

SESSION 03 - SET FREE TO LIVE FREELY FOR OTHERS!

A 2 Kingdom engagement of the Culture for the sake of the mission of the Church!!

*“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live** as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as **servants of God. Honor** everyone. **Love** the brotherhood. **Fear** God. **Honor** the emperor” (1 Peter 2:15–17).*

It’s time to engage the culture for the sake of the mission of the Church. The Bible calls us to “give to Caesar what is Caesars, and to give to God what is God’s,” and to “submit to the authorities.” We need to know why? And how? Especially in a context that calls us “citizens” and not “subjects.” It’s time to exercise our temporal liberties in service to God’s eternal liberty, the Gospel of Jesus so that all might hear and believe.

THE CHURCH IS INCREASINGLY UNDER ATTACK IN THE AMERICAN CULTURE.... WOULD YOU AGREE?

- Same Confession.... different Cultural Challenges (GPS faithfulness)
- We said we could do “family without fathers, even incentivizing single motherhood and out of wedlock births...we now reap the whirlwind of crime and hopelessness in our culture
- We said that we could do sexual libertinism without consequence, now we have STD epidemics, abortion holocausts, and a callousness for each other that staggers the imagination
- We said that we were merely animals, not created people in the image of God, now we have animalistic behavior that is violent, self-serving and unapologetic...DO YOU SEE IT FOR YOURSELF, IN YOURSELF?
What’s God to do??? (STABILIZE AND SAVE!!)
- Alarm System- smoke alarms in your house...An enabler? A deterrent? Or an Empowerer for good?
- **LCRL – CHALLENGING GOD’S PEOPLE TO RISE UP TO BE....**
 - Those enabled to live a PUBLIC life of Faith for the sake of others, especially those who might disagree with us
 - Those who know how to use one’s temporal freedoms to proclaim the eternal freedoms of Jesus for all
 - A deterrent to encroachment
 - A defender of the Church’s public space for the Church’s public voice
 - See Acts 16, 22 – Paul’s use of citizenship
 - The Uniqueness of the American Experience – (see notes)

OUR GOAL TOGETHER – EMPOWERING GOD’S PEOPLE AS TWO-KINGDOM, FREEDOM EXERCISING, CITIZENS IN AMERICA, TO PROTECT THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OF CHRISTIANS, TO PROCLAIM THE SANCTITY OF LIFE, TO LIFT UP THE POWER OF FAITHFUL TRADITIONAL MARRIAGES, AND TO EMPOWER AND PROTECT SCHOOLS WHICH BLESS OUR COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN.

SOME BIBLE BASICS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.....

- WHEN IT COMES TO THE ISSUES/THE TROUBLES OF THIS WORLD.... GOD IS AT WORK TO BLESS AND REDEEM.
- **DYNAMIC DIFFERENTIATION – GOD’S TWO WAYS**
 - **Matt. 22 - Give to Caesar what is Caesars....to God what is God’s.... why because God is at work in both realms.... on His terms, to bless.**
 - **2 Kingdoms – One Mission**
 - **Two engagement strategies – One purpose**
- **Romans 13 – God engages the world with power to curb evil – RESTRAIN**
- **1 Peter 2 – notice the words, Love the Brotherhood, Fear God, Respect the Emperor. – PROMOTE CIVILITY**
- **It won’t ever be perfect, but it could be better....**

SCRIPTURAL EVENT - DANIEL, SHADRACH, MESCHACH, ABEDNEGO.

- They **stood up** for the things of God for the sake of the nation,
- They **stood down** before the ruling authorities knowing that they were in God’s hands,
- They **stood firm** no matter what the consequences....the were part of God’s blessing for the nation....curbing evil, proclaiming the truths and goodness of God!
- **Walter Maier!! - You and Me!**



THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY –

- ❖ The very worldview that gave us the most freedom, the most tolerance, the most diversity.....
- ❖ Now is seen as a threat to such things
- ❖ **Christians must engage the challenges**, not just for their sake, but for the sake of the Community and the Church and the neighbor.
- ❖ **IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU WILL BE FREE INDEED! USE YOUR TEMPORAL FREEDOMS TO PROCLAIM HIS ETERNAL LIBERTY.**

WHAT IS LCRL.... WHAT IS IT GOING TO DO TO HELP YOU?

- **Educate**
- **Encourage**
- **Advocate**

OUR COMMITMENT TOGETHER....

- PROCLAIM - God at work! - 2 Kingdom.... God's way of being at work in the World today
- ENGAGE.... guard the public space for the sake of the Gospel, Undergirding good leadership for the sake of the community.
- EDUCATE...God's people to understand His public strategy for engaging the culture for the sake of the Mission of the Church
 - Reformation Restraint
 - Dynamic Differentiation
 - Stand up, Stand down, Stand Firm
 - No Higher Authority
 - Separation, or Intersection of Church and State
- Through our Schools, Universities – empowering a new generation of leaders
- Through our Presence in DC – becoming a “go to” voice for this way of engaging the world for the sake of its temporal and eternal Freedom.
- Through our Website, our Writings, our Scholarship – becoming a warehouse of information that matters to the public health of our churches IN THE COMMUNITY FOR OTHERS

CHALLENGE - LCRL AND YOU - Call to Action / Follow-up

A Plan:

1. Gather a group at your church, club, work together each week for fellowship and study
2. Read, review and discuss the Word from the Center from the Friday prior to their meeting with the goals of: **(Text LCRL to 444999 to receive the “Word”)**
 - a. Leader – help facilitate a discussion so each person fully understands the point of the Word from the Center
 - b. Determine if there would be a better way to state the point for their unique context
 - c. Determine how they could live out the message from the Word from the Center in their community
3. As appropriate the group would report their results of how they would restate the message and how they lived out the message to the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
4. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty will review the feedback and share results as appropriate in order to instruct and inspire other gatherings

Future: Recognizing that certain topics are best served with a more formal in-depth study, the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty plans on developing a multi-part video study on various cultural and political topics from a 2 Kingdom perspective. (as resources provide)

REVIEW THE MINISTRIES – OUR ALREADY PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION MINISTRY.

1. **MINISTRY OF PRESENCE - The LCRL center – IN DC**
2. **MINISTRY OF PARTNERSHIP** – Joining the battle with others.
 - a. A Welcome and enduring Presence and Support of People working on the HILL, participate in the Bible Studies, Prayer groups, fellowship groups
 - b. Serving on committees, think tank groups, with our 2 KG voice
 - c. ERLC, ADF, National Right To Life, Catholic Bishops, Heritage Foundation, National Prayer Ministry, VAT,
3. **MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT**
 - a. Word from the Center – Weekly posting; Monday: Devotion – Friday: 2 Kg Commentary – **Text LCRL to 444999 to connect**
 - b. **The Webpage, Facebook, and Twitter Account....**
 - c. Prayerfully in support of our Congressman, Senators etc.
4. **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**
 - a. A partnership with our Universities and High Schools....2 Kingdom Curriculum, Summer Internships, Public-Sector Leadership Bootcamps
 - b. Internships on the Hill
5. **A MINISTRY OF ADVOCACY**
 - a. A public voice, and advocating voice for our Churches, Schools, University, our people concerning issues of Religious Liberty, Life, Marriage/Family, and quality/Christ centered Education.

DEFENDING THE CHURCH’S PLACE TO STAND IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMMUNITY AS IT SERVES THE COMMUNITY!



For More Information

<https://www.LCRLFreedom.org>



LEAconnects Virtual Exhibit Hall

<https://bit.ly/3540v3z>



DOWNLOAD BROCHURE

TEXT “LCRL” to 444999 to receive “Word from the Center”