

▶ Kingdom Consciousness

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32

And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, Luke 22:29

Christ has conferred on us a kingdom. Kingdom consciousness is an awareness of ourselves as God's kingdom. It means taking up our destiny as the kingdom.

1 **Firstly** we are subjects, or citizens, of the kingdom.
What responsibilities does this place on us?

2 **Second**, we are agents of the kingdom. In His wisdom, God is using the church to further His kingdom

▶ Kingdom Priorities

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

▶ Kingdom Obligation

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

▶ Kingdom Authority

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19

▶ Kingdom Dedication

Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62

▶ Kingdom Prayer

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

▶ Kingdom distinctive

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

▶ Kingdom Power

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 1 Corinthians 4:20

▶ Kingdom Morals

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 1 Corinthians 6:9

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Christian Church

Church and the Kingdom



John the Baptist's message *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 3:2*
Jesus' message *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 4:17*
The disciple's message *"The kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 10:7*
Philip's message *he preached the good news of the kingdom of God. Acts 8:12*
Paul's message *I have gone about preaching the kingdom. Acts 20:25*



It is only recorded that Jesus used the word church twice, in contrast, he used the word kingdom almost every time He opened His mouth. While Paul uses the word church more often, he also talks of the kingdom frequently.

Luke talks about the kingdom of God and Matthew talks about the kingdom of heaven. Some people have tried to suggest that these are different from each other. They are not. Matthew is writing to Jews and Luke to gentiles. Jews in Jesus day avoided the word God for fear of misusing it, they replaced it with substitutes, in this case, heaven. Matthew is just following the convention of his day. Heaven here just means God.



What is the kingdom of God?

There are many definitions of the Kingdom of God. A simple one is best. The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus Christ is ruling. It is the place where His will is done.

Where is this?



The answers here give us some idea of the breadth of the kingdom. In heaven God rules. In the church God rules. In the individual believer God rules.

In which of these is His rule perfect?

What does this tell us about who we should be?

Why do we use the word kingdom so infrequently?



Many of Jesus parables were told to explain what the kingdom was like. He told them another parable: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a..."* Matthew 13:24, 13:31, 13:33, 13:44, 13:45, 13:47, 13:52, 18:23, 20:1, 22:2



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Are the kingdom of God and the church the same thing?

You may have answered yes. If we are talking about the universal church and here on earth and right now, then practically speaking for us here on earth the two are the same. But in fact, the Kingdom of God is larger than the church.



- The church is part of the kingdom.
- The church is an expression of the kingdom.
- The church is the agent of the kingdom.
- God is achieving His kingdom through the church

We talk about being saved or becoming a Christian, Jesus spoke of entering the kingdom.

Is there a difference?



The balance between the local church and the kingdom.

Which of the two is more important?

Is it more important to grow the church or the kingdom?



What kind of things generally happen at a kingdom level?



What kind of things generally happen at a church level?



What happens if we prioritise the kingdom too much?

What happens if we prioritise the local church too much?

Can you have the kingdom without the church?



What does it mean to be kingdom minded?

What does it mean to be church minded?

If we are going to be kingdom minded, what attitudes must we take?



Kingdom when.

Some people get very confused about where the kingdom of God is, here or in heaven. And whether the kingdom exists now or only in the future. (i.e. the millennium). The answer is there are many expressions of the kingdom. Some are current some are future some are now. Some are perfect and some are partial.

In our lives and in our church the kingdom of God has come, but because we still struggle with doing the will of God, even in our lives the kingdom of God is still coming. There is a spiritual aspect to the kingdom and a physical one.



Can we still preach that the Kingdom of God is near?

What do we mean when we say the Kingdom of God is coming?

Here are some examples. You might want to discuss what they mean.



But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matthew 12:28



I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." Matthew 16:28



Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' Luke 10:9



Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17: 20-21



While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. Luke 19:11



I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:29



Even so, when you see these things happening, ... the kingdom of God is near. Luke 21:31



Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." John 18:36



"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. Matthew 25:34



"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15



Jesus taught that the kingdom was current but also future, that it was here, but also from another place. Where ever Jesus is acknowledged as King, the Kingdom of God exists. The day will come when that kingdom is universal.

The kingdom is spiritual and physical. When a person brings their life into line with God's rule; that is the spiritual aspect of the kingdom. When King David enforces God's rule over God's people in 2 Samuel that is the physical Kingdom of God.

Which are we called to enlarge?

Some Churches seems to act as if it is their job to establish the physical Kingdom of God on earth. This kind of an approach is constant with a *Post Millennial* view of Christ return and is sometimes called 'Kingdom Now' teaching.



Are there any dangers in this?