

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND THE CHURCH LIFE
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

The Church as the Kingdom of the Son of God's Love

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18-19; 18:15-22; Rom. 14:17; Rev. 1:6; Col. 1:12-13

- I. The Bible first presents the kingdom and thereafter presents the church; the presence of the kingdom produces the church – Matt. 4:23; 16:18-19.**
- II. The kingdom is the reality of the church; therefore, apart from the kingdom life, we cannot live the church life – Matt. 5:3; 16:18-19; Rev. 1:4-6, 9:**
 - A. The reality of the kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 5-7) is the content of the church life ; without the reality of the kingdom, the church is empty.
 - B. Since the kingdom life issues in the church life, as we live corporately in the kingdom life, we spontaneously live the church life – Rom. 14:17.
 - C. A believer who does not live in the reality of the kingdom cannot be built into the structure of the church – Eph. 2:22.
- III. Without the kingdom as the reality of the church, the church cannot be built up – Matt. 16:18-19:**
 - A. The church is brought into being through the authority of the kingdom.
 - B. The keys of the kingdom are given to make the building of the church possible – v. 19; 18:18; cf. John 20:23.
 - C. When the kingdom of the heavens is able to assert its authority over a company of believers, those believers can be built up into the church – Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
- IV. The genuine church is the kingdom of God in this age; today the believers live the kingdom life in the church – 16:18-19; 18:17-18; 13:44-46; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 4:20; Eph. 2:19; Col. 4:11; Rev. 1:4-6:**
- V. The Father has delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love – Col. 1:12-13:**
 - A. The kingdom of the Son of God's love comprises three ages: the present age, in which the church is, the coming age, in which the millennial kingdom will be; and the eternal age with the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth – v. 13.
 1. The stress in Colossians 1:13 is the kingdom of the Son of God's love in this age, which is the reality of the church.
 2. The church life today is the kingdom of the Son of the Father's love, which is as delightful to God the Father as the Son of God is – 4:15-16.
 - B. We need to understand the intrinsic significance of the church as the kingdom of the Son of God's love – 1:13:

1. The Son of God is the embodiment and expression of the divine life; hence, the kingdom of the Son is a realm of life – 1 John 5:11-12; John 1:4.
2. The kingdom into which we have been transferred is a realm is the kingdom of the Son of God's love; this realm of life is in love, not in fear – Col. 1:13.
3. The kingdom in which we find ourselves today is a realm full of life, light, and love – 1 Pet. 2:9.
4. The Son of the Father is the expression of the Father as the source of life – John 1:18, 4; 1 John 1:2:
 - a. The Son of the Father's love is the object of the Father's love to be the embodiment of life to us in the divine love with the authority in resurrection – Matt. 3:17
 - b. The Son, as the embodiment of the divine life, is the object of the Father's love – 17:5:
 - (1) The divine life embodied in the Son is given to us in the divine love – 1 John 5:11-12; John 3:16.
 - (2) The object of the divine love becomes to us the embodiment of life in the divine love with the authority in resurrection; this is the kingdom of the Son of the Father's love.
5. To be transferred into the kingdom of the Son of the Father's love is to be transferred into the Son, who is life to us – 1 John 5:11-12:
 - a. The Son in resurrection is now the life-giving Spirit, and He rules us in His resurrection life with love – 1 Pet. 1:3; Rom. 6:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - b. When we live by the Son as our life in resurrection, we are living in His kingdom, enjoying Him in the Father's love; here we have the church life – Col. 3:4; John 6:57.
 - c. Because the Father delights in His Son, the kingdom of the Son of the Father's love is a pleasant thing, a matter of delight – Matt. 3:17; 17:5.