

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

One Nation Under God: "We The People"

M&M Wedding Anniversary this weekend!



As you can see Mona and I have been married since the 1800s.

I want to publicly thank Karissa and John for helping us listen to the Lord for His will for us as we deal with our sexuality.

Two things stand out to me. First, both of them wanted to stay in the Kingdom so they wrestled with God about their brokenness and the absolute Truth of the Bible. Secondly, both of them had very key MENTORS God brought into their lives. They were disciplined. Did you catch that?

Our "One Nation Under God" series has been absolutely groundbreaking for the Church. It is so good that God has transformed our congregation into one where we can deal with difficult issues openly and biblically. In fact, if we cannot discuss these things from a biblical worldview, how many of us know that we will learn of these at school, from the news, or in gym class. So praise God for the experience of Kingdom and love here in our midst.

LOH Update

Everything is set. Arita-Poulson is ordering materials and construction will begin! We just paid out a million-dollar down payment, so here's my whole fundraising pitch: Listen to the Father and do whatever He says. There you have it. That's our fundraiser for the building project.

I'd like us to watch this video and then I'll comment. Jesus Heals at the Pool:
<https://youtu.be/JMj1ggINLe4>

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This man put his hope in the pool of Bethesda to heal him when he REALLY needed to do was put his hope in Christ. What we just witnessed was the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven. When JESUS SHOWS UP that becomes Kingdom space on Earth. Wherever Jesus is Present and acknowledged as King, that is Kingdom space on Earth.

Let me see if I can bend your mind a little more on this. How many of us are patriots? Who loves America and the Constitution? We just said the pledge of allegiance. I didn't see any Colin Kaepernick taking a knee. America is the greatest country on God's green Earth.

But be careful with your nationalism. Let me say that again. Be careful with your nationalism and your patriotism.



Is America a Christian nation? Loaded question, I know.



The best answer: WITHIN America there are Kingdom spaces.

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And WITHIN the same America there are HELL SPACES. America abolished slavery. Kingdom space. But the Ku Klux Klan are Americans too. Hell space.

"For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst," (Luke 17:21 TLW).

Let's meditate on these words of Jesus together. (And I hope you will discuss it at your family Shabbat tonight.) Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is "not of this world" but at the same time "all around us." In fact, even within the Church, you can have both Kingdom space and Hell space. Look at your family. You have both Kingdom space and Hell space. (Hopefully, more Kingdom space than Hell these days.) In fact, within each one of us is the potential for both Kingdom and Hell.

So the Kingdom of God is not a country, not a state, not a city, not a political party, and not even a church organization. What is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of Heaven in the mind of Christ is not relegated to a place. Heaven is a Person. The Kingdom of Heaven is all about the King of Heaven, Jesus. So wherever we experience the Manifest Presence of the King and He is acknowledged as King, that is His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Going to church doesn't necessarily mean you're in the Kingdom. Tattooing a cross on your arm doesn't either. Here it is, living in obedience to your King means you are in Kingdom space. But I should add, as soon as you don't obey Him, you're back in Hell space. But as soon as you obey again, you're back in Kingdom space. Catching on?

At this point, you're probably squirming in your seat wondering, "I raised my hand to accept Christ a couple of Easters ago, and I thought that was all I had to do! Am I going to make it to Heaven?" That is an excellent question, and we're going to do an entire series on that this Fall, called the "Unpreached Gospel of Jesus."

For now, let me summarize Kingdom space this way:

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The Kingdom of Heaven is wherever the KING and His VALUES reign supreme.

So our HOPE is in CHRIST. Our HOPE is not in America, not in any political party, not Donald Trump or Joe Biden, not in anything of this world. Our HOPE is in CHRIST ALONE.

We are to bring KINGDOM SPACES on the Earth and dismantle Hell spaces. Are you there?

Our hope is not even in the Church, but in the One who LIVES in the Church. Got it? Discuss this around your Shabbat table tonight.

Ok, now that we've bent your mind toward what the Kingdom of Jesus REALLY is, let's talk about ONE NATION UNDER GOD and our Kingdom responsibility to bring KINGDOM SPACE to our NATION.

Two mistakes churches make regarding government because we don't understand KINGDOM.

Two Mistakes Churches Make: PARTISAN VS. SILENT

I want to thank my brother, Pastor Earl, for sending us a great article (Gospel Coalition by Matt Hawkins) on this some weeks ago. It helped me to find the words I was looking for to communicate this to you.

Partisan churches take a political side. They're like, "We're a Democrat Church, and if you're not a Democrat then you're not a Christian! Or, "We're a Republican Church, and if you don't vote Republican, then you're not a Christian!"

In light of what we now know the Kingdom of Heaven is, can you see how off-base that is? So we are NOT a PARTISAN Church.

Silent Churches are the opposite. They are right about not being partisan. Or are they? Can't tell because they are SILENT. These churches don't talk about politics at all because it's too divisive. Pastors are afraid that people will leave or get angry, and there goes your tithe money for salaries.

But here's the thing about silent churches: they are already divided. They have people in their churches thinking all kinds of things, but the pastor refuses to disciple them from a biblical worldview.

Here's what Pastor Earl's article said, very profound:

"When our church remains silent, virtually all our opinions about how Christians should engage politics come from influences other than Scripture and the guidance of our church."

- Matthew Hawkins

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So we don't want to be a partisan church, but we also can't remain silent. So what do we do? Here at NHCO, we will NEVER tell you who to vote for, but we will absolutely DISCIPLE you to make a prayerful, informed choice. Our job is to DISCIPLE you so you will be empowered to make the best decision about who to vote for.

Someone might say, "Just tell me who to vote for, Mike, I trust you." Nope. Not going to do it. Our prayer is that you will have the INFORMATION you need to make the best choice you can make as you exercise your Kingdom Authority to vote.

We did this series because we want you to pray with all your heart, become a better critical thinker, and grow in your Spiritual discernment as you exercise your Kingdom authority to vote.

Up until 1776, the world only knew one kind of governance. Before 1776, the leader of every country was either a king or an emperor or a dictator of some kind. Read this:

"God controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars," (Daniel 2:21 NLT).

In 1776 God deposed the English King George III, the evil tyrant of the American colonies, and he set up a new administration.

Who is the king in America? Joe Biden?

We the people

Turn to the American citizen next to you and say, "You are the king of America." Now turn to another person and say, "I'm the king of America."

By an act of God, WE THE PEOPLE were made the kings of America. So how's your country doing, your majesty?

Now obviously, we can't all go to the State Capitol and govern. We elect servants to govern for us. We give them our consent to govern on our behalf. What happens if they don't do a good job? You have a chance to fire them, and put someone else in charge. That's called voting. And it is powerful.

Communist China cannot fire its president. N Korea is stuck with Kim Jong Un. Iranians, Cubans, and Venezuelans do not get to give their consent. They live under brutal dictatorships. But you, on the other had, are the king in America (for now).

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On August 13, you get to vote in the primary. Then Tuesday, Nov 8, is the General election.

Your country awaits to know your decision, your majesty. How will you vote?

Now let me disciple you on how to think about voting. Just like God appointed you the king of America in 1776, so too the final vote tally is in the hands of God. If the party you voted for doesn't win, then we trust God with that result. You just need to exercise your Kingdom authority to make your voice heard, and don't lose shalom.

Voting is like riding the bus. The bus will not take you to your house, but it will get you close. Then you have to walk or uber the rest of the way. In the same way, you will not find any perfect candidates or political parties out there. There are Kingdom spaces and Hell spaces in BOTH of the major parties. Hope in Christ, not politics.

So here are some guidelines for you. As a Kingdom person who wants to bring Kingdom space into our land, ask the Lord, "What is the biggest Kingdom challenge facing our country today?" Then hop on the bus of the party that will get you there. Remember, the bus will not take you to your house, but it can get you close.

For example, some Christians are like Elon Musk, and they believe Climate Change is the biggest problem facing the world today. Elon is building a rocket ship to Mars and Teslas, so this is his issue. If you believe that too, then you definitely do NOT want to vote Republican. They will not do anything to affect Climate Change.

If you believe Abortion is the biggest problem, then you do NOT want to vote Democrat. Democrats will not do anything to stop abortion.

Interesting that Elon is now more concerned about free speech, so he's voting Republican this time around. Might change his mind back to Climate Change later. Who knows.

My next guideline for voting is...

Vote for a party, not a candidate.

So here's how the government is working these days. Once candidates win the election and go to the State Capitol or DC, they vote in lockstep with their party. Very rarely, in fact, almost never, do you see someone break ranks and vote with the opposite party.

So for example, you can vote for a Republican who wants to affect climate change, but his PARTY will not do anything. You can vote for a pro-life Democrat, but his PARTY will do nothing to stop abortion. Because they all vote as one, your vote becomes ineffective.

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So to get the maximum impact out of your vote, discern the major Kingdom challenge of the day, and vote for the PARTY—not the candidate—that will take you on the best bus route home.

So bottom line, I recommend looking at the whole party, not individual candidates, because they will vote as a block at the end of the day.

Remember, the Church will never tell you who to vote for, but we are mandated by the King to disciple you in how to be the best king/queen that America needs right now.

So what is your decision, your majesty?

Remember, in the final analysis...

We're not for the Donkey or the Elephant, we're for the Lion and the Lamb.

Grab the study guide for this message online. There are some discussion questions for Shabbat and your personal mediation.

Can I make a confession to you before we go? During the pandemic, I thought about moving to Texas. And if you did move to Texas, more power to you. I love you and there's nothing you can do about it.

But as I was scanning websites for a house in Texas, it was as if the Lord showed up. "Mike, where are you going?" Immediately, Jonah popped in my head. You remember Jonah, right? God told him to go preach to bring revival to Ninevah (the sworn enemy of Israel), but he sailed away in the opposite direction. And then the fish, well, you know the rest of the story. Revival broke out anyway.

So I changed my mind about sailing away to Texas. God is building us a beautiful new church in Mililani Mauka. Got the permits, got the loan, and we're trusting God will fund it.

I'm not going anywhere. I'm staying right here with you to fight for Kingdom space in Hawaii. In fact, I've decided I would rather die than surrender Hawaii to the Devil.

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Questions for Shabbat Discussion and Meditation

1. Is there a "Pool of Bethesda" thing in your life, ie, something you're depending on for your Shalom other than Jesus?
2. Where is the Kingdom of God on Earth? Define "Kingdom space" and "Hell space." How can you tell the difference? What defines "Kingdom space?"
3. What are the two mistakes churches make regarding the government sphere?
4. Who is king in America? How did that happen?
5. Why won't the Church tell us who to vote for? How does the Church empower us to make an informed choice?
6. How is voting like riding The Bus?
7. Why should you vote for a political party instead of a candidate?
8. By faith, as best as you can discern it, what is the biggest Kingdom challenge in America/Hawaii today?