

The Modern Anabaptist
“Two Kingdom Concept”
In The Light Of Scripture

“Has God Ordained A Kingdom
Opposed To His Own?”

*It is written, Man shall not live
by bread alone, but by Every Word
That Proceedeth Out Of The
Mouth Of God.*

Matthew 4:3

Titus J. Bullen

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It is possible that, due to depraved choices and corrupt ideologies, most of the people holding God ordained civil offices today are actually serving Satan’s kingdom. The following questions, though, are not about the *personal holiness* or *sinfulness* of the individuals who fill public office, nor of *how well* individuals are filling their God-ordained position; ***Rather...*** these questions are about the God-ordained positions themselves, and what **God’s intentions** were when He set them up: ***whether God in setting up civil government was setting up a kingdom in opposition to His own, and if a God-fearing individual can conscientiously obey what God commands His servants to do in these positions, or if God’s commands for His servants in these positions are actually contrary to the very nature of God and His Kingdom?***

Question # 1

Do you believe that the “Two Kingdoms” are Christ’s Spiritual Kingdom vs. the God-ordained civil governments on earth (Rom. 13)?

Question # 2

If so, would it not mean that, not only the people filling the offices in civil governments, but the very God-ordained offices themselves are set up by God in opposition to God and His Kingdom; so that *God is setting up, ordaining, and telling his “citizens” to be faithful supportive citizens of a kingdom in opposition to His own... (Rom. 13)* Would this not make God and

His citizens hypocrites? Or at least His Kingdom divided against itself? How then can God's Kingdom stand? (Mt. 12:24-28, Mk 3:22-27, Lk 11:15-23)

Question # 3

If you believe that earthly kingdoms are necessarily in opposition to Christ's Kingdom because they have an earthly territory, and use force to keep law and order, as God commanded; would that not mean that the Apostle Paul (a Roman citizen) was a citizen of a kingdom in opposition to Christ's Kingdom while also being a chosen apostle of Jesus Christ? How could this be???

Question # 4

If you say the God-ordained offices of civil authority are unable to be filled by a person who has the LOVE of God (*who ordained the offices*) in his heart because the offices are part of Satan's kingdom; **then are God and Satan on not so unfriendly terms after all?** Does God's LOVE ordain offices that God's Love cannot fulfill; but must be filled by those without God's Love? OR, does the God who IS LOVE sometimes ordain things that are unloving? Do you see where this type of teaching leads?

Question # 5

Since the Bible says that a Christian leader (apostle, elder, etc) in Christ's Kingdom should also be a productive citizen of the earthly kingdom in which he lives, how is it different for a God-ordained civil authority to also be a "citizen" of Christ's Kingdom?

Explained: I do NOT mean that a civil ruler should evangelize with the "sword" anymore than a father should threaten his children with the "rod" if they don't accept Christ... Although both the sword and the rod are appropriate and commanded by God in certain situations!! But shouldn't a judge ask God for Wisdom and

Grace to do his job the way God intends it to be done. To say that God ordained civil authority positions, but can only fill them with sinners, is to say that God ordained sin. Or that God needs sinners to do His “dirty work”. **Does God command sin?? Has He ever?? God forbid!!** Once again, it puts a shadow on God’s Character! Are we to follow such an example?? Mt. 5:48

We don’t believe that ANY of God’s Will is wrong for a Christian to fulfill when they have the proper jurisdiction! And it CANNOT be, that God would command something that Christians won’t have the jurisdiction to implement unless they join an opposing kingdom!

To avoid misunderstandings about what exact beliefs I’m targeting, I have below a few quotes from Anabaptist sources:

*“The Bible very clearly states that there are **two kingdoms**, and that God does not want chaos in this earth. So He governs the kingdoms of this earth, and makes them to be kept together from the fear of the sword; and so they’ve been given the sword. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. And so, **These two are opposites.**”* --Dean Taylor

“No Christian is a ruler and no ruler is a Christian” -- Peter Riedemann

*“Jesus did not believe, as the Jews of His time did, that a more righteous government was necessarily God’s will” “There is no position in...civil government that can be filled without resisting evil or loving...the world...no Christian can long continue as a government official...A Christian devoted to obeying the Bible cannot survive indefinitely in two roles that are **as opposite as day and night.**” “The New Testament...does not give any basis on which a government may be considered godly. The state does not need to be Christian; in fact, **it cannot be Christian.**”* -- Michael Martin, *Pilgrims & Politics*

These quotes I believe are representative of the common “Two Kingdom” concept that most modern Anabaptists are teaching today. And although we definitely DO BELIEVE in “two kingdoms”, we **DO NOT** believe that the **“two opposing kingdoms” are both**

God ordained! Does God *justify or give credence to Satan's kingdom?*

I believe that **the two opposing kingdoms are God's Kingdom vs. Satan's kingdom, NOT God-ordained civil authority (Rom 13) vs. God-ordained ecclesiastical authority!**

The two kingdoms are addressed by the Lord Jesus in Mt 12:22, *Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. 25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation;** and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: 26 **And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?** 27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. 28 **But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.** 29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. 30 **He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.***

Jesus clearly says the designation of God's Kingdom vs. Satan's kingdom rests on **whose agenda is being advanced** and **whose power is operating**. This applies to any person in any office: father, bishop, deacon, governor, judge, or king. They can serve either kingdom – Rom 6:16-19. Satan will not advance God's Kingdom against himself; and God will likewise not advance Satan's.

Question # 6

Wouldn't it be right for civil authorities today to strive to live by the two greatest commandments, **LOVE** for God 1st and people 2nd, that were the basis for all the laws God ever gave for civil authorities? (Matt. 22:35-40, Mk 12:28-34, Lk 10:25-28) Do you even believe that would be possible?

Jesus said that THIS LOVE, the Two Greatest Commandments of God's Law, was the **basis for everything God ever commanded!** And His commandments were often directives to leaders in government.

Consider: God deemed adultery to not only be a moral crime, but also a civil crime, like murder; and therefore punishable by the civil authorities. But the root sins in the heart such as lust, hate, envy, pride, etc. though condemned in the Old Covenant, were not civilly punishable in a court of law unless acted out in a criminal offense. God never commanded stoning for someone who coveted, but it WAS condemned in the O.T. (Ex 20:17, De 5:21). Such sins were, and still are, a personal problem between man and God; and as such, are to be dealt with by the father in the home, and preached against by the ecclesiastical authorities. But the ultimate punishment for sin in the heart that doesn't express itself in an outward crime is left to God's judgment. It is the same principle today as under Moses' Law.

NOTE: In case someone believes that God only expected the Israelites to keep the ceremonies, and not actually have a relationship with God or be converted, as I've heard at times; read [Ps 19:7-14](#), [Ps 119](#), [Pro 25:21-22](#), [De 5:21](#) [De 6:4-6](#), [Lev 19:17-18 & 19:33-34](#), [Rom 13:8-10](#), and many others... Jesus also expected Nicodemus to understand what it meant to be born-again. (John 3:1-10)

Question # 7

If the God-ordained earthly governments are an opposing kingdom to Christ's Kingdom, would not the citizenry also be part of that opposing kingdom? In other words, if the position of "sheriff" is wrong for a Christian because it is part of a kingdom in opposition to Christ's, would it not, for the same reason, be wrong for a Christian to be a CITIZEN of that "Christ opposing kingdom"?

Yet...we KNOW that it's right for citizens of Christ's Kingdom (members of the Church) to be productive, obedient, tax-paying citizens of the earthly kingdoms where they live! (Jesus, Peter and Paul were...)

The Apostle Paul in Rom 11:16 says "For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches." I understand that this is a different context, but wouldn't that same principle also apply to what God intended for civil authority and society? **If the civil authorities are necessarily part of an "evil kingdom in opposition to Christ's" simply because of the God-ordained positions they fill, then is not the citizenry also part of that "Christ opposing kingdom"? There's no such thing as a kingdom without citizens...** So if the leaders are necessarily in opposition to Christ because they are part of an "earthly kingdom," then the citizenry is also necessarily in opposition to Christ because they are just as much a part of the "earthly kingdom" as the leaders. **If society is set up by God in opposition to God, then it's just as wrong to be a citizen in a "Christ opposing kingdom" as it is to be the leader!** If the head is evil, so is the body!

So if that doctrine is true, then we should prohibit citizens of Christ's Kingdom from **not just** being leaders, **but also** from being

citizens of any earthly kingdom (Satan's kingdom according to that false doctrine)?

I DO believe that the "Church" and the "State" have separate roles, but so does the "Church" and the "Family". We believe that the Church *government* and State *government* are to be separate, but that doesn't mean that God intended for them to be in opposition! If it did, then God set up and ordained opposing kingdoms, and is essentially amusing Himself with playing both sides of a chessboard! If God is thus setting up His opposition, and fighting against Himself, how then shall His Kingdom stand? (Mt. 12:24-28, Mk 3:22-27, Lk 11:15-23) And how is God Holy, Just, Loving, Honest, etc.?

On the other hand, if they were NOT intended to be in opposition, but simply filling different God-ordained roles; would that not be similar to the separate God-ordained roles of "Father" and "Bishop" as I mentioned earlier? Just because a "Bishop" is also a "Father" does NOT give him the authority to evangelize or exercise church discipline with the "rod" anymore than the magistrate has the authority to evangelize with the "sword". But we know that doesn't mean that the bishop shouldn't use the rod in his own home. In the same way, a magistrate should also and only use the "sword" as God commanded him. Nobody is so foolish to say, ***"Since a father can't always just 'turn the other cheek' when disciplining his children; a man who would follow ALL the teachings of Christ cannot be a father."*** We know that to say such a thing would be taking Scripture completely out of context, and making it contradict itself.

Moreover, just because Bishops don't spank disobedient members, we don't take that to mean that, ***"followers of Jesus can't be fathers, because fathers have to use the rod."*** Such belief would be ridiculous, yet it is very similar to what is often

taught when it comes to God-ordained authority using the sword in the way God commanded.

Furthermore, **nobody** takes the teachings of *loving all men* (including enemies), *not resisting evil*, and *turning the other cheek* to mean that God no longer wants Godly fathers to spank their children according to Scripture. We all see that this would also be contradictory and foolish. We, accordingly, understand that turning the other cheek is in a certain context of interpersonal relationships and **does not** mean that authorities are relieved of their responsibility of keeping order under their jurisdiction. A father should still spank his child for slapping him in the face. It's all a matter of jurisdiction and duty! **ALL Scripture IS CONSISTENT WITH ITSELF when understood in its proper context!** Our perfectly appropriate God is trying to teach us to be appropriate according to our jurisdiction and duty by **ALL HIS WORD**. All things that God *Ordains* will be advancing the same Ethic of LOVE that undergirds the declaration: **GOD IS LOVE ...or it is simply not true.**

Final Thoughts & Questions:

- Do you believe that the civil authorities today are automatically part of Satan's kingdom simply because of the God-ordained office which they fill...**Even if they do their job exactly how God says they should?**
- Or do you believe that, just like all citizens, civil authorities can choose to forward either God's Kingdom or Satan's kingdom based on whose principles they implement wherever they have jurisdiction?
- Do you believe that a godless heathen, who lives by selfish love, is better qualified than a Christian man, living by God's LOVE, to fill the God-ordained position of being God's

“revenger” to “execute wrath upon him that doeth evil” and to “praise them that do good”? ...EVEN when **Jesus said that ALL the laws given to “God’s revenger”** (as well as everyone else) **were based on God’s LOVE?** GOD IS LOVE! HE HAS NEVER COMMANDED ANYTHING UNLOVING...EVER! Do you believe that? Do you see how most false doctrines, though almost always clothed in false piety, are an attack on the LOVE OF GOD? Who would inspire such doctrines ...*or follow them?* In order to slander God, Satan just redefines LOVE. Most false doctrine is simply this: The wrong definition of LOVE. LET GOD’S WORD – ALL OF IT – DEFINE HIS TERMS.

- **Does God need to use wicked people to fill Satan’s positions that God has ordained within Satan’s kingdom?** And does God then call His people to honor, obey, and financially support these satanic “ministers of God” so that they can punish the evil, and praise the good? (Rom. 13) **Doesn’t this sound like total confusion?!?** Again...like God is playing chess with Himself?

I hope you don’t feel that I’m just trying to build a straw man. I realize that maybe you wouldn’t take these beliefs as far as some have, or maybe you have a way of explaining how what I’ve presented here actually isn’t the logical conclusion of what you believe after-all.

If so, please explain to me from Scripture how the God-ordained civil authorities can be part of a “different kingdom than Christ’s,” to the point that public officials have to resign from their God-ordained position within that other “kingdom” to be a follower of Christ, yet we as followers of Christ are commanded to be supportive citizens of (*but never authorities in?*) that other “kingdom”.

And explain how Christ and His Father can be One, when according to my understanding of your belief, the FATHER has ordained, and commanded Christ's followers to be supportive citizens of, a kingdom in opposition to Christ's Kingdom. Once again... Is Christ's Kingdom divided? Jesus also supported the death penalty (Mk 7:6-13)

Satan's kingdom is certainly a spiritual kingdom as is Christ's Kingdom, but set up in opposition to Christ's. Both have been represented in human governments. See Dan 10:13, 20; Mt 12:22-30

Conclusion:

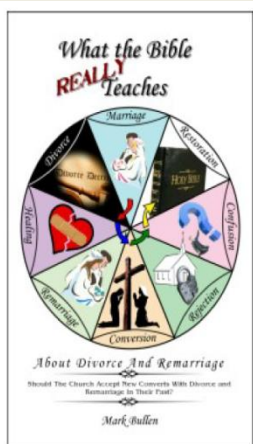
We believe that the “two kingdoms” are both spiritual (God's & Satan's), and we as humans on earth choose which spiritual kingdom we serve by whose principles we implement wherever we have jurisdiction.

I, personally, would avoid getting too involved in today's governments because of where they DISOBEY God; However, most modern “Anabaptists” would not get involved because of where the governments OBEY God (in using force to put down evil, which God clearly commanded in the Scripture)

May God help us receive and find as we continue sincerely asking and seeking for the Truth of His Kingdom 1st!!!

-Titus J. Bullen

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