

The Kingdom Building Church

Rediscover our understanding of the Kingdom:

- 1) The Kingdom of God is the domain in which God rules.
- 2) God created man/ Adam in His own image because God sovereignly chose to extend His heavenly kingdom on earth through mankind. God wanted all of creation to know Him and enjoy his wonder and glory just as he experiences in heaven.
- 3) Adam was given a dominion mandate to rule and have dominion over all of God's creation.
 - a) Man walking in proper alignment with God would be God's agent of His Kingdom on the earth.
 - b) This is why God walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden before Adam sinned.
- 4) Adam and Eve defaulted through their disobedience, thereby bringing them under curse of sin and the dominion of the devil.
- 5) Jesus (the second Adam) came to restore us to the original purpose and plan of God.
 - a) We who were once the Ruled, are not called back into our authority.
 - b) We should not be ruled by the concepts of the world, our tendencies toward sin, and we should not be ruled by the devil or any of his agents or satanic influences.
 - c) 1 John 4:4 "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."
- 6) Summary: The Kingdom of God is the comprehensive revelation and physical manifestation of God glorious ruling presence in our lives first and then from the church into the world.
 - a) Jesus came preaching and teaching the good news of this kingdom.
 - b) Over and over Jesus described the Kingdom

"The kingdom of heaven is like... a farmer sowing seeds; mustard seed planted; treasure buried in the field, etc..."

Today let's review our past talks:

- 1) We have identified the Kingdom as God's **top priority**.
- 2) We have seen how important it is for us to **seek first** the Kingdom **personally**
- 3) We have talked about how that **Kingdom Alignment** must be the **goal of marriage**.

Next few weeks we are going to talk the **Kingdom of God and The Purpose of the Church**

- 1) I want you think of the next 3 Sunday mornings a classroom where we come to discover what is in God's heart and mind for his global church and our local church.
- 2) Building the global church in local congregations is the mission of Jesus on the earth today.

Why?

- a) Because the Church is God's choice for introducing the Kingdom of God to the World.
 - i) The church is suppose to be a little slice of heaven present on the earth.
 - ii) The church should be a place where God's eternal values (his love; his purity; his kindness) and his eternal purposes (his presence with us; his goodness triumphing over evil) are also easily seen in His church.
 - iii) When this happens sin sick and world weary people will find truth, acceptance, equality, freedom, safety, forgiveness, justice, and hope in God.
- b) This is why there is so much spiritual warfare centered on the church.
 - i) Satan hates the church, so he tries his best to:
 - (1) Corrupt its leaders.
 - (2) Distract its members.
 - (3) Deplete its resources.
 - ii) If we could ever see the kingdom as God sees it, and if we could ever see each other as God sees us, we could come together with some unified goals of manifesting, demonstrating and advancing God's good Kingdom.
- c) The agenda of God's Kingdom is waiting on His Church to be THE CHURCH.

1 Corinthians 2:1,2 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

What is the Box Church Mentality and how did we get infected with it?

- 1) 4th Century – Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and made Christianity legal and stopped the persecution of Christians.

Throughout his rule, Constantine supported the Church financially, built basilicas, granted privileges to clergy (e.g. exemption from certain taxes).

- 2) Over time, a clergy/laity divide developed and the emphasis was put on a ritual-centered gathering in a building. Consequently, the leaders of the church held a monopoly upon things sacred—which put the "holy elite" in power and in wealth.
- 3) In the 4th century the church went from focusing on marketplace presence to building elaborate cathedrals with clergy-led rituals. We went from people "being the church" to people "going to church."
- 4) These concepts are still prevalent in the church today and they actually prevent the global church from being what God intended it to be.
- 5) Many Christian historians agree that it was during this time that the Christians developed a "church in the box" mentality.

Kingdom-Centered Church vs the Box Church Mentality

- 1) **In a box church Christians go to church. In a kingdom-centered church believers understand they don't go to church, they are the church.**
 - a) We are the church, the body of Christ. We are ambassadors of the Kingdom. Wherever we go and whenever we go there, the kingdom shows up!

Romans 12:5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 2) **The box church focuses most of their energy into the Sunday experience in a building. The kingdom-centered church equips believers for Monday to Friday.**
 - a) The kingdom-centered church not only has a good Sunday experience but also equips the saints for the work of the ministry related to their primary vocation from Monday to Friday.
 - b) In the box church ministry is limited or expanded by the capacity of their building. In the kingdom-centered church the ministry is limited or expanded by the capacity of the disciples they are equipping and sending.
 - c) Box church people see the building as the sanctuary. Kingdom People know that the earth is His sanctuary.
 - i) The Scriptures say that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof (Ps. 24:1).
 - d) The Kingdom is not dependent on a building to function, it depends on the redeemed people of God to function!

3) **In the box church, only the clergy can understand the Word. The kingdom-centered church equips all believers to interpret and apply the Word.**

- a) In the box church, people are taught to be dependent upon the "man of God" to feed them the Word. In the kingdom-centered church, the focus is to teach all believers to interpret the Word and feed themselves.
 - i) The writer in the book of Hebrews says, I fed you so well with the word that by now you "ought to be teachers." (Heb. 5:12)
- b) The goal of teaching is to equip others to be equippers themselves. 2 Tim 2:2 NIV "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."
- c) In the kingdom-centered church all believers are equipped to minister for God.

Ephesians 4:11,12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

4) **In the box church the Bible is a book about escaping the earth. In the kingdom-centered church the Bible is about our dominion on the earth.**

- a) The biblical focus is for believers to experience inner transformation so that we can transform our surrounding culture.

5) **In the box church Jesus is only the savior of the sheep. In the kingdom-centered church Jesus is also the King of kings over nations.**

- a) In the kingdom-centered church saved people view Jesus as the King of all kings; the President of all presidents, the CEO of all CEOs and the Judge of all lawyers and judges of the earth.
- b) Kingdom people are not afraid to speak truth and walk in power as God's representatives before all the nations and religions of the world.