

Kingdom of Truth -Sunday, March 13, 2016

No government, kingdom, or ruling power is equal to or higher than God's Kingdom on Earth, because Christ rules by the power of truth!

(John 18: 33 - 38a)

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, & said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"
34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"
35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"
36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."
37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."
38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

Yes, Jesus is King!

- ✚ He came to share truth that would build His Kingdom. (John 18:37)
- ✚ He came to share the truth that God is Creator. (Mark 10:6)
- ✚ He came to share truth about sin that ruins God's creation. (Genesis 3: 14-19)
- ✚ He came to share the truth about God's love for the world. (John 3:16)

Jesus lived His life on Earth sharing truth to build His Kingdom. Are you living like Christ?_____

Evidence of being a part of God's Kingdom work on Earth is revealed when we speak and live the truth of His Word in love.

Truth spoken in love in the Church body:

(Ephesians 4: 15 – 16)

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ-
16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Truth spoken in love outside the Church body, out in the World: (I John 3: 18 – 19)

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

"Truth without love is imperious (arrogant) self-righteousness. Love without truth is cowardly self-indulgence." *Tim Keller, American Theologian & Apologist*

Being active in God's Kingdom work involves confessing who Jesus is and the truth of His Word.

(I Timothy 6: 13 – 14)

13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,
14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

Application:

As Jesus confessed the truth before Pilate....

We are urged to confess the truth
that Jesus is our King
that God is our Creator
that God hates sin that ruins lives
that the Word of God is Truth

Personal Example: Just this week, I was visiting an old friend in the hospital and their friend came in to visit. I knew he wasn't a committed Christian. I asked him about his relationship to the Lord and did he attend church. He said, he did not attend church because of what a particular Pastor had said to him. The Pastor was seeking donations for the church at an inappropriate time. I encouraged him not to judge all Pastors, Christians and Churches on what he experienced from one Pastor.

I reminded him that He is accountable for his own personal commitment to the Lord and actions. He further went on to tell me that the Nascar Races are on on Sunday mornings and that he wants to not miss them. I went on to share the truth that basically that was a form of idolatry. He was placing the car races above God and his relationship with Him. I shared the truth with him as lovingly as I could without compromising the truth.

Each of us needs to ask each day in prayer for God to open our spiritual eyes to see those who need the truth around us. We need to pray for that person and pray for the open doors to speak the truth to them. We need to all take time to look up scriptures or study the Word and prepare ourselves for sharing the truth. We need to ask the Holy Spirit for the Words to speak in truth and love.

Who can you begin praying for now, that you can share God's Truth with?

Call to Action:

This week we have been learning in our daily study of "Your Church Experiencing God Together" that when we received Christ we were born in to the family of God and placed into the Kingdom of God. We became a part of a local church family that would help teach us truth, love us, care for us, etc. Just like a Mom or Dad does for a baby born into their family. We as members of this local church family need to be actively caring for one another and sharing truth when God calls us to with each other. As children grow up and go out in to the world, we too, as maturing members of this family, should go out in to the world and share the truth we have learned with others and build the Kingdom of God. It's going to take all of us that have been placed in this local family, working together to learn and share truth with our community to touch lives for Jesus and help lay the bricks of His Kingdom.

I urge you to be committed to:

your church
prayer
study
sharing the truth
building the Kingdom

I encourage you to come tonight and spend more time with your brothers and sisters in the Lord and learn truth that you can share to build God's Kingdom.