

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Governing Freedom Together

Is The Church more important to you than the United States?

- What would someone monitoring your life conclude?
- What if you lived in China, Sudan or Syria?

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Does God value The Church or Nations most?

- Where can you live completely free in His freedom?

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What does freedom cost?

- **Responsibility.**

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*How has God ordained **the government of freedom**?*

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*He offers **three realms of government** to provide safety and freedom for those willing to live in His revealed ways:*

- **Personal, corporate and civil** government

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*They are designed to be **interdependent***

- In that sequential order. They are not interchangeable
- Last week we looked at **governing our personal lives**
- How we do that determines who we are in **every environment**

*God's second realm of governing is **our corporate freedom***

- Isn't that the same as governing our personal life?
- Yes & No. **We can only choose to surrender & submit ourselves**
- And He calls us all to do that together

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***I Peter 5:5**, Yes, all of you be submissive (subject) to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

- Translations that only say humility weaken it

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*God's **freedom, like love** is expressed & experienced in relationship*

- Neither are empowered in isolated individuality
- **Proverbs 18:1**, Isolation fuels selfishness
- We give to each other what we receive from God

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***Philippians 2:1-5**, Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but **in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus*

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Does government of corporate & personal freedom have the same purpose?

- Yes, though **together it is multiplied**, not just added to
- We are **more of who He is together**, John 17:20-23
- **How free are Jesus and the Father together?**
- That's His will for us together

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I John 4:17, Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we** in this world.

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The second realm of the government of freedom is **the place of true Power!**

- It is **eternal** vs. **temporal** authority & consequences
- It's in the middle of the three, like the meat in a sandwich

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John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. By this **all will know that you are My disciples**, if you have love for one another."

- Because it presents both **the greatest power**, and the greatest **vulnerability**.
- We are **free to be vulnerable** in the love of Christ

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This second governmental freedom is transitional...

- And the place where many Christians **confuse the three** ordinations
- And as a result, **compromise & disempower** them
- We'll see that clearly with the civil government of freedom

The enemy would rather **corrupt our corporate freedom...**

- Than rule in civil government
- Because our corporate freedom has **the power to transform lives**

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Christ lived & died to redeem & restore our corporate freedom

- Not isolated individuals...
- Not our civil government, here or in any other country
- **He is coming back for His Church**; not nations

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He didn't try to **change, challenge** or even **influence** Rome's authority

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John 18:33-38, Then Pilate called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight... You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world"

Pilate went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

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U.S. & Washington governments both do things contrary to God's Word, will & ways

- Should that influence the church's conduct or identity?
- Not at all.
- "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- **By who?**

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God's Church is not an appendage of civil government

- And government is not an expression of The Church

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*Any Christian who does not know that **government is irrelevant to who The Church is**, is headed for trouble.*

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Our God given corporate government of His Church, the Body of Christ, is to fully represent the freedom of who Jesus is together. Nothing else.

- ***I John 4:17**, Love has been perfected **among us** in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we** in this world.*
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*Will that be influential? If so, among **who**, and **how**?*

- *Only among those willing to be governed by God, **personally & together***
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If the church lives to influence, rather than to be influential...

- *Some people will come just because it serves their agenda*
 - *Rather than serving who Christ is*
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So... how would He have us to govern our corporate freedom together?