**God’s Two Kingdoms**

**Lesson 1: Introduction**

1. An Age Old Question: The Church, the Christian, and Culture
   1. Insufficient approaches
      1. Mennonite/Amish/Fundamentalist (share a common approach-isolation)
      2. Rauschenbusch and the Social Gospel (*Christianizing the Social Order*)
         1. Liberation Theology
      3. Neibuhr: *Christ and Culture*
      4. Reconstructionism/Theonomy (Rushdoony: *Institutes of Biblical Law*, Bahnsen)
      5. Transformationalism (in reality, a form of d but with some, but not entirely so, different cultural/political goals)
      6. Christian Nationalism
   2. The approach of this Study
      1. Calvin’s twofold government in man:
      2. J. Gresham Machen’s *Chrisitanity and Liberalism*
         1. Liberalism is not referring to a political movement but a theological movement—a movement that downplayed orthodoxy in the name of “changing culture.”
      3. RGC Articles of Faith Chapters 21 and 24
         1. 21: Christian Liberty
         2. 24: Civil Magistrate
      4. Wesminster Confession of Faith Article 31:2-4
      5. Van Drunnen *Living in God’s Two Kingdoms*.
2. Why this study and why now?
   1. A resurgent theonomy and reconstruction movement
   2. Rise of transformationalism
   3. A resurgent social gospel within theologically conservative circles
   4. These undermine the purpose and nature of the church and our mission and obligate Christian’s consciences to things in which they have liberty or that have been abrogated in Redemptive History.
   5. Bearing the fruits of enlisting the church, as the church, in a culture war
   6. I was recently asked about it in response to an email I sent early in the year
      1. All of the above demand a cultural orthodoxy
         1. An official position not on just the morality of certain actions but on a specific action that Christians must take or advocate
         2. There are both left wing and right wing in politics
         3. Demand a specific way that parents should educate their children
         4. Elevating some vocations as more noble than others
      2. Confusion of covenants
      3. Weakness in ecclesiology (understanding of what the church is)
      4. This is also a study in Christian liberty
3. What are the Two Kingdoms (or two spheres of God’s rule)
   1. A rule that we have in common with everyone regardless of religion or nationality or country
      1. Family, education, government, vocation
   2. A redemptive rule exclusive to those who are in Christ. It has its own unique community with very specific charters
      1. The church, faith, salvation, preaching, sacraments
4. Outline of Study
   1. A Tale of Two Adams
      1. First Adam
      2. Last Adam
   2. Exiles longing for home
      1. Old Testament
         1. Covenants and covenant confusion
      2. New Testament: Aliens and sojourners (1 Peter)
   3. Living in God’s Two Kingdoms
      1. The Church
      2. Education, vocation, politics
5. Conclusion