

Sunday, January 21, 2024  
THE INTERNAL MANIFESTATION OF THE KINGDOM  
PART 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS

We are continuing our study called “The Internal Manifestation of the Kingdom”. Last week, we found that the Kingdom of God manifests through the Holy Spirit within the believer affecting attitudes, motives, and behavior. Today, let’s look at one of the components of the kingdom.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV)

Let’s look at the kingdom manifestation called “righteousness”. Righteousness is dismissed by our culture as impossible and therefore irrelevant. It is also dismissed by many in the church as antiquated and replaced by grace. Yet, the Scripture tells us that righteousness is a component of Kingdom presence.

*dikaíosynē* (from /*díkē*, "a judicial verdict") – properly, *judicial approval* (the *verdict of approval*); in the NT, *the approval of God* ("divine approval"), i.e. *what is approved in His eyes*.

So, righteousness is God’s approval. Notice that it is a judicial verdict. That means that God has seen all of the evidence and announced favor upon that which He approves. What does that mean for you?

1. **Righteousness is imputed.**

**Imputed righteousness is the righteousness of Jesus credited to the Christian, enabling the Christian to be justified.**

This comes to the believer through faith in Jesus and submission to His lordship.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

2. **Righteousness is imparted.**

**Imparted righteousness is what God does in you by the power of the Holy Spirit after justification, working in the Christian to enable the process of sanctification.**

The Holy Spirit begins the process of healing and transforming the believer.

## 1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

### 3. Righteousness is empowered.

Empowered righteousness is what God does through the infilling of the Holy Spirit in releasing gifts of ministry through our lives.

Empowered ministry released in the Holy Spirit occurs through the believer - testifying of Christ.

## Romans 8:29-30 (NKJV)

Scripture states that God predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son.

*Image: (/eikōn) exactly reflects its source (what it directly corresponds to). For example, Christ is the very image (/eikōn, supreme expression) of the Godhead. (eikōn) then is more than a "shadow"; rather it is a replication.*

How can we be an accurate representation without His acts/gifts?

*Justified: dikaiōō (from dikē, "right, judicial-approval"). Moreover, they are justified (/dikaiōō, "made right, righteous") by God's grace each time they receive (obey) faith (/pístis), i.e. "God's inwrought persuasion" (cf. the -ōō ending which conveys "to bring to/out").*

Ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit released through faith brings out the righteousness of God. Next week, peace.

Today's Scriptures:

- Romans 14:17 (NKJV)
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)
- 1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)
- Romans 8:29-30 (NKJV)