

The Kingdom of God Is Within You Luke 17:20-21

We enter into the Kingdom of God when the King enters into us. Kingdom "life" is not something that happens to us as much as it is Someone Who invades us. We experience the Kingdom of God when the King expresses Himself through us. And whatever, at first, we think that to be... it won't be! This King will not stay in our doctrinal and theological boxes. (That would not be a King you would respect for long!) He will not follow our charts or operate according to our timetables. (That is not a King Who will stun you and keep you on your knees before Him!) He will not conform to our political, economical or cultural models. (For you are being conformed to Him!)

When we are willing for this King to be the "Willer", all that He "is" overcomes all that He "is not" in this world (I Jo 4:4). As long as The King of Kings is governing us, the world isn't. As long as the Truth is governing us, the "lie" won't. As long as Love is governing us, fear cannot. As long as Christ the King governs us, the prince of this world will not. As long as the Spirit of Christ governs us, body or soul doesn't. If the Light of Life is governing us, we will not walk in the darkness. With the King and His Kingdom within us, we are not trying hard to defeat anything without - we are living and moving and having our being in the victory of the One within us, the One Who has overcome the world. None of the world's "negatives" can negate Him.

In Christ the King, the Kingdom of God is in our midst. That is the context in which we live. In Christ the King, He Himself dwells within our human spirits. That determines the supply, the contents we need for any contingency. In Him, we have both the context and the contents needed to honor the King of the Kingdom. Nothing or no one can prevent us from experiencing and expressing His Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:10. With such a set of our hearts and minds, we will be ever ready to give up the "good" for the "best" (Matt 13:45-46). We may present ourselves to the King as a "strand" in His net when He wants to go fishing in the sea of humanity to save someone from their distress (Matt 13:47-50). And we will certainly be ready to admit we do not have it all figured out. We stand ready to cherish the "old" and welcome the "new" - knowing that as we esteem Christ as our "treasure", we will be forever increasing our awareness of the Kingdom in our midst and enlarging our expression of the King's Life in and through us (Matt 13:51-52).

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Greetings

I Corinthians 14:1 starts with two words, "Pursue love." To find it or express it? Paul must mean to express it, because True Love has already found us in Christ. Certainly the Love of God is a gift, but it is also a choice (humans are always volitional creatures). It is a choice to enter into an operational oneness with God, a choice (daily) to get into step with the intent and action of God to be loved into being and to love others into being... all by the free gift of His Love.

We pursue love because everything can be put into the service of flesh, used and perverted by the evil one, except the perfect love of God,. Pursuing love "delivers us from the evil one" (Matt 6:13). We pursue love because our objective to love cannot be blocked - no one or nothing can stop us from loving. Make it your objective to convert, change, correct, fix, teach another... and set yourself up for frustration, anger, and defeat (a 2 year old can block that!) Pursuing love keeps us in the unblockable stream of God's purpose for His "love never fails" (I Cor 13:8). We pursue love because it is how we embrace our mission to the world. Christian love is not so much about us serving the world as it is about God serving us to the world (Jo 20:21). The results of that service are beyond our control.

It's time to stop pursuing the perfect church, the perfect family, the perfect community or culture. It's always time to love the places and people where God has placed us. The resurrection of Christ proves that when its all said and done, "love never fails!"

Happy Easter!



CALENDAR



APRIL

3,10,16

FBCA

12

Alachua Study

21-24

Baton Rouge, LA

26

Ocala Study

28 - MAY 1

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MAY 15-18

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JULY

8-10

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15-17

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Christ the King - our context & contents for life



God's perfect love which never fails



Kingdom righteousness, peace, and joy - Ro 14:17



Kingdom edifying of one another—Ro 14:19

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