

John 18:33-40

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

John 18:33-40

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

John 18:33-40

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

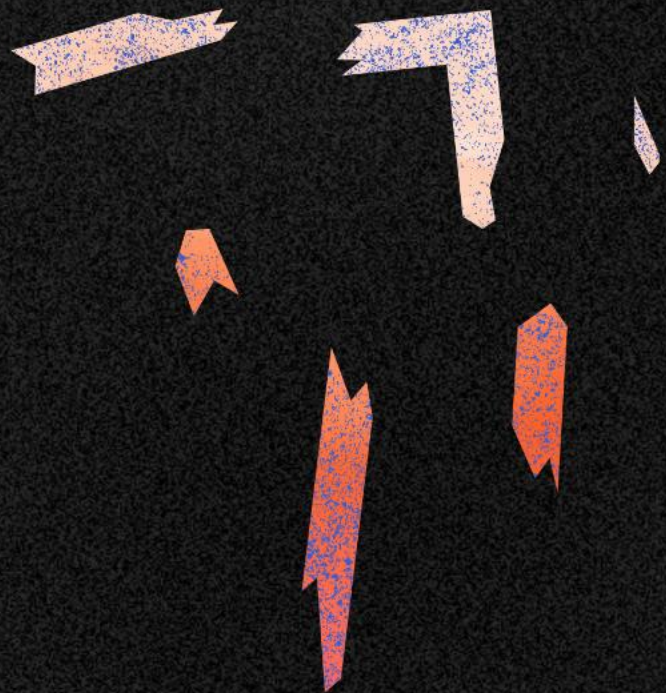
John 18:33-40

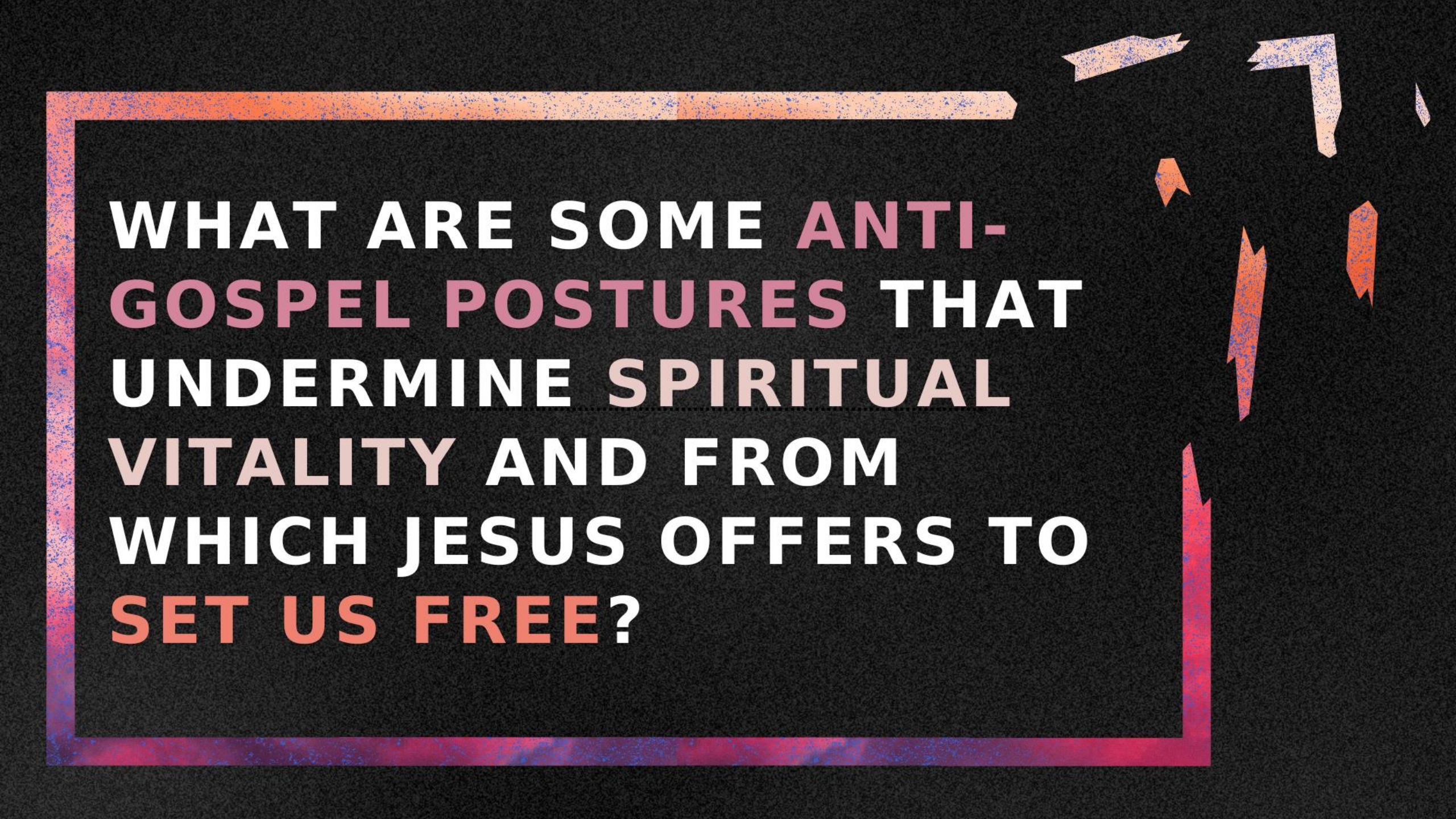
³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.
³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

John 18:33-40

⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

WHAT
WOULD
JESUS
UNDO?





**WHAT ARE SOME ANTI-
GOSPEL POSTURES THAT
UNDERMINE SPIRITUAL
VITALITY AND FROM
WHICH JESUS OFFERS TO
SET US FREE?**



**WHAT WOULD JESUS
UNDO?**

INDIFFERENCE

POLITICAL IDOLATRY

HYPOCRISY

HOLLOW WORSHIP

SPIRITUAL PRIDE



**WHAT WOULD
JESUS UNDO?**

**POLITICAL
IDOLATRY**

Political Idolatry: An anti-gospel behavior

i·dol·a·try

having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in the Word.

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 95

Political Idolatry: An anti-gospel behavior

i·dol·a·try

looking to other things besides God to provide ultimate fulfillment in our lives.

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions* (400 A.D.)

Political Idolatry: An anti-gospel behavior

Political i·dol·a·try

looking to the politicians, policies, power, promises, or practices of worldly (human) governments besides God to provide ultimate fulfillment in our lives.

Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Understand and Identify Political Idolatry

Why do we struggle with political idolatry?

Internal: We desire to gain, maintain, and exercise **control** over what happens to us and around us.

External: We struggle to separate ourselves from functionally **secular worldviews**. Failing to resist, we internalize it and assimilate.

Understand and Identify Political Idolatry

Why is political idolatry so dangerous?

1. It distorts our perception of who God truly is—separating us from Him.
2. God punishes idol-worshippers.
3. It can creep into our hearts slowly, without us necessarily noticing.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other...”

Matthew 6:24

“Man’s nature, so to speak,
is a perpetual factory of idols.”

John Calvin

Separation: *from* and *for*

¹⁷ Therefore,

“Come out from them and **be separate**, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and **I will receive you.**”

¹⁸ And,

“I will be **a Father to you**, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

Two Kingdoms

John 18:35-36

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Two Kingdoms

John 18:35-36

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The Two Kingdoms Concept

There are two different kingdoms on earth—namely, the kingdom of this world and the peaceful kingdom of Christ. These two kingdoms cannot share or have communion with each other.

Hans Beck (1575)

Kingdom of this World

Kingdom of Heaven

Domain

Earth (Temporal)

Heaven and Earth

Time Frame

Immediate (Present)

Eternal (Past, Present, and Future)

Interests

Material

Immaterial (Spiritual) and Material

Method

Force (The Sword)

Love (Ministry of Reconciliation)

Means

Power, Coercion, Social contract, Negotiation

Love, Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, Salvation, the Word

Outcomes

Temporary, Destruction

Eternal, Exaltation

Citizens and Ambassadors

Philippians 3:20

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Searching our Hearts

- Which do I advance most? The culture and kingdom of this world, or the culture and Kingdom of Heaven?
- As others look at my life, does my engagement with politics *clarify* or *obscure* my total allegiance to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom?
- Do I spend more time thinking about, discussing, and getting “fired up” over American politics or the Kingdom of Heaven?

Casting Down Political Idols

1. Make a zero-tolerance policy for idols.

Therefore, my dear friends, **flee** from idolatry. (1 Cor. 10:14)

2. Give and receive counsel.

3. Use Kingdom means to pursue Kingdom ends.

Prayer, Fasting, Agape Love of Enemies,

Proclamation of the Gospel; Peace, Non-retaliation

4. Reorder your life to reflect your first love.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.



WHAT WOULD
JESUS UNDO?

POLITICAL
IDOLATRY