

## Kingdom: God's family business

### Introduction – Created to rule

#### God's first covenant and command

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

#### Definition of “Kingdom” – Basileia – Strong's Greek #932

1. royal power, kingship, dominion, rule
  - a. not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom
  - b. of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah
  - c. of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom
2. a kingdom, the territory subject to the rule of a king
3. used in the N.T. to refer to the reign of the Messiah

You cannot rule in God's Kingdom without relationship with Father God and His family.

### Establishing (family) relationship through (blood) covenant

Through the Old Testament, God chose men to covenant with, naming just the better known ones:

- Adam's covenant
- Noah's covenant
- Abraham's covenant
- Moses' covenant
- David's covenant

We name them after the men God chose, but they are were all really God's covenants. God initiated each covenant to establish His rule and reign, His Kingdom, on the earth. He chose to do that through men and women, just as He does today.

We know these covenants were not complete, and so Jesus came, shed His blood and died so His Father could establish a “better covenant” with us (Hebrews 7:22), and reconcile us to God (Ephesians 2:16). This is bigger than salvation, which is just the point of entry. Jesus said that we must be “born from above” to even see His Father's Kingdom, much less enter it (John 3:3). Jesus made it clear that we must:

- Know the Father (John 14:6-11 - “I am the way, the truth, and the life...”)
- Seek His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33 - “But seek first His Kingdom...”)

## Kingdom lost

Covetousness has robbed our inheritance – the spirit of Esau

Hebrews 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Generations of the (spiritually, emotionally, and physically) fatherless

Over half of Americans agree that most people have unresolved problems with their fathers. Cumulatively, 55.6% agreed with this statement, up from 54.1% in our 1996 poll. More non-whites (70.4%) than whites (56.3%) were in agreement. Interestingly, the generation who has experienced more father absence, 18- to 24-year-olds, displayed the highest level of agreement (67.2%). Income was also a differentiating factor: of the respondents making \$25,000 or less, 70.1% agreed, compared to only 48.0% among those who make more than \$50,000. Source National Center For Fathering 1996

I Corinthians 4:14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

The true apostolic is a fathering gift that models and reproduces after its own kind.

My family – matriarchal in nature

Finding my spiritual father in my late teens

Emasculation and sterilization of the Church

The gospels of the Church have no power. Holy Spirit is used as a selfish toy rather than a powerful weapon. The church system reproduces far more hypocrites than sons. Experiencing God has been constrained to an array of emotionally stimulating manifestations. Real men are disappearing from churches because they are told this is how you relate to God, taking God out of one box and into another.

Escapism Eschatology

The church is telling guys, “Get saved, be a good boy, stay out of trouble, live a good life, because Jesus is coming back soon to take us to heaven and save us from Hell.”

The Lord's Prayer - “on earth as it is in heaven” - what happened to that? - Matthew 6:10

The gates of hell will not prevail – Matthew 16:18

## Conclusion - Kingdom restored

### Knowing the Father for ourselves

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.  
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?  
23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

### Return of the Church fathers – 5 fold ministry in light of the apostolic

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

### Return of fathers to the Church

I John 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.