

THEOCRACY

LIVING UNDER GOD'S RULE

Sermon Questions

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word “theocracy”?

2. Theocracy is... (circle all that apply)
 - i. The church ruling over the state (i.e., no separation of church and state).
 - ii. Anti-democratic and authoritarian where the people have no say in who leads them.
 - iii. A form of government requiring a monarchy (rule by king).
 - iv. Only an Old Testament idea.
 - v. A society ruled by God and his word.
3. Under God, a king cannot be a foreigner, cannot be self-_____, and must be governed by God's _____
4. The word Christ means: God's chosen _____.
5. Under God, a priest must be devoted to God, supported by the people, and a minister of God's _____
6. _____ is the exclusive priest, and the ultimate Shepherd and Overseer of the church.
7. List two forbidden customs that are still practiced in our society today:
8. _____
9. These customs are forbidden because they attempt to provide for us what only _____ can provide.
10. What are the three marks of a theocracy, living under God's rule?
 - i. Devotion to _____.
 - ii. Directed by his _____.
 - iii. Distinct from the _____.
11. How does a theocratic society come to be? _____

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon clarifies several common misconceptions about “theocracy.” Which of those misconceptions have you encountered (or held yourself), and how does the biblical picture of complementary spheres under God’s supreme authority (rather than a merger of church and state, or mere human authoritarianism) reshape the way you think about civil government, the church, and the family today?
2. Deuteronomy 17 requires the king to be chosen by the Lord, free from the pursuit of power, wealth, and foreign alliances, and daily shaped by writing and reading God’s Word. In what specific ways do these same dangers (status, money, relationships, or the approval of others) tempt leaders—and ordinary believers—today? How can regular engagement with Scripture guard our hearts the way it was meant to guard the king’s?
3. The passage ends by forbidding the abominable practices of the nations and calling God’s people to clear separation. Which modern cultural pressures or “spiritual” alternatives most closely parallel the Canaanite practices described here, and what concrete steps can individuals and families take to remain devoted to God, governed by his word, and distinct from the world in those areas?
4. The sermon emphasizes that living under God’s rule means being devoted to him, directed by his word, and distinct from the world—qualities that begin in the home. How can parents and families intentionally cultivate these three priorities in everyday life (for example, through family worship, media choices, education decisions, or responses to cultural pressures on children)? What is one specific change or practice your household could begin this week to better reflect life under Christ’s rule?
5. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon?

Discussion Questions for Children

1. God told the kings of Israel to write out his words and read them every day so they would remember that God is the real King. Why is it important for us to read the Bible too? What is one way your family can make reading God’s word a regular part of your day?
2. The Bible shows us that Jesus is the perfect King and the perfect Priest who always obeyed God and took care of his people. How can we thank God for Jesus and follow his example at home, at school, or with our siblings this week?