

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOW SHIP

Kingdom Citizens

Jesus told us to ask the Father for His kingdom,

Matthew 6:9-10

- So we are, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

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We are asking, mindful of what He said His answer would look like

- **Matthew 13:24-52 & 20:1-16**

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*We ask realizing that **the kingdom is defined by the King***

- He does not authorize us to define it for Him
- Or change His definition, by adding or subtracting anything

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*We are asking, knowing He told us **His kingdom is otherworldly!***

- **John 18:36**, Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world**. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight... but now My kingdom is not from here."
- So, **His servants don't fight for worldly power in His name**

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*The question remains, **who** will be citizens of His kingdom?*

- According to **His definitions** of citizenship

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*Many want to **take life** from God on their own terms... like Eve...*

- **Matthew 11:12**, "the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

- Rather than receive it, **trusting that the One who made us** knows what works & how

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*Jesus, who **IS** God, **hasn't left us guessing** about life's definitions*

- He wants us to **receive** life to the full
- **He gave His life so we could**

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Matthew 3:1-2 & 13-17, In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**"

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

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Matthew 16:24-17:2, Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of

Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. **Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**”

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. **His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.**

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Revelation 1:10-15, I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. **His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters**

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Mark 12:29-34, Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Matthew 22:40)

So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**”

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Luke 9:57-62, Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and **preach the kingdom of God.**” And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**”

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John 3:1-6, There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” **Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” **Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of**

God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

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What is a major change of being born again of the Spirit?

- *We are no longer king of our own life*
- *We become **subjects of The King!***
- *Living life **by His definitions***

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Matthew 22:1-14, And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: **“The kingdom of heaven is like** a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

(Matthew 13:47-50) *Both promote open invitations into the kingdom!*

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and

cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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Matthew 25:1-13, “Then **the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to** ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

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Vs. 14-30, “For **the kingdom of heaven is like** a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.”

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Vs. 31-46, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, **then He will sit on the throne of His glory.**”

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There are those who are separated from Him because they do not willingly cooperate with His known will and ways.

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There are others separated from Him because they attempt to impose their ways on Him

- *Even ways of living He has warned us cannot inherit His kingdom*

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I Corinthians 6:9-11, Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither** fornicators, **nor** idolaters, **nor** adulterers, **nor** homosexuals, **nor** sodomites, **nor** thieves, **nor** covetous, **nor** drunkards, **nor** revilers, **nor** extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God.**

And such were some of you. **But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

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Galatians 5:19-21, Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish

ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

.....
And such were some of you. But **you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

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I John 1:8-10, If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** If we say that we have not sinned, **we make Him a liar**, and His word is not in us.

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Romans 5:8, But God **demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Hebrews 4:14-16, Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our

weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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There are two great robberies from denying sin, or denying God:

- 1) Christ is robbed of those He loves and sacrificed His life for
- 2) Those separated from Him are robbed of the eternal love & acceptance He paid for

The worst criminals are those who tell people God accepts their sinful lives

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John 1:12-13, But as many as received Him (who He is), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

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To any who are deciding between life on your own, or life in His love...

- I implore you, **receive Him now**
- There is no good reason not to

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- **The Big Question**
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- Who does He receive into His kingdom?