

SERMON NOTES

Citizens Of Two Kingdoms

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Nexus Church
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Rom 13:1-14; Dan 6:1-5

opening prayer

- Hearts shaped by the values of God's kingdom, not the culture around us.
- Wisdom and revelation as we open Scripture, that we would live in the hope and light of Christ's return.

ice breaker

What's something you used to care a lot about which matters much less to you now. What changed?

overview

- **Rom 13** is a call to all of us to live faithfully as citizens of two kingdoms.
- The Lord remains sovereign over every human, government and empire.
- Self-giving love, *agape*, fulfils the law and shapes how we live.
- We live in the overlap of Christ's inaugurated kingdom and its future fulfilment.
- Hope in Christ's return calls us to clothe ourselves in Christ, not gratify the flesh.

go deeper

What does it look like to live as citizens of two kingdoms at once?

Ps Andy's sermon explores this question through **Rom 13**, examining how our faith should shape the way we engage with the world around us. The Apostle Paul argued that our witness is expressed not primarily through political commentary or cultural conformity, but through integrity, selflessness and Christlike love.

Drawing on Daniel's example in **Dan 6**, we are challenged to live with such excellence and faithfulness that our lives stand out, not because we are louder than the world, but because we reflect the character of Christ.

Paul presents love, defined by the self-giving *agape* love of Jesus, as the fulfilment of the law and the foundation of our relationships, decisions and interactions. We are called to examine if there are areas of our lives that still reflect the values of the surrounding culture more than Christ's character.

Ultimately, our citizenship in God's kingdom should be evident in how we love others, honour our responsibilities and contribute to our surrounding communities. With Christ's return drawing near, we are called to live with urgency and hope, allowing the reality of His coming kingdom to shape every area of our lives.

application 01

Identify cultural drift:

Ask Holy Spirit to highlight areas in your life you're carrying and reflecting culture, rather than being transformed by the renewing of my mind.

Reflect individually for a moment. Name it before the Lord, even write it down, continuing to consider the change He is inviting you into.

discussion

- 1** Paul was writing to The Church rather than to governments; how does this truth change the way we read **Rom 13:1-7**?
- 2** Daniel served his government with excellence while remaining faithful to the Lord. What would that type of witness look like in your world?
- 3** How does understanding love as self-giving and sacrificial change the way you love your neighbour as yourself?
- 4** What is one concrete step you can take this week to clothe yourself with Christ, choosing not to gratify the desires of your flesh?

application 02

Much like Daniel and Paul, we are encouraged to stand out from culture, all while remaining peaceful and honouring of those in leadership over us, carrying the gospel with us.

Christ will return one day to make all things new; how does knowledge of this refocus or challenge the mission of your life, today?

closing prayer

- Deepened knowledge of the great hope of Christ's return.
- Lives that shine the light of God our our families, workplaces, and neighbourhoods.
- Growing in how we bear His image as The Church; that we would be known for His unconditional, sacrificial love.