

The Kingdom Effect

The image features the title 'The Kingdom Effect' in a decorative, serif font. The text is rendered in a gradient of colors, transitioning from a reddish-pink at the top to a light green at the bottom. The letters are outlined in a darker shade of the same color. The text is set against a dark, textured background that resembles the fur of a bear's face. Several small, stylized flowers or buds are scattered across the bear's face, particularly around the eye and nose area. The overall aesthetic is whimsical and artistic.

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

Society & Culture: 3 Wrong Responses

1. Defensive Against

(legislating sin, power of the sword, boycotting, etc.)

What is the danger?

2. Purity From

(withdrawal from “evil” world, save “souls” only, etc.)

What is the danger?

3. Relevant To

(relevance is *it*, decisions driven by culture, etc.)

What is the danger?

Being a Faithful Presence

- Willing and able to “be there” to serve and make disciples within society and culture
- Infusing life and love (well-being) into the chaos of culture—shining a light into the darkness
- Maintaining a historically Christian theology and worldview as a counter-cultural community
- Promoting the Gospel of transformational inclusion into the Kingdom that always looks like Jesus laying his life down for others

“[Christians] are assuredly the salt of the earth. They preserve the order of the world. And society is held together as long as the salt is uncorrupted.”

Origen (248 AD)

Anabaptist Convictions

1. Believer's baptism
2. Jesus as our example
3. Simplicity (in life, possessions, beliefs, etc.)
4. Peace-making, enemy-love and non-violence
5. Church as visible Kingdom community
6. Separation of church and state

Jesus, Mark 1:14-17 NASB

14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. **17** And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

“My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”

Jesus, Jn 18:36 NLT

The Two Kingdoms

- **Kingdoms of the World**

Ruler: Satan is “ruler (*arche*) of this world” (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11); “god of this age” and “prince of the power of the air” (2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2) -- “deceives the nations” (Rev 13:14).

Methods: exercises *power-over* people (law), wields “the power of the sword” (war & violence), operates by intimidation and force, seeks to control behavior.

Purpose: originated because of sin and rebellion; in spite of its corruption, God uses it to keep law and order in a fallen world where sin reigns in human beings (Rom 13:1-5).

The Two Kingdoms, cont.

- **Kingdom of God**

Ruler: Jesus Christ is “king” of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 19:16) and “lord” of all (Acts 10:36); maker of heaven and earth (Col 1:16); “judge” over all creation (Rom 2:16; 2 Tim 4:1); he is the embodiment of the Kingdom of God.

Methods: exercises *power-under* people (love), wields the sword of the Spirit, operates in gentleness and grace, seeks to transform hearts by the Spirit; always looks like Jesus.

Purpose: that God would reign and rule the cosmos through Jesus, his Son, the exact representation of his being; he invites all of creation to share in the mysterious Kingdom that is already/but not yet (Matt 4:17; 6:10; 12:28; 1 Cor 15:24).

Kingdom Behavior

Romans 12:1-21

- Don't conform... be transformed
- Don't think you're better, you belong to the group
- Love for real, hate evil, and help the needy
- Serve hard and keep hope alive through prayer
- Overcome evil with good (Jesus), not with evil
- Never take revenge, let God be the Judge
- Use power-under actions to win your enemy

Purpose of the State

Romans 13:1-7

- Uses “the sword”
- Takes “revenge” on God's behalf
- Represents God's wrath and justice
- Maintains social order
- Demands taxes and obedience
- Orders and restrains the community of sinners

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.”

Paul, 1 Timothy 2:1-2 NLT

1 Peter 2:13-17 NIV

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, **14** or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **15** For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. **16** Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. **17** Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Acts 5:28-30 NIV

28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! **30** The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.

Paul, Philippians 3:17-21 NLT

17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. **18** For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. **21** He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.”

Paul, 2 Timothy 2:3-5 NLT

“Christendom (i.e. Christian government, coalitions, institutions, etc.) tries to control morality through civil means because they have failed to uphold the truth in their own assemblies. They have diluted the Gospel and rendered themselves savorless salt. Now they turn to human government to do what the church should have done through Christian influence.”

Michael Martin, *Cup & Cross: An Introduction to Anabaptist History*, pg. 305.

"Morality can become a heresy as a substitute for a life in Christ, as an alternative to an inner transformation of your own heart, and as a platform from which you can judge and condemn other people."

Lazar Puhalo

“What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?”

Paul, 1 Corinthians 5:12 NIV

Jesus' Appeal to Sinners

1. Other rabbis/leaders distanced themselves
2. Associated with outcasts, invitation to follow
3. Diverse disciples (taxcollectors, zealots, etc.)
4. Spoke truth to power, called for justice
5. Captivated and ministered to deepest needs
6. Transformed hearts through co-suffering love
7. Shared vision for a world ruled by God as King

They brought the coin, and he asked them,
“Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

Mark 12:16-17 NIV

