

Understanding

The

Kingdom

Part III

*Matthew 6:33*

*Key Verse:*

## *Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)*

*33 But seek **first** THE KINGDOM OF GOD and His righteousness,  
and all these **things shall be added to you.***

### *Why Study This Series....*

*It Is Difficult To Seek Something That You Don't **Know** What It Is  
You Don't Know What It Looks Like  
You Don't Know What It Consists Of*

*The Proper Perspective Enhances My Pursuit*

*Review....*

*Let's Define The Kingdom of God*

*The Kingdom of God is GOD'S SOVEREIGN RULE AND REIGN*

*The Kingdom of God is where God Is King and His Will Is Obeyed*

*The KINGDOM AGENDA is God's Redemptive Plan to establish His rule,  
reflect His righteousness, and advance His reign in the earth—  
through people who live under His authority.*

# *Week One Key Points*

*Man was given **Dominion** over all things*

*Man forfeited his **Dominion** because of **Disobedience** to God's Word*

*From the Beginning there has been a **System** of Violence, Crime, and Division*

*We Must Not Choose Our **Preference** over God's **Principles** and God's **Plans***

*God's desire was to **Re-establish His Kingdom** On Earth Through Jesus Christ*

*Religion Looks Toward **Heaven**, The Kingdom Agenda Brings **Heaven to Earth***

*This Agenda can be seen in My **Prayer Life**, My **Priorities**, and My **Peace***

# *Last Week*

## *The Kingdom Has 4 Key Elements*

*A King ~ Territory ~ Principles ~ Citizens*

*Compare This To The Church or Religious System*

*A Pastor/Bishop ~ Local Assembly ~ Bylaws ~ Members*

*Tonight....*

*Our Focus Will Be On Comparing/Contrasting*

*Kingdom Citizenship vs. Church Membership*

*Our Aim Is To Shift Believers from  
a Membership Mindset to a Citizenship Mandate....  
from just Attending Church to Advancing the Kingdom...*

# Key Passages

## Philippians 3:17-20 (NLT)

17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine,  
and learn from those who follow our example.

18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes,  
that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.

19 They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite,  
they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

20 **BUT WE ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN**, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.

*NIV..... Our Citizenship is in Heaven....*

## 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

20 So we are **CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS**; God is making his appeal *through us*.  
We speak **FOR CHRIST** when we plead, "**COME BACK TO GOD!**"

# Introduction

There is a profound difference between church membership and living as a Kingdom Citizen.

Many people faithfully attend church, but not all **LIVE AS KINGDOM CITIZENS**.  
Church membership answers *where I belong*. Kingdom citizenship answers **WHO I REPRESENT**.

You can join a church *without changing your life*—  
but you can't enter the Kingdom *without experiencing transformation*.

The danger is not that the church has become sinful,  
but that it becomes *satisfied without transformation*

Church Membership monitors *your attendance*...  
Kingdom citizenship demands *your allegiance and alignment*.

Church Members often think of their faith as **A PART OF THEIR LIFE**.  
They attend services, participate in programs, and volunteer for activities...

**Church is where they go... not who they are**

Many can be heard saying.... "They have a life...outside of church"

Church Has Become *A Destination* instead of a gathering of *Kingdom Citizens*  
*Who Receive Kingdom Instructions*

# The Conduct Of Kingdom Citizens

*Philippians 3:17-18 (NLT)*

17 Dear brothers and sisters, *PATTERN YOUR LIVES AFTER MINE*, and learn from those who follow our example.

18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many *whose conduct* shows they are really *enemies of the cross of Christ*.

Paul drives home the fact that **CONDUCT CONFIRMS CITIZENSHIP**  
How we live either attracts or distorts the Kingdom

Notice What Paul Says.... *PATTERN YOUR LIVES AFTER MINE*....  
Notice He Did Not Say... *PATTERN YOUR LIVES AFTER GOD*....

Since I Am *A KINGDOM CITIZEN* ~ *MY LIFE IS A REPRESENTATION OF MY KING*

*“My conduct reflects my King wherever I go.”*

Kingdom citizens don't *separate* sacred and secular

*Philippians 1:27 (NLT)*

27 Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven,  
**CONDUCTING YOURSELVES** in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.

**OUR CONDUCT** is the daily evidence of our **ALLEGIANCE TO THE KING**.

# The Conduct Of Kingdom Citizens

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18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many *whose conduct* shows they are really *enemies of the cross of Christ*.

*This Principle Is Displayed From The Pulpit and the Pew*

*LEARN FROM THOSE WHO FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE*

What we do *Monday through Saturday* determines *The Power Of Our Testimony on Sunday*.

Discipleship in the Kingdom is *caught as much as it is taught*.

One writer suggested... “The gospel must take shape *in flesh* before it can take root *in faith*”

*A LIVED GOSPEL* carries more weight than *A LOUD ONE*

The Kingdom Advances Through *PEOPLE* not *PROGRAMS*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NLT)

9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong *will not inherit the Kingdom of God*? Don't fool yourselves. *THOSE WHO INDULGE IN* sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—*none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God*. 11 *Some of you were once like that*. But you were cleansed; you were *made holy*; you were *made right with God* by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

# The Conduct Of Kingdom Citizens

Your Elevation *In Kingdom Authority* Is Based On Integrity Not Resume

*1 Samuel 18:12-14 (NKJV)*

12 Now Saul was afraid of David, because *the Lord was with him*, but had departed from Saul.

13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and *made him his captain over a thousand*; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 *AND DAVID BEHAVED WISELY IN ALL HIS WAYS*, and *the Lord was with him*.

*Genesis 39:2-4 (NKJV)*

2 *The Lord was with Joseph*, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. *Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.*

*Genesis 39:7-9 (NLT)*

7 Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "*Come and sleep with me*," she demanded.

8 *But Joseph refused*. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household.

9 No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

# *The Commission Of Kingdom Citizens*

*2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)*

*20 SO WE ARE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS; God is making his appeal THROUGH US.  
We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"*

*This passage reveals our Primary Role As Kingdom Citizens*

*"TO BE AMBASSADORS FOR THE KING"*

*An Ambassador is one that is authorized to REPRESENT the interests and agenda of the King*

*When We Were Saved... We Were Saved FROM THE PENALTY and POWER OF SIN  
Becoming A Kingdom Citizen now sends Us To DO SOMETHING*

*EVERY KINGDOM CITIZEN HAS AN ASSIGNMENT*

*Speak For The King*

*Say What He Says... Not Our Opinion*

*We Are Not Called To Debate... We Are Agents of Reconciliation*

*"GET PEOPLE BACK TO GOD"..... Not Church*

*YOUR TERRITORY FOR ASSIGNMENT IS PEOPLE WHO ARE SEPERATED FROM GOD*

*Daniel was sent TO BABYLON To Represent The King in A CORRUPT CULTURE*

# The Commission Of Kingdom Citizens

*Daniel 6:19-27 (NLT)*

*19 Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den.*

*20 When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God!*

***WAS YOUR GOD, WHOM YOU SERVE SO FAITHFULLY, ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM THE LIONS?"***

*21 Daniel answered, "Long live the king!*

*22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."*

*23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den.*

*Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.*

*25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world:*

*"Peace and prosperity to you! 26 "I decree that everyone throughout **my kingdom***

***SHOULD TREMBLE WITH FEAR BEFORE THE GOD OF DANIEL.***

*For he is the living God, and he will endure forever.*

*His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end.*

*27 He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth.*

***HE HAS RESCUED DANIEL FROM THE POWER OF THE LIONS."***

*Change Your Perspective*

***YOU ARE NOT IN A CRISIS.... YOU ARE COMMISSIONED ON ASSIGNMENT***

# The Conflict Of Kingdom Citizens

*Philippians 3:18 (NLT)*

18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again *with tears in my eyes*,  
*that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.*

*Kingdom citizenship does not eliminate conflict—IT CREATES IT.*

*The moment we align with the Kingdom, we stand in opposition to*

- 1) *The Systems Of the World*
- 2) *The Appetites Of the Flesh*
- 3) *The Values of the Culture*

*The greatest threat to Kingdom citizens is not persecution from outside, but compromise from within.*

*Many admire Jesus until Commitment touches their priorities*

*Mark 10:20-22 (NLT)*

20 “Teacher,” the man replied, *“I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”*

21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him.

*“Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.*

*Then come, follow me.”*

22 *At this the man’s face fell, and he went away very sad, for he had many possessions.*

# The Conflict Of Kingdom Citizens

*Philippians 3:18 (NLT)*

*18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.*

*When Jesus began to Preach About The Kingdom... Conflict Came From Religious Leaders  
The Kingdom disrupted what religion controlled.*

*They didn't understand his identity..... "Is This Not The Carpenter's Son..."*

*They didn't understand his intentions..... "This Man Eats With Sinners"*

*They didn't understand his Influence..... "Look the World Has Gone After Him..."*

*They didn't understand his Impact..... "What Authority Is He Doing These Things..."*

*We Will Face The Same Conflict As We Invade The Culture and Disrupt The System*

# *In Conclusion*

## *The Big Picture Summary:*

*Jesus did not come to abolish the church; He came to **ASSIGN IT**.  
The church is not the end of God's agenda—it is an instrument for it.*

*Just Like Grambling, Southern, and LA TECH*

*When You Go On An Interview*

*They ask you where did you get your Degree ~ Place Of Learning*

*Then... **They Put You To Work***

*Your Place Of Learning It Is Valuable*

*Because It Has Prepared You For Your Assignment*

*The Assignment Is The Objective*

*The School Is Instrumental*

*The Kingdom needs **the church for structure** ~ The church needs **the Kingdom for power**.*

*It Is Not Either/Or.... It Is Both/And*

# 10-Week Pledge With A Purpose Campaign

January 18<sup>th</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**\$100 Pledge**

*\$10 Weekly*

**\$200 Pledge**

*\$20 Weekly*

**\$250 Pledge**

*\$25 Weekly*

**\$500 Pledge**

*\$50 Weekly*

**\$1000 Pledge**

*\$100 Weekly*

**\$2500 Pledge**

*\$250 Weekly*

**\$5000 Pledge**

*\$500 Weekly*

**\$10000 Pledge**

*\$1000 Weekly*



*2 Corinthians 8:3 ~They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own...*