

Valuing what God Values

Part 5: Abortion from an Apostolic Perspective

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

The Apostolic Prayer

Matthew 6:10 says *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”* Matthew 6:10 is THE apostolic prayer. Surely apostles would pray other prayers as well, but this is THE apostolic prayer.

Matt Dunn, who is associate pastor at a strongly apostolic church called HRock or Harvest Rock, wrote this about apostles: *“The word apostle is borrowed from the vocabulary of the Roman Empire ... an apostle was like an ambassador sent by the Emperor to represent and cultivate the culture of the Empire within the newly conquered province over which he presided. The word literally means “sent one,” from the Greek word apostolos.”* So the word apostolos is actually a Greek word representing a Roman Empire concept. The fact that Jesus chose to specifically appropriate that word for the Kingdom of God should tell us something!

As you know, the Roman empire conquered territory after territory. Over time, the Roman Empire found that while they could militaristically conquer a territory (such as Spain), but if they did not then go in and cultivate Roman culture, the territory would be Roman in technicality but remain Spanish in custom and culture. They would not have actually truly gained any territory. They learned they needed to send a Roman ambassador who carried “the DNA” of the Emperor into that newly conquered Roman territory in order to Romanize the territory. They called that ambassador for Romanization an APOSTLE.

That apostle would go with the Roman Emperor’s DNA (so to speak) - with the Roman culture - into the newly conquered territory and they would Romanize the territory. That was the essence and focus of their job description - to Romanize a newly conquered territory. *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*” The apostolic prayer!

Understanding the Apostleship a bit More

The title of this message is “abortion from an apostolic perspective.” So, let’s learn some more things about apostles. Matthew 10:1-2 says *“And when He had called His twelve **disciples** to Him, He **gave them power (authority)** over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all*

kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve **apostles** are these ...” Notice that between verse 1 and 2 the same 12 men go from being called disciples to being called apostles. This is telling. What happened in between? Jesus gave them authority! The apostles are ones who have been given authority to GO do something. So what have they been given authority to do?

Let’s look at verses 5-8 “*These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But **go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** And as you go, **preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead,^[c] cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*

The apostles were (1) given authority, (2) sent out, and (3) commanded concerning the specific territory / people group they were to go to. Then Jesus instructed them what they should do as they go to their designated people: (A) preach that ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand’ and (B) to demonstrate the kingdom of heaven by healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, and casting out demons.

The apostles were sent out and they were supposed to deliver a message from the kingdom of heaven which they were sent from. This is analogous to the Roman apostles going to Spain and saying “hello Spanish people, behold the Roman kingdom is at hand and here are the Roman customs.”

While this teaching may be new to some, keep in mind that the word “apostle” is used 33 times in Acts. After all it is called “Acts of the Apostles!” The idea of apostleship is not tangential or only slightly mentioned in the New Testament. It was (and now still is) key to God’s design of the church.

Let’s look at Mark 3:14 “*Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach ...*” We are seeing the same thing again! What does an apostle do? They (1) spend time with Jesus and then (2) they go share about Jesus. They are with Jesus and then they are preaching about Him. Said differently, they are seeing the culture of heaven and then they are bringing the culture of heaven.

An APOSTLE is one commissioned with authority / power to make the Kingdom of heaven’s culture impact the place that they are called to as an ambassador! Apostles are commissioned and empowered to impact a culture with the Kingdom of Heaven’s culture.

Let’s look at another related verse: Romans 1:5. Here Paul makes a telling commentary on his apostleship. “*Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,*” Here Paul says that he has received an apostleship for all nations to be obedient to the faith of Christ! The apostleship is transformative to nations.

So what does an apostle do? Think back to the Roman apostles. Apostles are sent from heaven to change the culture on earth - to make it look like heaven! *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”* That’s the apostolic prayer.

The Foundation of the Apostles

Now let’s look at Ephesians 2:19-20. *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone...”* Paul comments that the Ephesians are no longer strangers and foreigners. In other words, Paul is saying “you no longer only know the Spanish language, but now you know the Roman culture.” Why have the Ephesians been heaven-ized in their culture? Because they have been built on the *“the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”*

Jesus is the chief cornerstone and the foundation of the church is the apostles and the prophets. Remember that He has given some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph. 4) for the equipping of the saints for the works of service. But do you know that the church is actually founded on the apostles and the prophets? The teachers are needed for the equipping of the saints for the works of service, but the church is not founded on teachers. The pastors are needed for the equipping of the saints as it relates to caring for the body, but the church is not founded on pastors. The evangelists are needed for the equipping of the saints to reach out and share the gospel - but the evangelists are not the foundation of the church.

The apostles and the prophets are the foundation of the church. That means that the “generic” apostolic prayer - *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven”* - is at the foundation of what the church is!

This is not just for the apostles. In Matthew 10:40-41, Jesus said *“He who receives you (SPEAKING TO HIS APOSTLES) receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”* When we receive from apostles, you pick up the apostolic ministry. The apostolic ministry is not just for the apostles - it is for the church to walk in! The church is founded on the apostles and prophets.

Let’s also look at 1 Corinthians 12:28 *“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”* The poor evangelists and pastors didn’t even make this list!

Who's first? Apostles! And it is meant that way. Remember Ephesians 4 lists apostles and prophets first. Likewise the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Yet again, we see in 1 Corinthians 12 "first apostles, second prophets."

Those two roles (apostles, prophets) are meant to be the foundation of the church; they are meant to be driving the church. The pastor is supporting. The teacher is supporting. The evangelist is playing a role. The apostles and prophets are meant to be driving the church and when there is deference needed it defers to them.

And what's the apostle commissioned with? The apostle is commissioned with knowing heaven so that he can bring heaven to earth. Those who then receive from that apostolic ministry join in that ministry and do the exact same thing in their sphere of influence. This is our call as believers. The church is built on this foundation - of the apostles and the prophets. He appointed in the church FIRST apostles! "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*"

"God help me to partner with you to function apostolically!" Again, you don't have to be an apostle to function apostolically just as you don't have to be a prophet to hear the Lord. Those gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) are for the equipping of the saints for the works of service! A teacher is not a 5-fold teacher unless you are equipping believers that would then teach. You are not a 5-fold evangelist unless you are equipping those that would then evangelize - because it is for the equipping of the saints, not just for doing it yourself. Surely an apostle would be impacting culture for Christ and heaven-izing earth, but you are not an apostle unless the people around you start to heaven-ize their sphere of influence because of your ministry to them.

"*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*" is the apostolic prayer. This message is about an apostolic perspective on abortion. Abortion from an apostolic perspective. I hope to address three major topics in this message:

- (1) Should we as believers be actively impacting the abortion culture?
- (2) What does God say about abortion?
- (3) Frequently Asked Questions / "Isn't this issue more complicated than that?"

Should we as believers be actively impacting the abortion culture?

The answer is yes. The apostolic call is clear. We are supposed to heaven-ize earth. Let me ask you a question ... are babies being killed in Heaven? Therefore, they should *not* be being killed on earth. So simple.

That's the call. The church is supposed to be built on the foundation of the apostles. The apostolic foundation says "what does heaven look like?" and if earth doesn't look like heaven, it is my job to make earth look like heaven - to bring heaven to earth.

Jesus has paid for it all! When someone has an eye problem, we can pray for them and say "there is not an eye problem in heaven." 1 John 4:17 says "as He is, so are we in this world." As Jesus is right now at the right hand of the Father, so are you as a believer right now while here on earth! So if you had breast cancer, you could ask yourself "does Jesus have breast cancer?" The answer is "no!" As Jesus is, so are you in this world! Jesus already paid for it! Our job is to heaven-ize earth. Are babies being killed in heaven? No. It is our job to cause earth to look like heaven.

Mark Crawford says "the surest way for good to prevail on earth is for good people to do something good." Remember salt is a preservative that flavors all it touches. "*You are the **salt** of the earth; but if the **salt** loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*" (Mt. 5:13) We are supposed to be seasoning the world - preserving the world. If we become neutral and equal to the flavoring of the world, what good are we as a preservative / flavoring agent? Matthew 5:13 is sounding very apostolic here! We are supposed to favor-ize the world. We are supposed to heaven-ize the world. Which flavor are supposed to bring? Heaven's flavor! But if the **salt** loses its flavor, it is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. God doesn't have for us to blend in; He has for us to season.

Ephesians 5:8-11 says "*For **you were once darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), **finding out what is acceptable to the Lord**. And have no fellowship with **the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather **expose them**.*"

Remember the woman caught in the act of adultery? Jesus gave her both grace and truth. Speak the truth in love! So, when we look at Ephesians 5 we do not want to skim over verse 8 "*For you were once darkness.*" We have no condemnation for those who are in darkness. Our light is not a light of condemnation but of liberation!

As believers, we are supposed to find out what is acceptable to the Lord. We are supposed to go out of our way "God what do you want to see happen in this situation?" And when we find out what is acceptable to the Lord, we should have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. As believers we do not think like this very often. Our light is supposed to expose darkness. Remember that we were once darkness ourselves. As believers we are not supposed to blend in with the culture; we are supposed to be salt to the culture. We are not supposed to blend in with darkness but to expose it and bring light to it so there can be healing brought into that situation. Our light is not a light of condemnation but of liberation! In other words, we're not supposed to

look like we are Spanish when we've been sent by the Roman Emperor to Roman-ize Spain! God is saying "you have the heavenly DNA; go there and heaven-ize it!"

Discipling Nations

In Matthew 28:18-20 we read: "*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen*"

Remember that Adam and Eve had all earthly authority "be fruitful, multiply, take dominion, subdue it." They sinned and obeyed satan. Romans 6 says that you are slave to whom you obey. Satan got the keys to earth and they obeyed him. Jesus, the 2nd Adam, born of God's seed and therefore not born of the lineage of sin or under the dominion of the devil. He comes to earth and the prince of the power of the air tempts Jesus saying "why don't you throw yourself down from here." Satan was trying to get Jesus to obey him so that Jesus would be subject to satan.

Satan said "I will give you all of this (the world)" and it was actually satan's to give. The trouble for satan was that Jesus wasn't under satan's dominion. At the end of the temptation, Jesus said "be gone, satan, you shall worship the Lord your God" speaking of Himself! Jesus told satan that he should have been worship Jesus. "You made that mistake a long time ago; you should be worshiping Me and I am not submitting to you for anything!"

Jesus continued to walk perfectly - outside of any sin - and then died and rose again as evidence of His perfect life. After His resurrection, He comes to His disciples and says "*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*" This means that earth is a heaven-conquered territory!

Earth is a heaven-conquered territory. Let's look back again to what apostles did ... "an apostle was like an ambassador sent by the Emperor to represent and cultivate the culture of the Empire within the newly conquered province over which he presided." All authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth. Earth IS a heaven-conquered territory. Now Jesus tells His disciples "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ...*" Listen!

Make disciples of all the nations! Heaven-ize all the nations because all of the nations are now a Heaven-conquered territory - not under the dominion of the devil, but under the dominion of heaven and you all as ambassadors who know the culture of the kingdom of heaven, pray this prayer "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*"

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." So, get them set right spiritually (baptized in the name

of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit) and teach them / disciple them for their nation (teaching them to observe all the things I commanded you).

Heavenly Programming vs. the Heavenly Operating System

Remember the beginning of this sermon series? I said that there are only two philosophies in the World. We think there are more, but we can group them into two. They are represented in Genesis in the Garden of Eden.

First, there is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That's where man tried to discern good and evil for himself. That produces death. God told them not to eat of that tree because it would produce death in their lives spiritually. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the operating system of the world. It's a demonically inspired (satan encouraged them to eat of the tree), humanistic operating system in which man's thoughts and man's words the decider between good and evil.

The second option is the Word of God! Notice that Jesus' philosophy is perfectly the second one! He only did what He saw the Father doing. He only said what He heard the Father saying it was enough for Him to be "like His teacher." So, Jesus' operating system was the Word of God; it wasn't any more complicated than that to Him. Jesus didn't desire to have His own discernment. He just desired to hear the Father and do as the Father said. Adam and Eve, on the other hand, desired to have their own discernment and that lineage of sin has traced all the way through history.

About 8 years ago, the Lord spoke to me and said "your mind has been on the throne of your heart and I want to be." He was saying "Peter, your operating system is still you trying to discern right and wrong and you are using My Word as a program that your own operating system runs." God was telling me "I don't want to be a program that you run sometimes. I want to be the whole operating system that you run - not a program, but the whole operating system that you run!"

That is why we studied the truth about creation. We can trust the Word of God straight from the beginning and we can have the Word of God be our operating system, not just a program we run most of the time! We don't need to discern the Word of God; we can just take the Word of God at face value and let the Word of God do the work in our hearts and become what the Word of God says and do just like Jesus did!

We have the mind of Christ. What was the mind of Christ? Do what the Father's doing. Say what the Father's saying. Jesus wasn't pronouncing judgment on His own. It's enough for Christ to be like His teacher. So we have that mind!

The first part of this series was about us having that mind (to operate by the Word of God) personally. The second part of the series is going to build on that more broadly. The Lord does not have for us to only operate personally with that truth. That (being able to have God's Word as the

operating system and not just a program) is not meant to just be a personal truth. He intends it to be a city-level and nation-level truth!

God wants His Word to be the operating system of our city. He does not want His Word, His church, to just be a program that happens in a worldly operating system in our city. God does not want the church to just be just one of the programs running amidst a worldly operating system.

Earth is already a heaven-conquered territory. The church is built on the foundation of the apostles. The apostles have been called to heaven-ize earth and everyone that comes into that teaching in that church is now called to heaven-ize earth. Speaking prophetically, Abraham was looking for a city who's architect and builder was God! "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*"

The Separation of Church and State?

The separation of church and state means that the State is NOT to run the church. It is called the Establishment Clause. The phrase "separation of church and state" is not even in it. It says that the US Government shall not establish a national religion which had been done in England. God does not want the state to run the church. He doesn't like that. By analogy, He does not want Spain to run the Roman apostleship. He wants Rome to run the Roman apostleship to heaven-ize Spain. What good is salt if it has lost its saltiness? God does not want the state to run the church.

The establishment clause of our constitution (which people call "separation of church and state") actually says "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..." Our founders were very wise. It says "the state shall not run the church." It does not say - nor does heaven say - that the people of the church should not be running the state!

The people of the church should be running the state! We can see what heaven looks like and experience what heaven feels like - and then bring that into every sphere of our country! That's the apostolic perspective! "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*"

Our job is to be with Jesus, know what Heaven looks like - know what Jesus is like. "Wait a second, there is not baby killing in heaven! Babies are not to be killed on earth. Wait a second, there is not murder in heaven! Gang killing needs to stop in this city because it doesn't exist in heaven and my job is to heaven-ize this city." This is the apostolic call and the church is built on this foundation.

It is first appointed for the church - apostles - because this vision is meant to be the primary vision. To heaven-ize earth. This will be our perspective as we look at abortion next time - abortion from an apostolic perspective ... which is heaven's perspective about our role in these sorts of things. As we take-on an apostolic mindset we are going to receive a whole other gear of "WHY" in the Lord! Earth is a heaven-conquered territory. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations!

Text Summary (for reading as a group)

Matthew 6:10 says *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”* Surely apostles would pray other prayers as well, but Matthew 6:10 is THE apostolic prayer.

Matt Dunn, who is associate pastor at a strongly apostolic church called HRock or Harvest Rock, wrote this about apostles: *“The word apostle is borrowed from the vocabulary of the Roman Empire ... an apostle was like an ambassador sent by the Emperor to represent and cultivate the culture of the Empire within the newly conquered province over which he presided. The word literally means “sent one,” from the Greek word apostolos.”* The Roman empire would send a Roman ambassador who carried “the DNA” of the Emperor into that newly conquered Roman territory in order to Romanize the territory. *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”* The apostolic prayer!

The title of this message is “abortion from an apostolic perspective.” So, let’s learn some more about apostles. In Matthew 10:1-2 and 5-8 we see the apostles were (1) given authority, (2) sent out, and (3) commanded concerning the specific territory / people group they were to go to. With those people, they were called to (A) preach that ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand’ and (B) to demonstrate the kingdom of heaven by healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, and casting out demons. This is analogous to the Roman apostles going to Spain and saying “hello Spanish people, behold the Roman kingdom is at hand and I will now demonstrate the Roman customs.”

The idea of apostleship is key to God’s design of the church. Let’s look at Mark 3:14 *“Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach ...”* What does an apostle do? They (1) spend time with Jesus and then (2) they go share about Jesus. Said differently, they are seeing the culture of heaven and then they are bringing the culture of heaven. In Romans 1:5, Paul makes a telling commentary on his apostleship. *“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,”* Here Paul says that he has received an apostleship for all nations to be obedient to the faith of Christ! Apostles are charged by God to make earth look like heaven! *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”* That’s the apostolic prayer.

Now let’s look at Ephesians 2:19-20. *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone...”* Why had the Ephesians been effectively heaven-ized in their culture? Because they have been built on the *“the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”* Jesus is the chief cornerstone and the foundation of the church is the apostles and the prophets. Remember that He has given some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph. 4) for the equipping of the saints for the works of service, but the church

is actually founded on the apostles and the prophets. The teachers are needed for the equipping of the saints for the works of service, but the church is not founded on teachers. The pastors are needed for the equipping of the saints as it relates to caring for the body, but the church is not founded on pastors. The evangelists are needed for the equipping of the saints to reach out and share the gospel - but the evangelists are not the foundation of the church. The apostles and the prophets are the foundation of the church. That means that the “generic” apostolic prayer - “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven*” - is at the foundation of what the church is!

1 Corinthians 12:28 says “*And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*” The poor evangelists and pastors didn’t even make this list! Note who’s first ... apostles! And it is meant that way. Remember that both Ephesians 2 and Ephesians 4 lists apostles and prophets first. Those two roles (apostles, prophets) are meant to be the foundation of the church. The pastor is supporting. The teacher is supporting. The evangelist is playing a role. The apostles and prophets are meant to be driving the church and when there is deference needed it defers to them.

The apostle is commissioned with knowing heaven so that he can bring heaven to earth. Those who then receive from that apostolic ministry join in that ministry and do the exact same thing in their sphere of influence. This is our call as believers, so we pray “God help me to partner with you to function apostolically!” Again, you don’t have to be an apostle to function apostolically just as you don’t have to be a prophet to hear the Lord. Those gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) are for the equipping of the saints for the works of service! A teacher is not a 5-fold teacher unless you are equipping believers that would then teach. You are not a 5-fold evangelist unless you are equipping those that would then evangelize - because it is for the equipping of the saints, not just for doing it yourself. Surely an apostle would be impacting culture for Christ and heaven-izing earth, but you are not an apostle unless the people around you start to heaven-ize their sphere of influence because of your ministry to them. “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*” is the apostolic prayer.

This message is about an apostolic perspective on abortion. Should we as believers be actively impacting the abortion culture? The answer is yes. The apostolic call is clear. We are supposed to heaven-ize earth. Therefore, consider this question ... are babies being killed in Heaven? Therefore, they should *not* be being killed on earth. That’s the call. The apostolic foundation says “what does heaven look like?” and if earth doesn’t look like heaven, it is my job to make earth look like heaven - to bring heaven to earth.

Mark Crawford says “the surest way for good to prevail on earth is for good people to do something good.” Remember salt is a preservative that flavors all it touches. “*You are the **salt** of the earth; but if the **salt** loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and*

trampled underfoot by men.” (Mt. 5:13) We are supposed to be seasoning the world - preserving the world. If we become neutral and equal to the flavoring of the world, what good are we as a preservative / flavoring agent? Matthew 5:13 is sounding very apostolic here! God doesn't have for us to blend in; He has for us to season! We are not supposed to blend in with darkness but to expose it and bring light to it so there can be healing brought into that situation. Our light is not a light of condemnation but of liberation! In other words, we're not supposed to look like we are Spanish when we've been sent by the Roman Emperor to Roman-ize Spain! God is saying “you have the heavenly DNA; go out and heaven-ize earth!”

In Matthew 28:18-20 we read: “*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ...*” Jesus said “*all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*” This means that earth is a heaven-conquered territory. Remember that “an apostle was like an ambassador sent by the Emperor to represent and cultivate the culture of the Empire within the newly conquered province over which he presided.” All authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth. Earth IS a heaven-conquered territory. Now Jesus tells His disciples “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ...*” All the nations are now a heaven-conquered territory - not under the dominion of the devil, but under the dominion of heaven and we all as ambassadors who know the culture of the kingdom of heaven, pray this prayer “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*”

There are only two philosophies in the world. First, there is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The second option is the Word of God! Notice that Jesus' philosophy is perfectly the second one! He only did what He saw the Father doing. He only said what He heard the Father saying it was enough for Him to be “like His teacher.” So, Jesus' operating system was the Word of God; it wasn't any more complicated than that to Him.

The first part of this series was about us having that mind (to operate by the Word of God) personally. The second part of the series is going to build on that more broadly. God wants His Word to be the operating system of our city and nation. He does not want His Word, His church, to be just one of the programs running amidst a worldly operating system. Earth is already a heaven-conquered territory. The church is built on the foundation of the apostles. The apostles have been called to heaven-ize earth and everyone that comes into that teaching in that church is now called to heaven-ize earth.

Speaking prophetically, Abraham was looking for a city who's architect and builder was God! “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*” The separation of church and state means that the State is NOT to run the church. It does NOT mean that the people of the church should not be running the state! The people of the church should be running the state! We can see what

heaven looks like and experience what heaven feels like - and then bring that into every sphere of our country! That's the apostolic perspective! "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.*"

Our job is to be with Jesus, know what Heaven looks like - know what Jesus is like. "Wait a second, there is not baby killing in heaven! Babies are not to be killed on earth. Wait a second, there is not murder in heaven! Gang killing needs to stop in this city because it doesn't exist in heaven and my job is to heaven-ize this city." This is the apostolic call and the church is built on this foundation. Earth is a heaven-conquered territory. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations!

Points to Ponder . . .

- Why is Matthew 6:10 such a good representation of the apostolic perspective?
- Considering Ephesians 4:11-12, how does the apostolic perspective relate to the individual members of the body of Christ overall?
- How does the Great Commission in Mt. 28:18-20 communicate the apostolic mission of the church?
- Isn't there supposed to be a "separation of church and state?"
 - What does our constitution actually say about that?
 - What does Heaven say about that - from an apostolic perspective?
- How could an apostolic perspective relate to how the church interacts with abortion?