

Kingdom Realities

The Kingdom Affect In Our Lives

I. Introduction.

In this message today I want to talk about the kingdom of God and its effect upon our lives. More specifically, I want to talk about how our life and character values are shaped by the kingdom perspective we possess. If your perspective is wrong it will affect the way in which you carry yourself as a Christian and how you work out your salvation. If your perspective is right, it will enable you to come into all that Christ has desired for your life, thus enabling you to fulfill your destiny.

- **Paul's Prayer Concerning Our Perspective.**

Ephesians 1:15-19 *Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸**the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power***

II. Kingdom Definition.

The kingdom of God is God's rule and authority over any domain sphere or influence. It is not only His rule over a future kingdom, but includes His rule in all of history as well as the present time we are living in.

Luke 17:20-21 *Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹"nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' **For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.**"*

- **God must rule in your life for the kingdom of God to have its effect**

III. Kingdom Realities.

1. **Both Jesus and John the Baptist Came Preaching, "The Kingdom Of God is at Hand."**

Matthew 3:1-2 *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²and saying, "Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**"*

Mark 1:14-15 *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand**. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

- John announces the coming of the kingdom
- Jesus inaugurates it.
- John's ministry prepares the way (Matt. 3:3).
- Jesus is the Way (cf. John 14:6).
- The words of Jesus give evidence of the kingdom's power;
- His deeds are the very works of the kingdom.
- The redemptive blessings of God's reign are now available.

2. Through Salvation and the Blood Of Jesus We Are Brought Into The Kingdom.

Colossians 1:13 *For he has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. (NLT)*

Prior to salvation we were all under the power or tyranny of evil and sin. Satan ruled our lives. God has defeated the dark powers and led us away to a new homeland, the kingdom where His beloved Son rules. There we experience the freedom of His redemption and of forgiveness from sin and guilt. Salvation is thus a present experience of new living conditions.

3. People are Shaped by the Culture they are Born Into.

For example, when the early Americans first encountered the native Indians, they quickly realized they were different in many ways. Their values and lifestyle were totally different because of the culture they were born into.

- All of us were born into Satan's domain and culture. The Bible tells us in 1 John that the whole world lies in the lap of the devil.
- The world is His domain – a kingdom of darkness.
- But we have now been translated out of that domain into the kingdom of the Son.
- Therefore God now desires our lives to be shaped by His kingdom values.
- We should ask ourselves, "What kind of things have shaped our life and character?" "What has made us the person that we are?"

- What do we identify with the most? Is it our Job, position in life, money, hobbies, interests, knowledge, activities, what we are good at, church life; musician, singer, deacon, elder, or whatever?
- What does your life evolve around? These are the things that shape your character and who you are as a person.
- What is the center of your life or what is your life centered on. Are you being shaped by worldly culture, church culture or kingdom culture?
- It's important to understand that you were born into the kingdom and then added to the church. The kingdom culture comes first.

4. A Kingdom Centered Person is Rooted In Christ and His Kingdom.

Colossians 2:7-8 ...**rooted** and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

5. There Is No End to the Kingdom's Increase in Our Lives.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷**Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

- Because we have now become full of the Holy Spirit, God is at work in our lives revealing new things to us all the time.
- The Holy Spirit continually searches out the heart of the Father and reveals to us His nature and character.
- As the revelation of God's kingdom continues to increase in our lives, the motivation to continually be transformed into His image is there as well.
- A person who is not kingdom minded soon gets stuck in a rut and continually deals with the same issues year after year with no seeming victory.
- The scenery is the same year after year, which only produces a monotonous lifestyle that leads to complacency.
- There is an acceptance of the fact of being stuck in their sinful cycle.
- What is needed is a new perspective – a kingdom perspective that is ever increasing.

- Like looking at a diamond and seeing a new facet with each angle, we begin to see God's kingdom in the same way.
- New facets or paradigms are always appearing, which continually gives us the motivation to move forward into new areas of character development. We're being changed from glory to glory.

6. The Kingdom of God Has the Power To Transform Our Lives.

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in **word but in power**.

There is a whole new level of freedom and deliverance that comes from each paradigm shift that God takes us through. Not only do we receive the motivation to change, we also receive the power to change and be transformed into His image. **Those who are touched by its power are no longer slaves to sin.**

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who **raised** Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who **raised** Christ from the dead will also **give life** to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- We don't have to settle with the person we have become, because we now have the ability to change and be conformed into the image of Christ. As we grow and change, it has its effect upon the people around us as well.
- There is only so much deliverance and character transformation that we can receive from each paradigm we are in. We must continually be walking in new revelation of God's ever increasing kingdom to be changed from glory to glory.

7. Kingdom People are More Destiny Minded.

- Kingdom people become much more destiny minded than those who are not. They realize that everything they are involved in has an effect upon the kingdom of God because the eyes of their understanding are continually opened to all that God desires for them.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those

who love Him." ¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

- Personal Testimony concerning being foster parents
- The kingdom minded person is concerned about the overall perspective of the kingdom and its influence upon the earth.

Ephesians 1:22-23 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

You realize that you are a necessary part of the whole that must find its unique positioning in relationship to the whole. When your part is faithfully functioning in its place, whatever it may be, it effects the growth of the whole.

Ephesians 4:16 *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

A person who is not kingdom minded often gets caught in the trap of simply functioning for the sake of ego, pride or self gratification. When this happens we become a squeaky link or a grinding gear that detracts from the whole rather than adds to it

- Personal Testimony of Closing GVCC.

We must have the same understanding that John the Baptist had – *"I must decrease and Jesus must increase."*

When we allow ego, pride and territorialism to interfere in our callings, there is a disruption in the kingdom that causes the flow of God's power to be cut off.

8. The Kingdom of God Encompasses Every Strata of Christianity that Exists Including all Denominations, Streams, Fellowships, Movements, etc.

Ephesians 4:4-6 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

9. Kingdom Men and Women Operate with the Mind of Christ and the Divine Nature of God.

1 Corinthians 2:16 *For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

2 Peter 1:4 *by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

10. The Kingdom of God Comes with a Rich Inheritance.

Ephesians 1:18 *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

2 Peter 1:3 *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

- **It is a Kingdom wherein righteousness, peace and joy Dwell.**

Romans 14:17 *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

IV. Concluding Remarks.

If these kingdom realities are sown into our hearts we will produce the kind of fruit that God desires from each one of us. We will be sincerely motivated to put on all of the characteristics of the new nature with a renewed vision to fulfill the destiny that God has charted for each one of our lives.