

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Dual Citizenship

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 22:22–29**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

America is complicated. Our variety of beliefs tend to be the standard we hold to or hold others to. We can't please everyone because we all have different worldly ideas of what is right. People were lying and spreading rumors about Paul so much that he was arrested and about to be flogged. The citizens were so wrapped up in their perception of him (not reality) that they wanted Paul killed. Paul then reminds them of his Roman citizenship which proved that the flogging was unlawful. We have dual citizenship in the kingdom of man and God. **Understanding our citizenship in the kingdom of God equips us for living in the kingdom of man.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Acts 16:22-23; 2 Samuel 12; Mark 1:15; John 18:36; Ephesians 2:19-20; Philippians 3:20; Matthew 6:10; Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11,13.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the Kingdom of God? What has informed your understanding of God's kingdom, and how may that have changed over the years? In what ways has the kingdom of man influenced your understanding of God's kingdom? How are they different?
2. Typically, people react in four ways when confronted with the Gospel: indifference, interest, conviction, and frustration. Why do you think there was such hostility towards Paul from the crowd? How did Paul's Roman citizenship impact the unfolding events?
3. Pastor Joe mentioned that, "if we don't know the kingdom of God we are not equipped to live in the kingdom of man." Why do many believers struggle with understanding God's kingdom? What areas do you struggle with? In what ways is our conduct or belief different in these kingdoms? How are they meant to be similar?
4. How would you explain two-kingdom theology in your own words? Do you find this concept challenging or comforting? Why? Can you think of a specific situation where the principles of two-kingdom theology might be relevant or challenging in your own life? How can individuals balance their roles as members of both the spiritual and civil realms?
5. What challenges do you see when navigating the balance between the two kingdoms? Share examples from history, recent events, or your own experiences of these tensions.
6. How can we effectively navigate these challenges? What biblical principles or examples offer guidance in resolving this tension? How can you apply the principles of two kingdom theology in your own life?