

KINGDOM CONFLICT

Rethinking How to Live in the Parenthesis

Part Two

Kingdom Conflict Deeper Than Actions

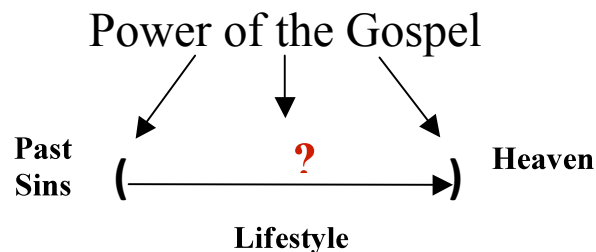
Terminology:

- “Kingdom” refers to the concept that there is a Great Kingdom of God or the little kingdom of self. The Great Kingdom is the rule and reign of God changing and empowering your life to glorify God. The little kingdom is our desire to be self-ruled, self-focused, and self-glorifying.
- “Parenthesis” refers to the Christian life from salvation to heaven. At salvation we believe that the Gospel is powerful enough to forgive all of our past sins. The Gospel is also powerful enough to guarantee life after death. The problem is with the gap, **parenthesis**, interlude that we live in. Many do not believe that the gospel is powerful enough to be implemented into daily living.
- This creates a conflict between the Great Kingdom and the little kingdom of self. Whom will we serve? For what shall we live?

Outline of Studies:

- Kingdom Conflict Pattern
- Kingdom Conflict Deeper Than Actions
- Kingdom Conflict and Thoughts
- Kingdom Conflict and Words
- Kingdom Conflict and Forgiveness
- Kingdom Conflict and Marriage
- Kingdom Conflict and Money
- Kingdom Conflict and Sex
- Kingdom Conflict and Counterfeit Resolution
- Kingdom Conflict Winning the Battle

I. A Diagram of the Kingdom Conflict Pattern



II. The Question of Kingdom Conflict (2 Peter 1:1-9)

“Is the gospel effective and operational for my life today?”

III. The Results of “Gospel-less” Daily Living (2 Peter 1:8-9)

IV. Foundational Biblical Principles of Great Kingdom Living Today

A. The presence of **sin** has a tremendously negative impact on our lives (Rom 7:15-20; Gal 6:1).

*(Romans 7:15-20 ESV)*¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

*(Galatians 6:1 ESV)*¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

B. God has provided everything that we need to live fully for his Kingdom (2 Pet 1:4-9 NLT; Gal 2:20).

*(2 Peter 1:4-9 NLT)*⁴And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires. ⁵In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. ⁸The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

*(Galatians 2:20 ESV)*²⁰I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

C. Our focus must be on our **hearts** not our **behaviors** (Prov 4:23).

*(Proverbs 4:23 ESV)*²³Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

D. The power to live in the Great Kingdom comes from a **person** not a set of **principles** (Eph 2:22-23; 1 Cor 15:25-28).

*(Ephesians 2:22-23 ESV)*²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

*(1 Corinthians 15:25-28 ESV)*²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

E. We are called to **constant change** as we live in the parenthesis (Rom 8:28-29; 2 Pet 1:4).

(Romans 8:28-29 ESV)²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

(2 Peter 1:4 ESV)⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

F. **Humility, repentance, and faith** are essential in daily living (James 4:7-10).

(James 4:7-10 ESV)⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Living Word:

Attributed and Recommended References and Resources

Francois Fenelon, *The Seeking Heart*

Os Guinness, *God in the Dark*

Timothy S. Lane, Paul Tripp, *How People Change*

Robert P. Lightner, *Sin, the Savior, and Salvation*

Bruce Demarest, *The Cross and Salvation*

John Piper, *Future Grace*

Gerald L. Sitser, *Water from a Deep Well*

A CD of this Bible study, as well as all our messages, are available at the Bookstore in the east side of the lobby. These are provided on a donation basis. Also, check out the Podcasting link on our website, www.hhbc.com, or simply listen to the message from your computer.