

## **SCCC – THREE VIRTUES OF THE KINGDOM**

### **S - Scriptures**

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,” Romans 14: 17

### **Commitment**

Paul was dealing in this chapter with what he called “disputable matters,” dealing with what a Christian could or could not eat or which day of the week he should keep as his Sabbath. He stated that “Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. And he concluded the chapter with a clear statement about our freedom, responsibilities, and priorities as Christians, “It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.” And he supplemented elsewhere “Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.”

### **C – Consideration**

In the midst of this teaching, Paul mentioned three characteristics of God’s kingdom. These virtues cannot be experienced by what type of food I feed my body. Jesus spoke to a religious leader that to enter and see God’s kingdom one must be born again, adding “by the water and by the Spirit.” Water represents God’s words that bring understanding and freedom, and the Holy Spirit will show us the true righteousness that comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus; therefore, divine peace and joy will fill our souls – These Christians were trying to find it in religious rules, lacking understanding of the gospel. Paul also reminded them that the life of a Christian belongs not to himself, but to his new Master, “For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. “

### **C – Call**

My God, I thank You for the justice, peace, and joy that came to us from heaven from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Lord, help me and my brethren grow in our understanding of Your kingdom and live to serve Christ and one another in love, not in bondage. In Jesus’s name, I pray. Amen.