

The Kingdom Effect



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 community of the saints is not an "ideal" community consisting of perfect and sinless men and women, where there is no need of further repentance. No, it is a community which proves that it is worthy of the gospel of forgiveness by constantly and sincerely proclaiming God's forgiveness...

Sanctification means driving out the world from the Church as well as separating the Church from the world. But the purpose of such discipline is not to establish a community of the perfect, but a community consisting of people who really live under the forgiving mercy of God.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

What is Moralistic Therapeutic Deism?

“Our task as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to a world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to a world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to a world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion...The gospel of Jesus points us and indeed urges us to be at the leading edge of the whole culture...”

N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus*

When Christ Meets Culture

- Jesus was born into Jewish culture.
- The apostles, especially Paul, went “cross-culture” to Greeks and Romans (Acts 15).
- As the Christian faith spreads, it takes on different expressions in every location.
- The Jesus movement transforms lives from within culture, and redeems what it's able.
- Culture isn't *inherently* evil. It is symptomatic of a society's beliefs, customs, traditions, etc.

The Christian Subversion of Language in Society & Culture

1st cent. Roman Empire

- euangellion (gospel)
- soter (savior)
- liberate (freedom)
- doulos (slave)
- adelphos (brother)
- ekklesia (church)

21st cent. America

- community
- freedom
- unity
- tolerance
- inclusion
- love

Paul, Romans 12:1-2 NLT

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Being Salt & Light

Jesus, Matthew 5:13-16 NLT

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. **14** “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. **15** No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Paul, Colossians 4:2-6 NIV

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

1 Peter 2:11-12 NLT

11 Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. **12** Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

Paul to Titus, Titus 2:11-15 NLT

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. **12** And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, **13** while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. **14** He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds. **15** You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say.

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

"The lasting effects of these shifts will force churches to make a critical decision. They will either become a cultural church that allows the societal trends to dictate their ever-changing beliefs. Or they will become a counter-cultural church that faithfully adheres to Scripture and proclaims the gospel in a carefully considered way. The latter church will offer real hope in the midst of an adversarial culture and is the only real future for the American church."

Ed Stetzer, *Mission Trends: 4 Trends for Churches to Consider* (Christianity Today—June 2, 2014)

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