

## Kingdom-Covenant Mindset

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2.3

### Service

- God's pledge to serve and protect us
  - Mt 6:31-33, <sup>31</sup> "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"  
<sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
    - How does God serve us in covenant according to this passage?
    - How do we serve him according to this passage?
  - Eph 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us ...."
    - What services does God provide us according to this passage?
- Php 2:5-8
  - <sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
  - <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
  - <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!
- Consider Holy Spirit's interaction with Jesus
  - When did Holy Spirit descend on him?
    - Lk 3:22(a)
  - Where was Holy Spirit throughout Jesus' ministry?
    - Mt 12:28
  - Where was Holy Spirit when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane the night he was betrayed?
    - Lk 22:43
  - Mt 27:46, "About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, '*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*' – which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"
    - "have you forsaken" (Gk, v, *enkataleipo*): to desert, leave, abandon
    - What had Holy Spirit done?
  - 1 Jn 2:2, "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."
  - 2 Co 5:21(a), "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us ...."

- What effect does sin have on one's relationship with God?
- Gen 2:17, "... but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
- Mt 12:40, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
- Heb 5:5(c), "But God said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'"
- What does it mean when God says that to a person?
- Mt 28:18, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'"
- Did Jesus have authority in heaven & on earth before he came to earth?
- Did Jesus have authority in heaven & on earth while he was on earth as a human?
- Did Jesus have authority on earth when he "became sin" on the cross?
- Here's what happened:
  - The Son of God emptied himself of his divine nature & became the human, Jesus
  - Jesus the man became sin, lost his authority & died as a sinner
  - Jesus the resurrected human was born again & regained all authority in heaven & on earth
- All this was necessary for him to become the perfect sacrifice for humanity's sin, then become the firstborn of redeemed humanity

Consider the extent of Jesus' service to you and you'll have less trouble serving him.

- In a covenant, each partner pledges to serve the other; to focus on their well-being, including their needs, interests & desires
- What kingdom responsibilities or obligations for service does our covenant impose on us?
- How must this service mindset affect our thinking?
- How does a mindset of service enable us to be more effective in God's kingdom?
- How can we develop this mindset?

## Loss of Independence

- 1 Co 6:17, “But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”
- “Walk of death”
  - Symbolized surrendering their individuality, independence
  - A covenant represents total death to independent living; the two have become one
  - In covenant, we are united with God, so everything we do must accommodate him & be compatible with what he does
- 2 Co 5:15, “And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”
  - We have become one with God & have died to independent living
- Few Christians seem to realize that in the new covenant, we give up our independence when we accept God’s covenant offer, including salvation; so living for self is not an option
- Jesus as Savior and Lord
  - *kyrios* translated: Lord, ruler, master, one who commands
- Once we’re in covenant, Jesus becomes our Lord, as does God the Father
- What did God the Father and God the Son give us to facilitate their covenant with us?
- Holy Spirit’s functions
  - Jn 14:16 & 26 refer to Holy Spirit as our Counselor
  - How might Holy Spirit function in our covenant with God?
  - Acts 8:29
  - Acts 11:12
  - Acts 13:2
  - Acts 16:6-7
  - Rom 8:14
  - 1 Co 2:13

God will never do anything that makes us independent of him; instead, he gives us everything we need to live in perfect covenant harmony with him.