_\_.

*"You are the salt of the earth." (v. 13)*

- Romans 12:2
- Philippians 2:15
- 1 Peter 1:15–16

**Salt only works when it remains different from its environment.**

### 2. Live Visible, Not \_\_\_\_\_.

*"You are the light of the world." (v. 14)*

- Philippians 2:14–16
- Acts 4:20
- Ephesians 5:8–11

**Have those who sit in darkness around you seen His great light?**

### 3. Live \_\_\_\_\_, Not Alone

*"A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." (v. 14)*

- Hebrews 10:24–25
- Acts 2:42–47
- John 13:34–35

The Kingdom of Me says, "It's just about my walk with God."

The Kingdom of God says, "We shine brighter together."

**The Kingdom is not an individual project—  
It's a community on mission.**

### 4. Live for His Glory, not Your Own

*"Let your light shine before others... that they may glorify your Father in heaven." (v. 16)*

- Colossians 3:17
- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- John 3:30

**Every \_\_\_\_\_ reveals which kingdom is ruling our hearts.**

**Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

## Reflection and Discussion

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1. Which of the four challenges from this message is the Holy Spirit emphasizing most strongly to you?
  - Live Distinct, Not Diluted
  - Live Visible, Not Hidden
  - Live Together, Not Alone
  - Live for His Glory, Not Our Own
2. Are there areas of your life where you have blended into the culture rather than standing out for Christ?
3. What does Romans 12:2 teach about resisting conformity to the world?
4. How does Acts 4:20 challenge us to speak openly about what God has done?
5. Who is one person God may be asking you to influence, encourage, or share your faith with this week?
6. Who has invested in your spiritual growth?
7. What areas of your life are most difficult to surrender to Christ's lordship?

### SUMMER SERIES



We are fallen creatures made in the image of God. That inner conflict defines us as individuals, and it defines how God wants us to live in a world full of other fallen image bearers. "Living in the Tension" walks through the Beatitudes Jesus taught in Matthew 5, showing how the self-centered values of this world are in stark contrast with the values of God's kingdom.

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