

The Church or The Kingdom?

- Many, if not all, “Kingdom Now” teachers refute the literal, physical, future Kingdom of Jesus making Revelation 20 metaphorical
- Acts 1:6-8—the disciples asked about the beginning of the kingdom... “not yet” was the reply
- Others teach only “Future Kingdom” but that begs questions of New Testament teachings of the kingdom
 - How about a mixture? We have the potential to experience and enjoy the kingdom, spiritually, now and one day Jesus will reign physically on Earth in a literal Kingdom.
- If the Kingdom is not now, what is?
 - Matthew 16:13-18
 - The church is built on the foundational truths that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God
 - Colossians 1:18—Jesus is the Head of the Body, the Church
- Colossians 1:13-14
 - Paul is writing of our Heavenly Father who has saved us from the domain of darkness (spiritual) and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son (spiritual)
 - We have the opportunity to begin living and thinking differently—Kingdom Minded
- We have been redeemed and set free from sin and death and made alive together with Christ with forgiveness of sins
- What difference does it make?
 - Seemingly undermining Scripture
 - The church *will* rule and reign *with* Christ
 - We are in an era of grace in order to show grace
 - The kingdom will be a time of judgment, righteous judgment, but different purpose than church
 - Kingdom Now teaches law to polish and perfect the outside
 - Grace is what is needed to teach and grow spiritually—Titus 2:11-14
 - When we fall...Galatians 6:1-4
 - In the Kingdom we will be glorified and be as He is—1 John 3:2
- Forgotten Purpose of the Church
 - The purpose of the church is not, primarily, to change our culture/society or humanitarian needs and poverty—eternity is at stake
 - We are ambassadors of Christ—2 Cor. 5:20-21
 - Exist to glorify God
 - Evangelize
 - And disciple