

“My Kingdom Is Not of this World”

John 18:36

Introduction:

- A. Pilate’s question (v. 33).
- B. Jesus’ answer and explanation (vs. 36, 37)
- C. Pilate’s verdict (v. 38).
- D. Pilate’s title and Jews’ objection (19:18-22).
- E. Jesus used “kingdom” and “church” interchangeably. (Matt. 16:18-19).
 - 1. Saved added to church. (Acts 2:47)
 - 2. Saved conveyed (translated) into kingdom. (Col. 1:13, 14).
- F. Jesus’ kingdom is not of the world in several *respects*:

Discussion:

I. Its *Nature* Is Not of this World.

- A. Kingdoms of world are carnal and temporal.
 - 1. Propagated and defended by carnal means.
 - 2. One passes away another established - all eventually pass.
- B. Kingdom of Christ is spiritual and eternal.
 - 1. Internal rather than external. (Lk. 17:20,21)
 - 2. Propagated and defended by spiritual means. (Eph. 6:13-17; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).
 - 3. Will never be destroyed. (Dan. 2:44)

II. Its *Head* Is Not of this World.

- A. Earthly heads are geographically oriented - not Christ.
 - 1. Christ has no earthly headquarters. (Acts 2:30-33).
 - 2. Christ has no territorial jurisdiction. (Acts 10:35; Mk. 16:15).
- B. Earthly heads are politically oriented - not Christ.
 - 1. Christ is not controlled by the will of the people. (Lk. 6:46).
 - 2. Christ cannot be pressured by criticism. (Matt. 15:12-14)
- C. Earthly heads are fragile and faulty - not Christ.
 - 1. Christ is strong and lasting (Heb. 7:21-28).
 - 2. Christ is infallible. (John 21:17; 1 Pet. 2:22).
 - 3. Christ is perfectly righteous (2 Tim. 4:8).

III. Its *Law* Is Not of this World.

- A. Civil laws are temporary - word of God is forever. (1 Pet. 1:23, 25).
- B. Civil laws by human wisdom - word of God by divine inspiration. (2 Tim. 3:16,17).
- C. Civil laws can be changed and amended - word of God cannot. (Gal. 1:8,9; Rev. 22:18-19).

IV. Its *Standards* Are Not of this World.

- A. Standard of greatness. (Matt. 18:1-4)
- B. Standard of conduct. (Eph. 2:1-10).
- C. Standard of success.
 - 1. By worldly standards Jesus was failure.
 - 2. By worldly standards apostles were failures.
 - 3. By worldly standards church at Jerusalem a failure. (Acts 8:3, 4)
 - 4. By worldly standards churches at Sardis and Laodicea were successes. (Rev. 3:1; 17,18).

Conclusion:

- A. Let’s not be unduly influenced by worldly kingdoms in our concepts.
- B. Let’s respect its nature, head, law and standards.