

# Borderline Living

## Introduction:

- A. A man during civil war lived near border and wore blue coat and grey pants.
- B. There are but two spiritual kingdoms in the world.
  - 1. Power (kingdom) of darkness or the kingdom of the Son (Col. 1:13, 14)
  - 2. Broad or the narrow way (Matt. 7:13-14).
- C. Each of us occupies one of three positions to these kingdoms.
  - 1. Clearly in Satan's kingdom.
  - 2. Clearly in the Lord's kingdom.
  - 3. Trying to live on the border between the two (cf. Rev. 3:15; 1 Kings 18:21 ASV)
- D. Two kinds of people who are living close to the border:

## Discussion:

### I. Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

- A. The Devil does not mind one entering the Kingdom – if he stays near the border (cf. Ex. 8:28).
  - 1. Want to be considered faithful, without really being faithful.
  - 2. Want to avoid discipline, without real commitment.
- B. There are two areas along the border that Christians need to watch:
  - 1. Areas where the line is clearly marked:
    - a. Between honesty and dishonesty (cf. Rom. 12:17).
    - b. Between stealing and honest labor (Eph. 4:28).
    - c. Between lying and truth (Eph. 4:25)
    - d. Between fornication and marriage (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:2).
    - e. Yet, some see how close they can get to the edge without falling off.
  - 2. Areas where the line may not be always as clearly marked:
    - a. Between modesty and immodest apparel (1 Tim. 2:9).
    - b. Between long (feminine) and short (masculine) hair (1 Cor. 11:14-15)
    - c. Between faithfulness and unfaithfulness.
    - d. Between “Christian graces” and their opposites (2 Pet. 1:5-8)
    - e. Christians should go with the “clearly so” rather than “might be.” (Cf. Rom. 14:23)

### II. Citizens of the Kingdom of Satan.

- A. Many live their lives close to the kingdom of God, but never in it.
  - 1. People like the scribe (cf. Mk. 12:32-34)
  - 2. People like the chief rulers (John 12:42).
  - 3. People like Felix (Acts 24:25).
  - 4. People like Agrippa (Acts 26:28).
  - 5. Many good moral and religious people.
- B. “Close only counts in horseshoes.”
  - 1. Moses was close enough to Canaan to see it. (Num. 20; Deut. 34:1-6)
  - 2. Foolish virgins close enough to supper to speak to the Lord through the door (Matt. 25:1-12).
  - 3. Rich young ruler close enough to eternal life to inquire and lack one thing (Luke 18:18-23).

## Conclusion:

- A. Where are you living your life?
  - 1. Clearly in the Devil's kingdom, where no one will reasonably mistake you for a Christian?
  - 2. Clearly in the Lord's kingdom, where no one will reasonably doubt that you are a Christian?
- B. If you are not a faithful Christian, how close are you?
  - 1. As an alien sinner, just few acts of obedience from the heart away?
  - 2. As an erring Christian, just a sincere confession and prayer away?