

The Kingdom
Kingdom Community
Proverbs 14:34

The Kingdom: God's comprehensive rule over all creation.

Key Question: What would our neighborhood, city, state, nation & world look like to be more of a Kingdom Community 10 years from now?

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Proverbs 14:34

Main Idea: A Kingdom Community Enjoys the Blessings of the Eternal King

I. Righteousness Found in Freedom

Biblical Freedom: Release from illegitimate bondage so that you can have the opportunity to exercise responsibility in maximizing all that you were created to be.

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely (freely) eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" Genesis 2:15-17

"God's establishment of freedom included broad opportunities coupled with minimal restrictions followed up with swift and severe consequences for breaking the restrictions. This then should be the paradigm for every society's understanding and implementation of freedom." **Pastor Tony Evans**

II. Righteousness Displayed in Justice

Biblical Definition of Justice: The equitable and impartial application of the rule of God's moral law in society.

"Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD." **Proverbs 20:10**

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." **Micah 6:8**

"Biblical justice is not a man-made, socially imposed, top-down system ultimately leading to the negation of freedom. Biblical justice promotes freedom by emphasizing accountability, equality, and responsibility in providing a spiritual underpinning in the social realms." **Pastor Tony Evans**

The **Gospel** must be understood on 2 levels: **1) Content** – death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus, & **2) Scope** – social action & justice

III. Righteousness in Economics

Kingdom Economics: Communism says government owns it all. Capitalism says individuals own it all. **Christianity says God owns it all.**

Hindrances to Kingdom Economics:

- **Greed & Envy:** Lust for stuff at the expense of others.

"Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God." **Proverbs 30:8b-9**

- **Laziness:** Sometimes poverty is the result of laziness.

"The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing..." **Proverbs 13:4**

- **Extortion & Corruption:** God hates unjust systems & practices.

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter."

James 5:1-5

- **Unjust Taxation:** Government & Taxes have a limited role to play.

"We have asked the government to do things that government was never meant to do...unjust taxation stems from an unbiblical view of life."

Pastor Tony Evans

IV. Righteousness that Rejects Racism

Racism: Discrimination against people based on skin color or ethnic origin.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." **Genesis 1:27**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Revelation 7:9-10

V. Righteousness that Properly Educates

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." **Deuteronomy 6:7**

VI. Righteousness Guiding Politics

- **Government is Legitimate**

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

Romans 13:1

- **Government is Limited**

"The responsibility of civil government is to maintain a safe, just, and righteous environment for freedom to flourish." **Pastor Tony Evans**

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind." **Isaiah 65:17**

The longer you live in this world, the more you long for a different one.

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – Richard J. Erickson (1995)
- *The Kingdom Agenda* – Tony Evans (2013)