

Faith as Allegiance

TCC Midweek 2/4

Faith 'Pistis'

Greek lexicons (BDAG, LSJ,
Louw–Nida)

1. Cognitive / relational trust

belief
trust
confidence
reliance on someone or something

2. Reliability / faithfulness

trustworthiness
fidelity
dependability
commitment

3. Relational or political loyalty

loyalty to a person, ruler, cause, or covenant
allegiance (especially in contexts of authority or covenant)

Faith As Belief

John 11:26–27

“Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Romans 10:9

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead...”

Mark 9:24

“I believe; help my unbelief!”

James 2:19

“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

Faith As Faithfulne ss

Romans 3:3

“What if some were unfaithful? Does their unfaithfulness nullify the faithfulness (*pistis*) of God?”

2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are faithless, he remains faithful (*pistos*), for he cannot deny himself.

Romans 3:22

“the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ (*pisteōs Iēsou Christou*)...”

Galatians 2:16

“We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through the faith of Jesus Christ...”

Faith As Allegiance

Polybius, *Histories* 3.31.9

“allegiance to the allies.”

Xenophon (4th century BC)

“they gave allegiance/ pledged loyalty”

Demosthenes (4th century BC Athenian orator)

“to betray one’s loyalty”

In the Greco-Roman world, *pistis* described loyalty within relationships of power—especially between rulers and subjects or patrons and clients.

Romans

3:21-24

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22** the righteousness of God through (allegiance) in Jesus Christ for all who (give allegiance) . For there is no distinction: **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans

5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by (allegiance), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have also obtained access by (allegiance) into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Galatians

2:20

For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. **20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by (allegiance) in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Ephesians

2:4-10

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



Paul predominantly uses ‘pistis’ to refer to allegiance in his letters.

Paul reminds the christians of the kingship of Jesus and our loyalty to him.



Jesus is King

“Jesus was not killed by religious leaders for breaking religious rules; he was killed by the state for being a political threat.”

“The kingdom of God is not simply a spiritual reality; it is an alternative way of organizing life together.”

Jesus' original followers were killed for preaching allegiance to Jesus over Caesar.

Matthew

6:24

“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.”

Jesus is King

“Faith is not merely believing Jesus died for my sins; faith is pledging loyalty to Jesus as the reigning King.”

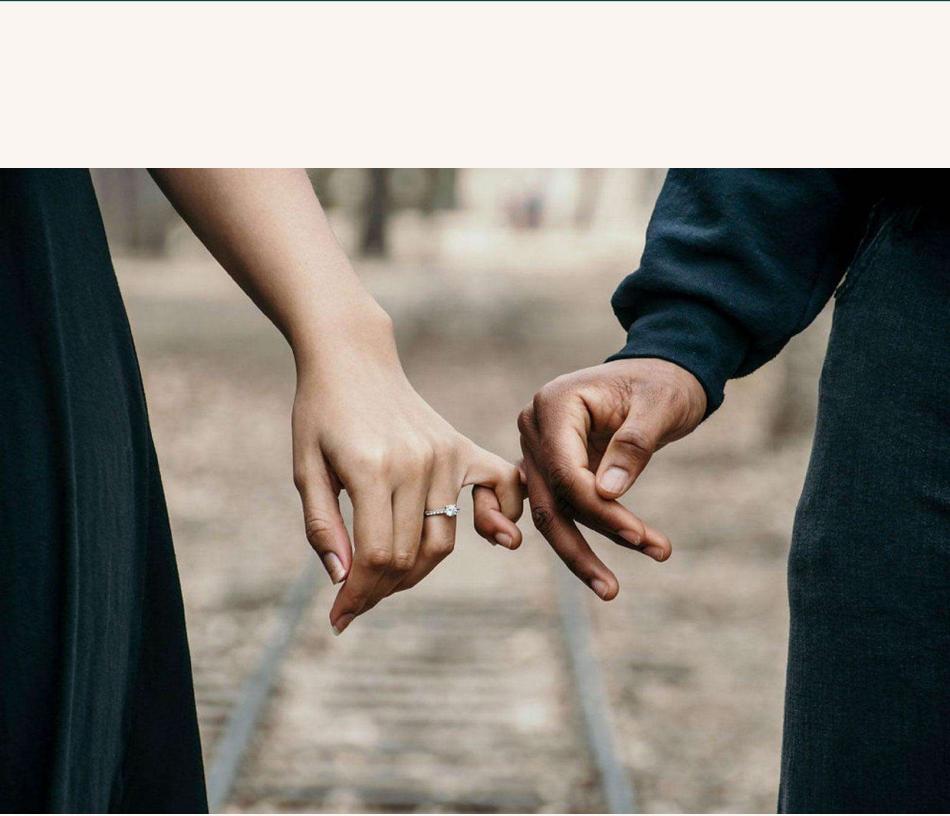
Allegiance to king Jesus is about submission to his rule and reign in my and our lives.



Luke

14:31-33

what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.



Jesus is King

Allegiance is submission, and fidelity.

Faith as allegiance removes levels in our hearts