



The Notes

“Grow the Kingdom”

Part 2: Orient Our Lives

**August 22, 2021
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Today’s Question: What does it mean to orient our lives as Kingdom Citizens?

Recap of last week: The kingdom of God is here **now, but not** fully here **yet**

WHAT ARE KINGDOM PEOPLE LIKE?

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives

light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

We need to orient our lives around becoming citizens of the kingdom, rather than citizens of our culture.

WAYS WE LOSE SIGHT OF GOD’S PRESENT KINGDOM

1. Not being **intentional** to form our lives in the way **God intended**, therefore allowing culture or our life situation to have **too much influence**
2. We get too focused on the future **fullness** of God’s Kingdom **now**, that we get sidetracked

When we get **too** focused on the future, we might respond in a couple of ways:

- **I might ignore something I don't think that I can change**

- **I might try to speak the truth of Christian morals or values at any expense**

A test if you are sidetracked down the Pharisee path:

- I might be a Pharisee if **speaking the truth** becomes more important than the **salvation** of others.
- If **speaking truth** overpowers others experiencing Jesus' love through me, then I might need to give myself a little re-orientation.

“Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Be merciful to those who doubt, save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh”

Jude 1:21-23 (NIV)

**We hate sin. We show mercy to people.
THE KINGDOM LIGHT SHOULD BURN AS
BRIGHT AS DISNEYLAND'S FIREWORKS**

**Some ways we live out the Kingdom in
Matthew 5 (NIV)**

Blessed Kingdom people

- Realize you can't earn your way into heaven (poor in spirit) v3
- Repent (mourn) v4
- Depend on the Lord (meek) v5
- Are desperate to do God's will (thirst for righteousness) v6
- Let go when you are wronged by someone (merciful) v7
- Focus your heart on Jesus (pure in heart) v8
- Spreads the peace of God to others (peacemakers) v9
- Say and do things consistent with what Jesus would do even though they might be persecuted vv10-11

The Kingdom of God calls us deeper than a set of rules

Matthew 5 (NIV)

1. You have heard “you shall not murder” (10 commandments), but I say if you are angry, insult, or call names, go and be reconciled (vv21-26)
2. You have heard do not commit adultery (10 commandments), but I say you should not **want** to commit adultery (vv27-30)
3. Your integrity should be so great that you don’t need to make oaths- (“I swear I will _____”) (vv35-37)
4. You have heard that if someone does something to you, it’s fine to get them back, but I say, turn the other cheek, give them your cloak, go the extra mile (vv38-42)

Orient your life today, and continue to transform into Kingdom citizens by studying and following the grace-filled and loving example of Jesus.