

“My kingdom is not of this world.
If My kingdom were of this world,
My servants would fight,
so that I should not be delivered to the Jews;
but now My kingdom is not from here.”

John 18:36

Back to Acts

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What do we need to learn from the early church?

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What were they like?

Back to Acts

What do we need to learn from the early church?

What were they like?

How did they think?

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What do we need to learn from the early church?

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What was the power behind their faith?

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Why did God use them to turn the world upside down
and yet we find it hard to even make a difference?

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How committed were they to their Lord?

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How did they think?

What was the power behind their faith?

Why did God use them to turn the world upside down
and yet we find it hard to even make a difference?

How committed were they to their Lord?

And how did their commitment impact their lives and
the lives of those around them?

What We Know About the Early Church

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Let's begin with their mindset.

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What did they know that we don't know?

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What did they know that we don't know?

Answer:

What We Know About the Early Church

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What did they know that we don't know?

Answer: Nothing

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What did they know that we don't know?

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What did they believe that we don't believe?

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What did they know that we don't know?

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What did they believe that we don't believe?

Answer: Much

What Does This Mean?

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Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

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The Will of God

The Will of God

What is the will of God?

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What is the will of God?

Is it the same for everyone?

The Will of God

What is the will of God?

Is it the same for everyone?

Or does God have a specific will for each of us?

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So how do I determine the will of God for everyone?

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Let's take a look.

The Will of God

The Will of God

The two underlying, foundational commands of God.

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Jesus said to him,

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-39

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

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One, be Filled with the Holy Spirit

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

One, be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Therefore do not be unwise,
but understand what the will of the Lord is.
And do not be drunk with wine, in which is
dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17-18

The Will of God

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Therefore do not be unwise (foolish, stupid, void of understanding or good sense), but understand what the will (*thélēma* – not a demand, but desire, good pleasure, what pleases or creates joy) of the Lord is.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation (debauchery, wastefulness, reckless and senseless living); but (contrast) be filled (to supply abundantly, to richly impart, to make full to overflowing) with the Spirit.

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

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Two, be Sexually Pure

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

Two, be Sexually Pure

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

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For this is the will of God, your sanctification:
that you should abstain from sexual immorality;
that each of you should know how to possess his own
vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of
lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

For this is the will (*thélēma*) of God, your sanctification (*hagiasmós* – holiness, separation unto God): that you should abstain (to hold back oneself from, to refrain, restrain, cease and desist) from sexual immorality (*porneía*); that each of you should know (*oída* – to know intuitively or instinctively) how to possess his own vessel in sanctification (*hagiasmós*) and honor (the state of being highly respected and revered), not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know (*oída*) God;

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1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

What does *porneía* mean?

1 Thessalonians 4:6-8

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that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:6

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that no one should take advantage of and defraud
(to manipulate to one's advantage, to exploit)
his brother (fellow member in God's family)
in (what) this matter, (why) because the Lord is
the avenger (one who enforces justice, retribution,
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1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

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For God did not call (to command authoritatively, to summon before a judge) us to uncleanness (immorality as understood especially as dirty and impure, moral, sexual impurity), but (contrast) in holiness (*hagiasmós*).

Therefore he who rejects (denies in attitude or actions) this (the command and warning) does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

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The Will of God

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

The Will of God

The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

Three, that You Will Suffer

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

Three, that You Will Suffer

Therefore let those who suffer (how) according to the will of God (what) commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 4:19

The Will of God

Therefore (conclusion based on a previous teaching)
let those who suffer (how) according
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1 Peter 4:19

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1 Peter 4:19

Let's look at the previous teaching this is based on.

1 Peter 4:12-13

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Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial (agony and suffering resembling the pain of being on fire) which is to try you (future tense), as though some strange thing happened to you (past tense); but rejoice (present tense) to the extent (degree, according to) that you partake (share, participate in) of Christ's sufferings, (why) that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding (extreme, excessive, ecstatic, to leap for) joy.

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If (since, because) you are reproached (defamed, to be attacked with abusive words) for the name of Christ, blessed are you, (why) for the Spirit of (1) glory and of (2) God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

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Don't rejoice if you suffer for your own sins.

1 Peter 4:16-18

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Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed (be filled with remorse, be humiliated), but (contrast) let him glorify God in this matter.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now

“If the righteous one is scarcely saved (delivered, safe), where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

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(Proverbs 11:31)

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Therefore (conclusion based on a previous teaching)
let those who suffer (how) according
to the will of God (what) commit their souls to Him
in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

The Will of God

Therefore (conclusion based on a previous teaching)
let those who suffer (how) according
to the will (*thélēma*) of God (what) commit (to deliver
over, entrust, to put or place near someone)
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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

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Four, to Give Thanks Always

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In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

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Let's look at the context.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

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Rejoice always,
pray without ceasing,
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Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophecies.
Test all things; hold fast what is good.
Abstain from every form of evil.

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In everything offer thanks to Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything (*pás* – each, every, each one, the whole, in totality without exception)

give thanks (offer thanks, to show oneself grateful);
(why) **for this is the will** (*thélēma*) **of God**
in Christ Jesus for you (personal).

Think about what “everything” (*pás*) entails.
The good, bad, indifferent, to horrible or horrific.
In everything offer thanks to Him. Why?

The Will of God

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The five-fold will of God (for all believers):

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Five, to Submit to Government Authority

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1 Peter 2:13-15

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Therefore submit yourselves to every (*pás*) ordinance of man (why) for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will (*thélēma*) of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

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mandate and coming passport?

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How does this command relate to the Covid
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What is the difference between a just or unjust law?

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How does this command relate to the Covid
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What is the difference between a just or unjust law?

And does it even matter to a believer?

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Are there ever any exceptions to submission
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Are there ever any exceptions to submission
to governmental authority?

Or does this apply in all cultures and at all times,
such as during the holocaust in Nazi Germany
or in our country today?

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Why did Peter and John refuse to submit to the governmental order to stop preaching or teaching in the name of Jesus in Acts 4:18-20?

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Why did Peter and John refuse to submit to the governmental order to stop preaching or teaching in the name of Jesus in Acts 4:18-20?

Were they wrong?

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Why did Peter and John refuse to submit to the governmental order to stop preaching or teaching in the name of Jesus in Acts 4:18-20?

Were they wrong?

Or is there another principle at play here?

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How are we to determine if obeying God means disobeying our authorities?

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And if so, what is that principle?

How are we to determine if obeying God means disobeying our authorities?

And how is that being played out in our nation, and the church, today?

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We are at a perilous time in our nation and the church, you and me, need to know where we stand.

Back to Acts

Back to Acts

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

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