

## **Shift from Church Minded-to Kingdom Minded**

Let me ask you a question: **"Is our church a bunker designed to protect us from the world, or is it a training ground designed to send us *into* it?"**

Let's talk about the difference between the church and the Kingdom of God. The word church in the Greek means "called out ones." The word kingdom in the Greek means a King's rule, power or authority.

There is the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of Earth. Heaven and Earth are linked from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 21:1

So the church did not *establish* the kingdom, God did!

But the church is to be the visible, earthly expression of it....and it is important to understand that being in the church for a while can lead us into a religious mindset instead of a kingdom mentality.

For example, a church-minded person asks, 'What can I get from Sunday?' A kingdom-minded person asks, 'What can I bring to my community on Monday?'

Notice Jesus didn't say....seek first the church.... Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33 "Seek first the Kingdom of God"**

When you think Kingdom of God.... think REIGN of God Authority of God...

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they did not lose heaven, but sin caused them to give up their Kingdom Authority on earth.

So Jesus didn't come to the cross....just to take us to heaven. We never lost heaven....

Jesus came to earth to restore what Adam lost. Adam didn't lose heaven, he didn't lose a religion, he didn't lose a church building....He lost Kingdom authority upon the earth. But over the past 2,000 years, the message of the kingdom has gradually been buried in the graveyard of religion.

But until you understand Genesis, you will never truly understand Jesus. Everything about Jesus is about Genesis.

**Because everything Jesus did on the cross was to fix what Adam his son lost in the garden.**

When Adam and Eve fell, everything under their dominion fell with them. So Jesus DIDN'T come to earth to raise up a religious organization. He came to restore His Sons and Daughters with authority....so they would not be slaves to sin.

It means....**Jesus stepped down from his position to come and change our condition. Then once He fixed our condition, He stepped back up to his position.**

Until you understand Genesis..you will never understand Jesus.... In other words, think about Adam and Eve in the garden...the authority and relationship they had with God.

That is what God wants for us....for his sons and daughters to walk in the identity, dignity, and authority..... Christ died to restore all of that to us.

This is important: Right before Jesus ascended to his throne, He said: In **Matthew 28:18** "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me,**"

Notice the verb tense? "Has been given"—past tense.

Not "will be given to me someday when I return." He's declaring current ownership.

So why would Jesus claim He currently has "all" authority on Earth if He's planning to wait before actually using it? God has all authority in heaven and on earth....not Satan!

In Paul's letters he says "**God has seated Christ at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority**" (Ephesians 1:20–21)—past tense, done deal.

▪ "**He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His Son**" (Colossians 1:13)—both past tense.

▪ "**Having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross**" (Colossians 2:15)—past tense,

Paul consistently treats the kingdom as a present reality, not a future hope.

Satan doesn't get his pink slip at the Second Coming.

He legally got stripped of authority at the First Coming—specifically at the cross and resurrection

Jesus, said shortly before the cross "**Now the ruler of this world will be cast out**" (John 12:31)

He meant "now"—as in, immediately. Not "in a couple thousand years."

Yes.... satan is on the earth....but He is operating without legitimate authority. He's like a corrupt cop who's been stripped of his badge but keeps wearing the uniform, intimidating people who don't realize he has no actual authority anymore.

He is like a tenant in a rent-house that has been served eviction papers but refuses to leave..... Someone with authority will have to force them to get out.

Listen.....satan isn't the legitimate ruler who'll eventually be overthrown—he's an outlaw trespasser clutching an eviction notice, and we're the enforcement team.

Satan wanted authority in heaven and was kicked out, and then God created humankind and gave us what Satan wanted.

We were not meant to live a defeated life. We are called to be the head and not the tail... God wants you to walk in authority and win over sin..satan, sickness, and self.

This is why it is so important for you to understand the difference between a church mind-set and kingdom mind-set...

A church-mindset is about how we can get more people to attend our service?" and "What is my role on Sunday?

A church mindset can settle for maintenance (people who look like us, dress like us, and vote like us) the kingdom minded person focuses on the mission.... Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..not a select few.

A church mindset can be on self-focus.....living in a house full of mirrors.....focused only on yourselves.....focused our Sunday services, our programs, our buildings....nothing wrong with Sunday church and buildings....yet our focus should be on service to others.

### **The shift is from consumers to contributors.**

In other words....**You can't say, preach to me, sing to me, marry me, bury me, but expect nothing from me, that's called a leach.**

**The kingdom is not a hospice, it's a-hospital. Hospice is where you're made comfortable while you die. A hospital is where you are fixed so you can live.**

Yes, people come broken, and struggling, and in need, but we're supposed to help them up so they can go back to work-not just sit, soak, and sour in the sanctuary.

Kingdom mindset is... a doctor's not just a doctor, he's God's representative in the medical field so the medical field sees what God looks like when God helps hurting people.

A teacher is not just a teacher....but God's representative so that the education field sees what God looks like when God instructs us.

To see what God looks like when God is working at the plant.... To see what God looks like working for the city....to see what God looks like working at Brookshire's

To get the revelation....you are representatives of the Kingdom of God in your sphere of influence.

I am not throwing shade on the church. The church is the Bride of Christ! Just pointing out what I am seeing...

A church mindset views the Bible as we are to be good people.....don't associate with wrong people, let's escape the world, be spiritual and enter heaven.

A church mindset can make people feel small if they are not in full-time ministry. A kingdom mindset says.... We are all called to be ministers....you are salt, you are light, and you have authority.

Church-minded giving motivates us to fund our own programs. **Kingdom-minded giving creates wealth to transform a community locally, regionally, and globally.**

God's kingdom isn't a place on a map....it's a way of living. It's a mentality of sons and daughters.

I understand that salvation takes place instantly.....but Conversion.... is like moving suddenly from a dilapidated shack into a mansion, we bring all our old habits and shack mentality with us....

And even though we have been delivered out of sin.... Most of the time we don't think like sons and daughters. It has nothing to do with our abilities.... But our mentality...

Many believers are in a similar situation to that of the prodigal son. It's pigpen mentality and they come from an environment that makes it difficult to believe they can ever be sons or daughters...

Upon the son's return, the father in Jesus' parable called first for a ring to be put on his son's hand. The ring was the symbol of sonship and authority in the family.

Once the young man had the ring, it meant that everything else in his father's house was his as well.

Christ came to earth, died on the cross, and rose from the dead to put a ring of sonship on everyone's finger to bring us back into fellowship with our Father so that we might assume our rightful place as sons and daughter and citizens in His kingdom.

As church minded folks....our tendency in the church is to overly-focus on heaven.

Why is this so important to me....because for the past 50 years the church basically has been hunkered in the bunker waiting for Jesus to come.

Understanding that Jesus is currently ruling Earth through His sons and daughters changes absolutely everything:

Prayer shifts from begging God to intervene to partnering with our Father to see heaven's decisions on earth's situations. In other words God will on earth as it is in Heaven.

▪ **Spiritual warfare shifts from desperate fighting for survival to understanding our authority—we're not hoping to win; we're enforcing victories already won. We start from a place of victory....we pray from a place of victory**

▪ Evangelism shifts from merely hoping people get fire insurance to inviting people into life-giving connection with God in reclaiming what God wants on Earth.

▪ **Daily life shifts from merely hunkering down and surviving until Jesus returns to actively advancing His kingdom so that He can return.**

▪ Expectation shifts from "maybe God will help" to "the King has delegated His authority, and I'm authorized to use it."

The kingdom isn't coming—it came. Jesus isn't waiting to start ruling—He's been extending His rule for 2,000 years through Spirit-empowered people.

We're not spectators waiting for the show—we're participants in the greatest expansion project in history. If heaven is God's main goal for all of us why don't He save us and then immediately take us?

**I am a child of God, not a slave to sin, sin no longer has authority over me.**

**I walk in the power, love, and authority through \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit of God in me.**

**I am a new creation. I am not defined by my past, but by my position in the Father's house.**

***"So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."* — Galatians 4:7 (NIV)**