

Series: The Gifts of the Gospel

Part Three: God Sent His Son to Set Up His Kingdom

Sunday December 17, 2017

1. "Kingdom" = wherever people align themselves with God's will and God's way.
2. Jesus doesn't just save us *from* something – He saves us *for* something.
3. The kingdom to which we belong will shape our loyalty, our laws, and how we live
4. What kind of kingdom is the "kingdom of heaven?"
5. *"The coming of the kingdom of God is **not something that can be observed**, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is **in your midst**"* (Lk. 17:20-21).
6. Jesus seems to be saying that the kingdom of God is a way of living that exists within the hearts of individuals and that it is expressed through the relationships between those individuals.
7. Jesus proclaimed that "the kingdom of God has come near" (Mk. 1:15).
8. "As Jesus uses it, *kingdom* is a relational word. It orients our relationships in terms of a king, other subjects within the kingdom, and other kingdoms. Being an active part of the kingdom of Christ will influence how we relate to other kingdoms, such as the country in which we live and the kingdoms of culture, politics, business, media, and more. Being a citizen of Christ's kingdom will mean standing opposed to any ideas, attitudes, influences, emotions, or spiritual forces that are antihuman and anti-God." (*Reunion*, p. 123)
9. *"My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders."*
10. Christ's Kingdom is a *kingdom of love*.
11. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"* (Mt. 22:36-40).
12. *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"* (Jn. 13:34-35).

13. Christ's Kingdom is a *kingdom of peace*

14. The kingdom of God is also a kingdom of peace – where race and nationality and cultural differences are neutralized.

15. Christ's Kingdom is a *kingdom of reconciliation*

16. "...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"(Eph. 6:12).

17. *For though we are in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish strongholds and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Cor. 10:3-5).*