



Notes | September 8, 2024

As It Is In Heaven: Kingdom Order & The Church

The order of God's Kingdom is upside down from the order of the kingdom of this world. Even more so, the pattern to God's kingdom is incompatible with the pattern of this world. It is our responsibility as a church to know the difference or we will mistakenly live into the wrong kingdom. The world's kingdom leads to brokenness, emptiness and regret, but God's Kingdom leads to healing, wholeness and blessing. Knowing that, how should the church interact with the world? Jesus teaches that we are to live in the world, but not like the world. God has designed an order between the church and the world. God asks us to be compassionate and broken towards the world and by doing that we make it easy for people to enter into a relationship with Jesus.

Key Scripture | Romans 12:2

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will”

Related Scriptures

John 17:11; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Mark 10:35-38; Galatians 3:26-28; Romans 2:4

Icebreakers:

Q: Where is your favorite place to read your bible or have quiet time?



Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. In the World: Our Gospel Mission.

Q: How does Paul's directive in Romans 12:2 to be "in the world not of the world" influence how we interact with those around us?

Q: How do you stay relevant in the world without compromising your values?

Q: How would a church isolating or hiding from the world hinder their ability to fulfill their mission?

II. Not of the World: Our Gospel Message

Q: Is it difficult for you to "hold the line" between being in the world but not becoming like the world?

Q: Are there any areas in the church or in your own personal life where you've conformed to the world? How can you take steps or help the church move towards God's Kingdom order?

Q: The message of the church is that God can transform you, forgive you and free you from your old life. In what ways does conforming to the world violate that message?

III. Peach or Pineapple

Q: What does it mean for a church to have a "hard" commitment to God's agenda while being "soft" towards people?

Q: Do you have personal commitments or non-negotiables that are "hard" to God's agenda? How do you balance those commitments with staying "soft" towards those around you?

Q: "Religion starts to set in our hearts overtime." What are practical ways we can stay vigilant to act like Jesus on Sundays AND every other day of the week?

Get Practical

This week, pray for an opportunity to talk to "your one" about the peach pineapple analogy. If the opportunity presents itself, it's important to let those far from God know that you're sorry if they've ever felt like a church was hard to get into. Ask God to give you a "pineapple" standard for yourself but a "peach" mindset and heart towards those around you. Compassion and grace towards the world make it easy for them to get to Jesus!