

The Kingdom Effect:

How Christ & the Kingdom Changes Everything

The Kingdom Effect...

1. On the Individual
2. On Human Sexuality
3. On Marriage
4. On the Family
5. On the Church, pt I
6. On the Church, pt II
7. On Society & Culture
8. On Worldly Powers
9. On the Future
of Heaven & Earth

The Kingdom Effect on Family

- Marriage and family is a microcosm of the church and of God's love for the world.
- Our biological families are absorbed and incorporated into God's spiritual family.
- Christian families exist to serve the mission and purpose of the church—God's “eternal purpose” for bringing healing and reconciliation to earth.
- Every Christian has a new extended family where all are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus Redefines Family

Matthew 12:46-50 NIV

46 While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. **47** Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

48 He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” **49** Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. **50** For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

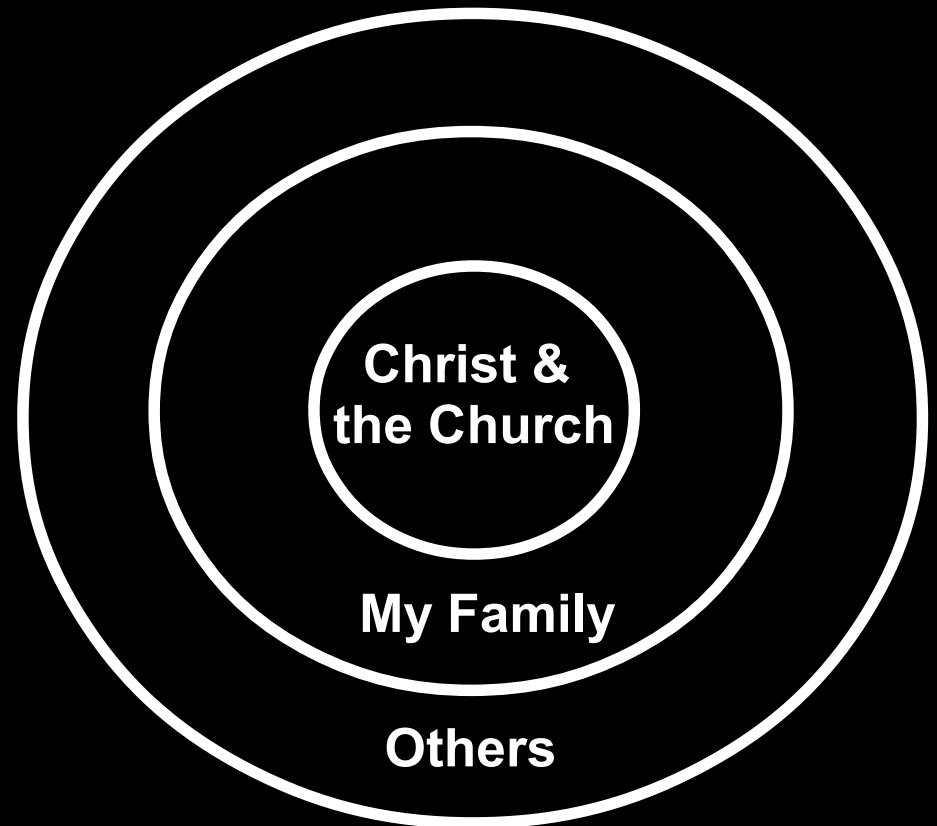
A Change in Priorities

“Christian” Sub-Culture

1. God
2. Country
3. Family
4. Church
5. Others



The Kingdom Effect



“The [old] list of priorities misses the whole point... The strong-group outlook of the New Testament church meant that the early Christians did not sharply distinguish between commitment to God and commitment to God's family. Cyprian of Carthage (c. AD 250) put it like this: “He who does not have the church for his mother cannot have God for his Father.” I would express it somewhat differently: “He who does not have God's children as his brothers and sisters does not have God for his Father.””

Joseph Hellerman, *When the Church Was a Family: Recapturing Jesus' Vision for Christian Community* (pg.73)

“We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me.”

Jesus, Matthew 10:40 MSG

Acts 9:1-5 NIV “Saul of Tarsus Meets Jesus”

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to *the Way*, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

“We must get our minds around the reality that, for NT Christianity, the claim that the church is the single *body of Christ* is not a nice metaphor or a cute cliché—it is an ontological fact.”

Paul Rhodes Eddy, Bethel University (St. Paul, MN)

God's Nature... God's Heart

- “God *is* love” (1 Jn 4:16)
- Therefore, God is Triune in nature (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)—lover, beloved & love shared.
- Since God is himself “comm-unity”... he says “let us” create man in “our image” and calls humanity to reflect his likeness.
- God begins with Israel, a “holy” nation (family); full expression known in Christ & the church.
- Biblical pictures & metaphors: male-female marriage, bio-family, covenant Israel, etc.

Jesus, John 17:11, 20-23 NIV

11 “Holy Father, protect them [disciples] by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we [Father & Son] are one.”

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— **23** I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Jesus, John 13:34-35 NIV

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Jesus, John 14:15-17, 20 NIV

15 “If you love me, keep my commands.

16 And I [the Son] will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the [Holy] Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

Matthew 16:16-18 NLT

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” **17** Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell (hades) will not conquer it.

And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

1 Peter 2:1-5 NIV

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to

him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10 NIV

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Paul, Ephesians 2:19-22 NLT

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. **20** Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. **22** Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

“The church is an organic extension of the triune God. It was conceived in Christ before time (Eph 1:4-5) and born on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1). Properly conceived, the church is the gathered community that shares God's life and expresses it in the earth. Put another way, the church is the earthly image of the triune God (Eph 1:22-23).”

Frank Viola, *Reimagining Church* (pg. 35)

