



C I T I Z E N S O F T H E K I N G D O M

“**One of the teachers** of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “**Of all the commandments, which is the most important?**” 29 Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. 30 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ 31 The second is **equally important:**

Mark 12:28-34 (NLT)

'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.' **32** The teacher of religious law replied, 'Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. **33** And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. **This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.**'

Mark 12:28-34 (NLT)

34 Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, ‘You are not far from the Kingdom of God.’ And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.”

Mark 12:28-34 (NLT)

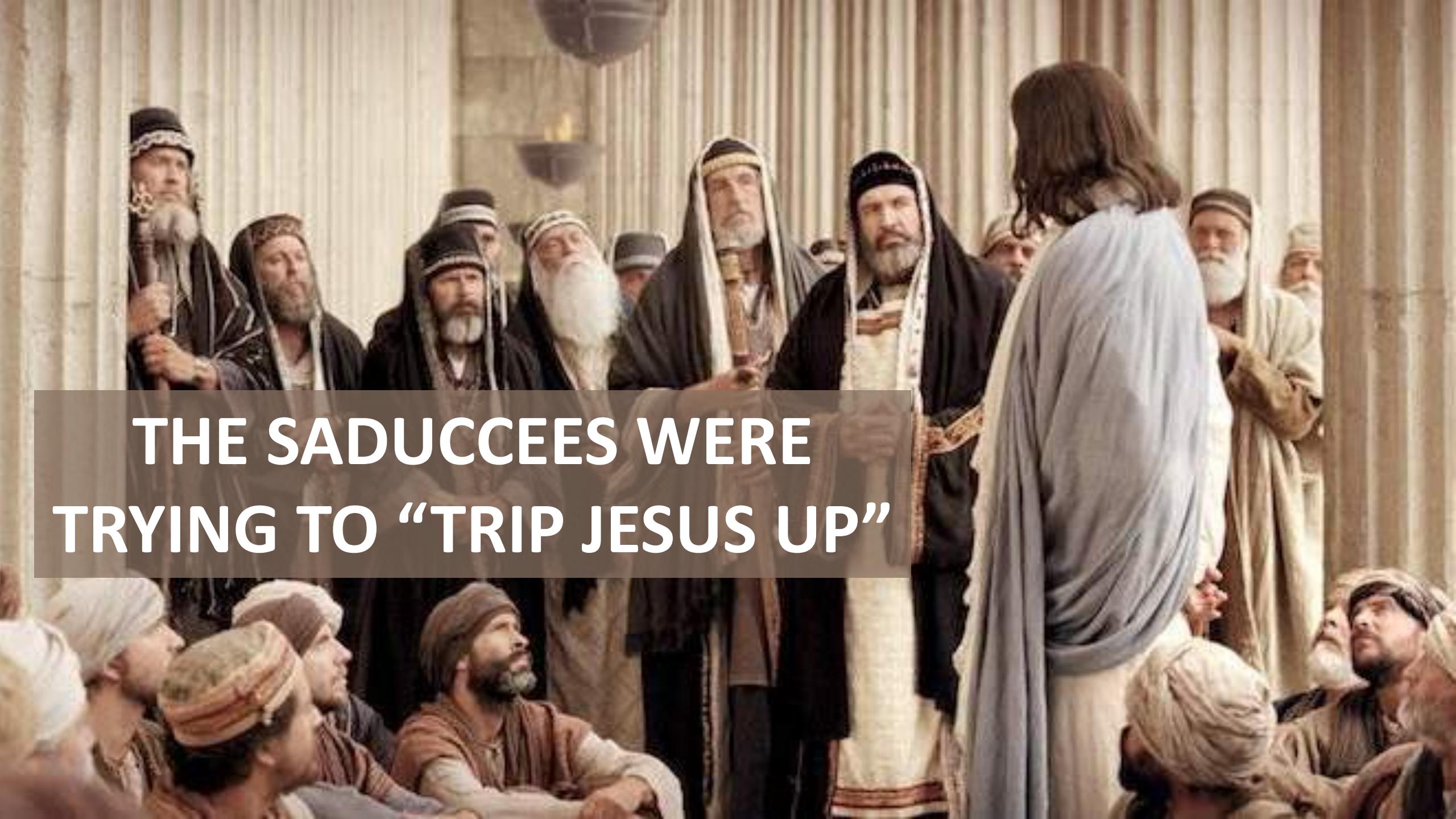


Remember WHO Jesus is:

- God Almighty
- Creator of all that is
- He holds all things together
- King of Kings, Lord of Lords
- He loved ALL people



WE COULD LEARN
FROM JESUS' EXAMPLE



THE SADUCCEES WERE
TRYING TO “TRIP JESUS UP”

Who is THIS MAN?

- Pharisee... Teacher of the Law
- He came to test Jesus by asking a question



Luke 10:25 (NLT) — “One day an expert in religious law stood up **to test Jesus** by asking him this question: ‘Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?’”

Matthew 22:35–36 (NLT) — “One of them, an expert in religious law, **tried to trap him** with this question: **36** ‘Teacher, **which is the most important commandment** in the law of Moses?’”



WHICH OF THE
COMMANDMENTS
WAS THE MOST
IMPORTANT?

A landscape photograph showing a river flowing from the background towards the foreground. The banks of the river are covered in dense, green tropical vegetation. The water is a vibrant turquoise color. The sky above is filled with large, white, billowing clouds. Superimposed over the center of the image is the word "LOVE" in large, bold, black capital letters. Below "LOVE", the words "GOD + NEIGHBOUR" are written in a slightly smaller, bold, black capital letters.

LOVE

GOD + NEIGHBOUR

“The teacher of religious law replied, ‘Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. **33** And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. **This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.**’ **34** Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, ‘You are not far from

Mark 12:32-34 (NLT)

the Kingdom of God.’ And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.”

Mark 12:28-34 (NLT)



LOVE IS THE
KEY TO THE
KINGDOM

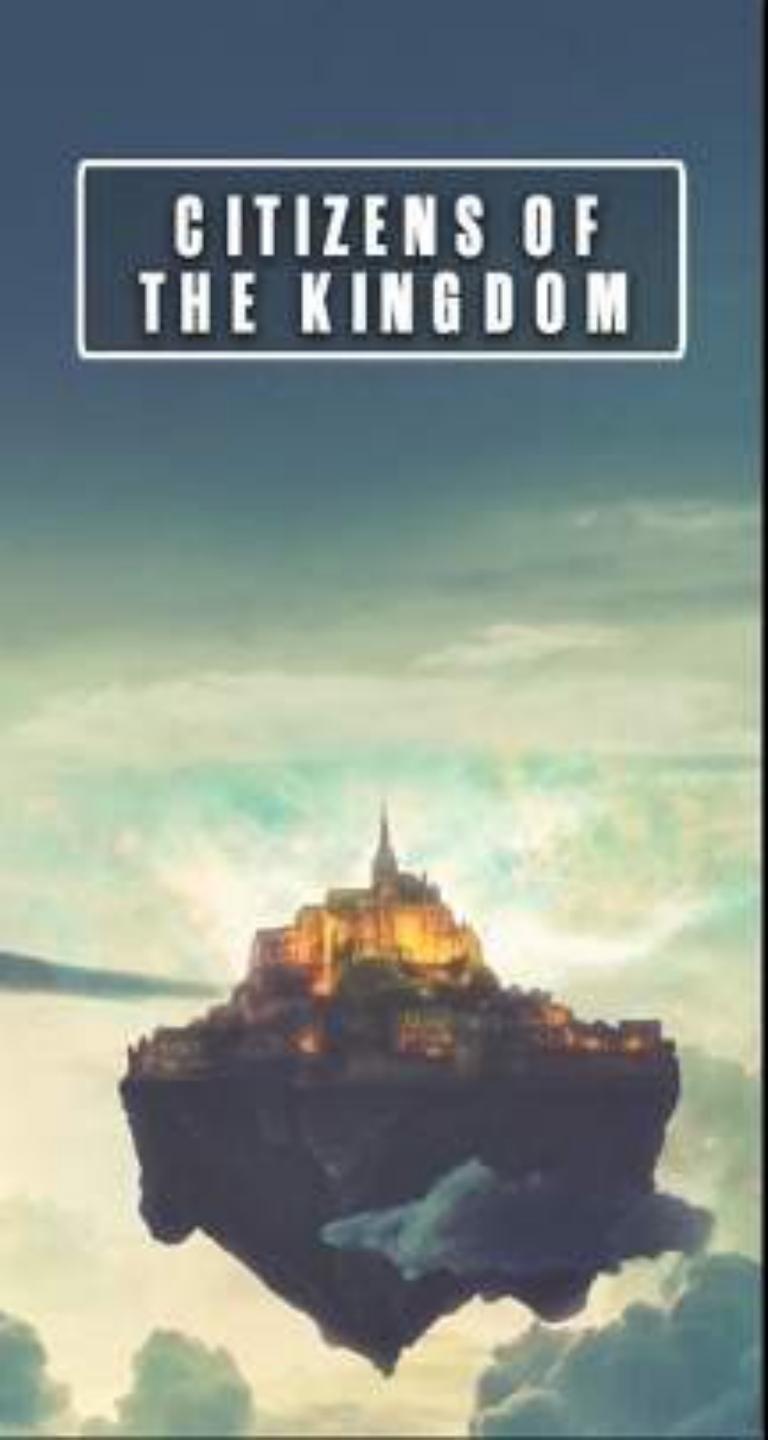
John 15:13 (NLT) — “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

1 John 4:19 (NLT) — “We love each other because he loved us first.”

1 John 4:10–11 (NLT) — “This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.”



LOVE IS THE
KEY TO THE
KINGDOM

A painting of a rocky island with a castle on top, surrounded by clouds and water.

CITIZENS OF
THE KINGDOM

THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

- Where the unlimited, uncompromising, rule of God is found in the hearts and minds of men
- Where the King reigns

KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

A photograph of a large outdoor gathering, likely a camp or retreat, at sunset. The scene is bathed in warm orange and yellow light from the setting sun. In the foreground, many people are seen from behind, sitting on the grass and talking in small groups. In the background, there's a line of trees and a distant hill. Overlaid across the upper half of the image is the title "KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS" in large, bold, white sans-serif capital letters.



KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

1. Be at Peace with Each Other

Mark 9:50 (NLT) — “Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.”

Romans 12:16 (NLT) — “Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!”

1 Thessalonians 5:13 (NLT) — “Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And **live peacefully with each other.**”

Romans 12:18 (NLT) — “Do all that you can **to live in peace** with everyone.”



CITIZENS OF
THE KINGDOM

Living in Peace:

- NOT the absence of conflict
- Working THROUGH conflict
- Don't allow conflict to DIVIDE us
- Follow the path of JESUS

Matthew 18:15 (NLT) – “If another believer sins against you, **go privately** and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

Matthew 5:23–24 (NLT) — “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, **24** leave your sacrifice there at the altar. **Go and be reconciled to that person.** Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

“If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying. **15** For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. **16** For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every

James 3:13-18 (NLT)

kind. **17** But the **wisdom from above** is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and **willing to yield to others**. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. **18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.”**

James 3:13-18 (NLT)

Matthew 5:9 (NLT) — “God blesses those **who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”**

KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

A photograph showing a group of people from behind, sitting in a large circle on a grassy field. They appear to be in a campfire or a similar outdoor gathering. The scene is lit by the warm, golden light of a setting sun, creating a silhouette effect against a bright, hazy sky.

2. Be Devoted to One Other

Romans 12:10 (NLT) — “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

Romans 12:10 (NIV84) — “**Be devoted** to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”



CITIZENS OF
THE KINGDOM

devoted

- zealous
- ardent in attachment, loyalty, or affection

1 Corinthians 12:26–27 (NLT) – “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. **27** All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”

Devoted

to One Another...

KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

A wide-angle photograph of a large outdoor gathering at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, and the silhouettes of many people are visible against the light. They are sitting on the grass in a field, facing towards the right side of the frame where a body of water or a distant landscape might be.

3. Honor One Other

Romans 12:10 (NLT) — “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

1 Corinthians 12:25 (NLT) — “This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.”



CITIZENS OF
THE KINGDOM

honor

- esteem one another
- place great value on one another

Philippians 2:3 (NLT) — “Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.”



Value others... They are God's handiwork.

KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

A photograph showing a group of people from behind, sitting in a circle on a grassy field. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows. The people are dressed in casual summer clothing like t-shirts and shorts. The scene suggests a peaceful gathering or a community event.

4. Don't Judge One Other

Romans 14:13 (NLT) — “So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.”

Romans 14:4 (NLT) — “Who are you to condemn someone else’s servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord’s help, they will stand and receive his approval.”

James 4:11 (NLT) — “Don’t speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God’s law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.”

James 5:9 (NLT) — “Don’t grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!”

A photograph of a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt with the sleeves rolled up and light-colored jeans. He is standing with his head bowed and looking down, appearing distressed or embarrassed. In the upper left corner of the image, there are several hands pointing their index fingers towards the man's head and shoulders, suggesting judgment or criticism. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**A Common
Human Failing
is to Judge
Others**



**DO NOT
JUDGE**



CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM