

KINGDOM AGENDA

A Self-Guided Study

Dr. Tony Evans

contents

Table of Contents = The **KINGDOM AGENDA**: A Self-Guided Study

Chapter 1	The Concept of a Kingdom Agenda	1=1
Chapter 2	The Necessity of a Kingdom Agenda	2=1
Chapter 3	The Covenants of a Kingdom Agenda	3=1
Chapter 4	The Government of a Kingdom Agenda	4=1
Chapter 5	The Authority of a Kingdom Agenda	5=1
Chapter 6	The Kingdom Agenda and Your Discipleship	6=1
Chapter 7	The Kingdom Agenda and Your Calling	7=1
Chapter 8	The Kingdom Agenda and Your Mind	8=1
Chapter 9	The Kingdom Agenda and Your Stewardship	9=1
Chapter 10	The Kingdom Agenda and Your Inheritance	10=1
Chapter 11	The Kingdom Agenda of Husbands	11=1
Chapter 12	The Kingdom Agenda of Wives	12=1
Chapter 13	The Kingdom Agenda of Parents	13=1
Chapter 14	The Kingdom Agenda of Children	14=1
Chapter 15	The Kingdom Agenda of Singles	15=1
Chapter 16	The Kingdom Agenda of the Church	16=1
Chapter 17	The Kingdom Agenda of Leaders	17=1
Chapter 18	The Kingdom Agenda of Members	18=1
Chapter 19	The Kingdom Agenda of Men	19=1
Chapter 20	The Kingdom Agenda of Women	20=1
Chapter 21	The Kingdom Agenda and Justice	21=1
Chapter 22	The Kingdom Agenda and Economics	22=1
Chapter 23	The Kingdom Agenda and Racism	23=1
Chapter 24	The Kingdom Agenda and Politics	24=1
Chapter 25	The Kingdom Agenda and Education	25=1

1

Chapter One – The Concept of a Kingdom Agenda

Mr. Nelson is a Special Education teacher who works with students that have very explosive attitudes and behaviors. In order to be an effective teacher, Mr. Nelson's class is very structured with consistent rules, procedures, and instruction. At the heart of Mr. Nelson's approach is his belief that his students are capable of success. In fact, in the ten years that he has worked with these types of students, he has seen a great deal of success and has received outstanding reviews for his work from his colleagues and administrators.

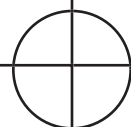
However, Ms. Brown, the teacher assistant has a different philosophy regarding how the class should be run. She believes that Mr. Nelson is too rigid and not

very nurturing. She often undermines his teaching, as well as his execution of class procedures and rules.

When Mr. Nelson confronted Ms. Brown about her lack of support, she insists that she is only there to follow his agenda and do what he asked her to do. Despite this assertion, Ms. Brown continues to push her own agenda, secretly desiring to be in charge without paying the price. Ms. Brown feels that since she is twenty years older and has been in education as a long-term substitute, she knows a lot more than Mr. Nelson and could be a valuable asset to him. Furthermore, as a grandmother of three, she believes that she has more talent for working with children.



- What was Ms. Brown's agenda? How did her agenda differ from Mr. Nelson's agenda?
- How is Ms. Brown's attitude and actions similar to and/or different from our approach toward God and His agenda?
- Do you think Ms. Brown's agenda will prevail? Explain why or why not.



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. How does the author define God's kingdom agenda? _____

2. What is the problem in the church today as it relates to God's kingdom? _____

3. In your own words, summarize the four basic truths discussed in the chapter about God's kingdom? _____

4. What does it mean to be a kingdom person? _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Read Colossians 1:15-20. List three truths discussed in this passage that show the supremacy of Jesus Christ.
2. The following passages illustrate God's sovereignty.
 - God rules effectively. Read Ephesians 1:11.
 - God rules universally. Read Psalm 97:9.
 - God rules eternally. Read Psalm 10:16 and Psalm 29:10b.
 - God rules absolutely. Read Isaiah 45:22 and Revelation 19:11-16.
3. Read Psalm 24. According to this Psalm, who is praised as sovereign over the entire world? Does God's rule extend to all people, even those who do not acknowledge Him? What, then, is the appropriate approach to the Lord? _____

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. How does possessing a kingdom view affect what we do and how we do it? _____

2. Discuss ways we often struggle to find a fulfilled life using human methods? _____

3. What opinions of the world are in conflict with truths in the Bible? _____

4. Why is living by the rules of God's kingdom important? What are the benefits? _____

5. What areas of our lives are we reluctant to surrender to God's rule? _____

6. How is God's sovereignty demonstrated on the earth? In our lives? _____

7. What quick fixes do we often apply to our visible and physical problems instead of seeking spiritual solutions? _____

8. What can we do to prioritize God's kingdom in our daily lives? _____

9. In what ways do we strive for individual significance? _____

10. How can we make God more significant in our daily lives? _____



Application

A mission statement describes your unique purpose. When you are in a moment of choice, a mission statement should help guide your decisions. A mission is not a narrow goal, but an overall guiding direction for your life. A mission captures what qualities you want to develop, what you want to accomplish, what contributions you want to make. It answers the reason you are alive. With a clear mission, you know what is important and can focus your activity.

Read the sample mission statement below.

To strive each day to be less selfish, to live for God's glory, to be a help to others, to be thankful, and to always do my very best.

Draft a personal mission statement describing how you want to live according to God's will as you operate by His kingdom agenda.



2

Chapter Two – The Necessity of a Kingdom Agenda

Martha is a widow with two teenage daughters, April and Alice. April is 16-years-old, very polite and respectful towards her mother. The younger daughter, Alice, is 13-years-old and nothing like her older sister. Alice is very rebellious and disruptive at home and at school. She picks fights with everyone and has been detained several times by the police.

Martha is at her wits end. Alice is out of control, argumentative, ill-mannered and disrespects her position as the parent. Martha has tried all types of counseling and has spoken with her pastor about

the problems she is having with Alice. She has heard countless explanations for Alice's behavior, ranging from typical teenage behavior to displaced anger over the death of her father.

Whatever the reason, Martha is now considering removing Alice from the home — especially since Alice continues to go her own way and rebel against her mother's rule and authority.



- Compare Alice's rebellion against her mother to the rebellion Satan perpetrated against God's rule.
- Alice's defiance is actually an act of rebellion against God. Explain why this statement is true.
- Alice is in direct conflict with her mother's agenda, while her older sister, April, seems to recognize her mother's authority and respect her rule. How are the actions of the two daughters similar to and/or different from your reaction to God's kingdom agenda?
- What can Alice do to turn things around and gain her mother's approval?

Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. Describe the four characteristics of Satan's kingdom. How does knowing these characteristics help you see the necessity of God's kingdom agenda? _____

2. In your own words, summarize Satan's rebellious boasting against God? _____

3. What is the role of God's people in His kingdom? What tactic does Satan use to bring us to rebel against this role? _____

4. What does the author describe as the great sin of the Bible? What are some of the consequences of this great sin? _____

5. How can God's people find fulfillment in their role in His kingdom? _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. These passages help us define rebellion.
 - It is the opposite of obedience. Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23.
 - It is in opposition to God's requirements. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-18.
 - It is the cause of divine chastisement. Read 2 Chronicles 30:7-8.
2. Read Ezekiel 28:1-19. Why was the king of Tyre filled with pride? What was the result of his haughtiness? _____

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

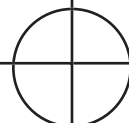
1. How has Satan's rebellion permeated our society? _____

2. In what ways do we challenge the rules and regulations of God's kingdom? _____

3. Can rebellion cause us to fall short of experiencing God's call on our life? Explain your answer. _____

4. How does living independently of God affect our personal fulfillment? _____

5. What areas of our life do we often operate like owners instead of managers? _____



Application

Think about areas of your life where you have taken charge — acting like an owner and living as though God has no say over you.

Make a commitment today to relinquish the areas of your life that you have been holding back from God's ownership. Pray this simple prayer.

Heavenly Father,

I recognize that You are the sovereign, in control, King of kings, and right now I want to yield to Your absolute rule in my life. You control the biggest things, so I know that You can control me and the affairs of my life. Teach me to trust You when I can't find You, and help me to obey You even when it hurts. All that I have is from You, and the only hope of living out Your plan for my life successfully is if I trust and obey You. It gets difficult, Lord, and I have a tendency to veer off course and lean on my own understanding, plots, and plans. Forgive me for being stubborn at times, and like Israel, taking matters into my own hands. My hands are suspect hands, but Yours are sure. You are Lord, and not me, so I relinquish control of my life and entrust myself to You, oh Lord.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.



3

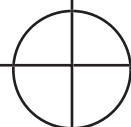
Chapter Three – The Covenants of a Kingdom Agenda

Samantha, a twenty-six-year-old vivacious young woman, married a man who was in his late eighties. Her elderly husband recently died. Now Samantha is involved in a lawsuit with his adult children concerning the family inheritance. Samantha believes that since she was his lawful wife, she should be entitled to half of everything. On the other hand, the children's opinion is that she has no such entitlement. In fact, the children were not at all happy with their father's recent marriage. They felt that Samantha had manipulated their father into marriage. Therefore, the children filed legal motions to have the marriage annulled. The court, however, upheld the marriage—ruling that the father was of sound mind at the time. So, to Samantha's argument the marriage was legal.

Conversely, Samantha was not happy with the further findings of the court. The court argued that she was only entitled to what she and her husband accumulated during the marriage. Further, Samantha was not entitled to gifts left to the children in the last will and testament. The court suggested that the will was a promised agreement made by the children's father. Therefore, the will was a secured promise to the children that was validated by the father's signature. Items that the children were to receive from their father could not be touched, regardless of who he married. Needless to say, the children were ecstatic because there was nothing that could undo this contract.



- Do you believe the court's ruling was fair? Explain why.
- In what ways are the agreements we make everyday similar to and/or different from God's covenants?
- Despite the court's ruling regarding the inheritance, did Samantha and her husband have a marriage covenant? Explain your answer.



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. How does the author define a covenant? List the three aspects of a biblical covenant discussed in the chapter. _____

2. This chapter discusses five distinctives of God's covenant. Explain what it means to say a covenant is God ordained. Give an example in the Bible of God's hierarchical chain of command. Explain the cause-effect relationship of God's covenant rules. Give an example of a covenant oath. Explain the repercussions of breaking God's law described in Exodus 20:5. _____

3. In your own words, describe the four basic covenants under which God's kingdom agenda operates. _____



Explain why the family, church, and civil government can not take the place of personal responsibility for our own lives. _____

Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Read Genesis 15 to learn about the Abrahamic covenant.
2. Read 2 Samuel 7 to learn about the Davidic covenant.
3. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 to learn about the new covenant fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Read Deuteronomy 27-30 and Joshua 8:30-35 to learn about the covenant renewal ceremonies performed by Moses and Joshua.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. In the Bible, marriage is called a covenant. In what ways has society moved away from the binding nature and intimate relationship of a biblical marriage? _____

2. Explain how the negative aspects of God's covenant are for the good of those who covenant with Him. _____

3. Discuss the meaning of the statement: "Everything was authored by God." _____

4. In what ways do we express our desire for autonomy? Discuss the results of breaking God's covenantal chain of command. _____

5. Discuss one example of God's covenant rule. Explain the penalty of violating this rule. _____

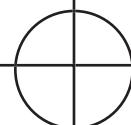
6. What is flawed about the attitude that says, "I am going to do my own thing because I am forgiven?" _____

7. In what ways do you think society is suffering the repercussions of breaking God's law? _____

8. Discuss the importance of the four covenants under which God's administers His kingdom. _____

9. In what areas of your life are you guilty of blaming others for outcomes instead of accepting personal responsibility for your own decisions? _____

10. What role should the family, the church, and civil governments play in our lives? _____



Application

The chapter presents four types of covenants. These covenants are vital to what God is doing in history with mankind. However, many do not understand the significance and importance.


How can this knowledge be applied to your life? _____

How can you demonstrate the importance of covenants in God's kingdom agenda? _____



4

Chapter Four – The Government of a Kingdom Agenda



John and Amy have been married for eleven years and have four children. The children's ages are 18, 17, 15, and 9. John is the biological father of the youngest child. As a mother rearing young children, Amy chose not to work outside the home. During the years after her first marriage and before her marriage to John, she received public assistance in the form of welfare and food stamps. Amy did not report her new marriage and continued to receive the assistance. Although John was against it, Amy often defended her actions by rationalizing that as long as the government made the funds available she would continue to apply for them. To make matters worse, Amy told the children that it was free money and she often used it to buy their affection.

As time passed, the arguments between John and Amy concerning the money grew, often involving the three oldest children. Amy wanted to continue receiving the welfare, but John was ready to put an end to the fraud before the government caught

on to what they were doing. The three older children sided with their mother because they had become comfortable with the extra money.

Amy failed to see the effect this deception had on her marriage and on the attitudes of the children. When Amy suggested that the three teenagers get part-time jobs after school, they angrily refused and snapped back that she get a job. Amy then complained to John about the children disrespecting her. John suggested that Amy take a look in the mirror and accept her role in the current problems. He argued that they were both to blame. John explained that they had taught their children to be dependent on others instead of taking personal responsibility. He went on to say that they showed them how to cheat the government instead of productively contributing to society. As a result, John felt they had planted seeds that resulted in lazy children with no respect for authority.



- Do you agree with point John made in the end? What effect did John and Amy's inability to govern themselves have on the children?
- How could the children apply the concept of self-government discussed in this chapter to their lives?
- In what ways did John and Amy fail to apply God's truth to their children's life?
- How does Genesis 3-6 demonstrate the consequences of a parents' failure to institute family government?

Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. Explain the meaning of government in the biblical sense. _____

2. List the four basic covenants or mechanisms by which God rules. _____

3. In your own words, summarize the responsibilities and jurisdictional boundaries of God's four governmental entities. _____

4. The author explains that God's kingdom operates from the bottom up. Draw a chart illustrating this relationship. _____

5. List the method of discipline for each of God's governing institutions. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. You must govern yourself. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and Romans 14:4.
2. You are able to govern yourself. Read Romans 6:12-14 and 1 Corinthians 6:12.
3. You must continue to learn to govern yourself. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:4.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What does it mean to govern your self? _____

2. What can parents do to encourage children to govern their lives according to God's rules? _____

3. How can the church promote good self-government? _____

4. What is the role of the civil government as it relates to self-government? _____

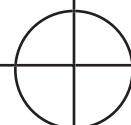
5. Many of the problems occurring in the family, church, and civil governments today can be attributed to poor self-government. Do you agree with this statement? Explain why or why not. _____

6. Discuss the meaning of Romans 14:12, "Each one of us shall give account of himself to God." _____

7. Discuss what the family, the church, and the civil government can do to help those in need who are unwilling to take personal responsibility? _____

8. The author explains that spiritual self-examination is part of the process of self-government. In light of this, do you think you do a good job of examining yourself? Explain why or why not. _____

9. Discuss the blessing that comes when we move toward self-government and take personal responsibility. _____



Application

God's ultimate goal for mankind is self-government. In fact, the government of God's kingdom begins with personal responsibility. Yet many look to others to rectify situations in their lives instead of taking personal responsibility for their lives.

Are you governing your life according to God's Word and His principles of government?

How can you do a better job of controlling your attitudes and actions? _____

Are you governing your family under God's kingdom rules? As a parent, how can you do a better job of raising your children in the discipline and instruction and the Lord? _____



5

Chapter Five – The Authority of a Kingdom Agenda



Richard holds a mid-level management position in his company. Veronica, a senior manager, hired Richard and has been his boss for the past year and a half. Even though the company suffers because of low morale among the employees, Richard and Veronica have had a pretty good working relationship with only a few minor disagreements.

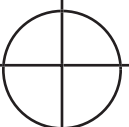
However, lately, Richard has noticed a change in Veronica's attitude and behavior. She is becoming increasingly critical of his work, unsupportive, and she speaks negatively about him to their co-workers. Richard has no clue as to what brought this on, but he's not surprised – it's typical within this company. All he knows is that he doesn't like it. Much to his chagrin, Richard's situation only gets worse. He wants to ignore Veronica's antics,

but he's just about had it and has started to avoid her as much as possible.

One afternoon, Richard runs into Veronica's boss, Harold, at a nearby restaurant. Harold invites Richard to join him and his colleagues for lunch. Richard sees this is as the perfect opportunity for him to rat on Veronica as well as do a little brown-nosing; he knows he could do a much better job in Veronica's position. Because the company boasts of its amicable open door policy, Richard feels he is justified in letting Veronica's boss know what's going on – although he is not following the company's prescribed chain of command. As far as he's concerned, he has taken the high ground in the situation.



- Has Richard truly taken the high ground in his approach to the problem?
- How do Richard's actions demonstrate his rebellion against authority?
- What steps should Richard have taken to address his problems with Veronica following the company's chain of command?
- In what ways could Richard's attempt to rat on his boss backfire?
- Although Richard may not agree, why is chain of command important in organizations?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. In your own words, summarize the “Ten Words” discussed in this chapter and listed in Exodus 20. _____

2. Which New Testament scripture is the first and second greatest laws according to Jesus and encapsulates the Ten Commandments. _____

3. List three areas in the family where the Bible is to have authority. _____

4. How is God’s kingdom expanded through the influence of the church? _____

5. List the three ways discussed in this chapter that rulers respect biblical authority. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Because the Bible is authoritative:
 - You can build your life on it. Read Matthew 7:24.
 - You must submit to it. Read Psalm 119:4.
 - You can stay pure by it. Read Psalm 119:9.
 - You can be guided through it. Read Isaiah 119:105.
2. Read Proverbs 3:1-20.
3. Read Psalm 19:7-14.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. The author explains that the kingdom agenda starts with your personal commitment to biblical authority. How would you describe your personal commitment to biblical authority?

2. What daily choices do we make that reflect the Bible's authority in our life? _____

3. What daily choices do we make that demonstrate our rebellion against the authority of the Bible? _____

4. How should understanding the principles of Matthew 22:36-40 govern your personal life? _____

5. Discuss several ways parents can transmit Bible truth to their children. _____

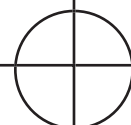
6. Discuss the author's statement: "The failure of parents to teach and discipline their children is at the heart of society's problems today." _____

7. What practical strategies can we begin to apply today to accomplish the principle taught in Proverbs 13:22? _____

8. The author gives a great example of a church influencing society. What work is your church carrying out to impact your community? _____

9. Discuss your reaction to the following statement: "America is a classic example of what happens in a society that rejects God's rules and tries to live by man's rules." _____

10. Why is it important that we learn to function by biblical authority? _____



Application


Evaluate your personal commitment to biblical authority. Using the chart below, evaluate how the Ten Commandments (discussed on pages 67-70 of the chapter) govern your personal life. On the right side of the chart, list the commands you consistently obey. On the left side, list the commands you want to improve on. When you finish your self evaluation, develop an action plan that will enable you to obey.

I ALWAYS OBEY	I WILL IMPROVE



6

Chapter Six – The Kingdom Agenda and Your Discipleship



Larry was a devout Christian. He spoke of his convictions to his friends, co-workers, and family members. In fact, when he wasn't busy with his church work, Larry talked about his faith every chance that he had. One day Larry's co-worker asked for his help on a small project, but Larry refused because the time conflicted with his Bible study. Several days later, the same co-worker asked Larry to have lunch with him. Once more, Larry declined because he always met with his midday prayer group at lunchtime. Several more days passed and the co-worker invited Larry for coffee after work. Larry turned down the invitation, explaining that he had to attend choir practice that evening. That day was the last time Larry saw his co-worker.

Sometime later, Larry received a letter from his co-worker. In the letter, the co-worker explained that he knew Larry was a Christian and had hoped

that Larry could help him deal with his troubled life. However, the co-worker said that each time he tried to set up some time to talk Larry was too busy. In the letter, the co-worker expressed feelings of hopelessness and confusion and told of his struggles with thoughts of suicide. As Larry read the letter he became sad, recalling the co-workers attempts to meet with him. At the end of the letter, the co-worker explained that Larry was his last hope. He wrote about the evening he went to the coffee shop alone and planned how he would end his life. As Larry read on, a lump formed in his throat and tears filled his eyes. Although Larry knew that it was the co-workers decision to commit suicide, he was devastated and felt guilty because he did not take the time to talk with him.

Think it THROUGH

- With all of his church work, do you think Larry was living for the kingdom? Explain.
- In terms of discipleship, how did Larry miss the kingdom?
- Would you say Larry is busier “doing a program” than “pursuing a Person?” Explain your answer.

Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What is the meaning of the word disciple? _____

2. What does the author describe as the singular, over-arching goal of a disciple? _____

3. Define the term discipleship. _____

4. What is the goal of discipleship? _____

5. List the four key resources God has provided to help us in the process of spiritual growth. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Making disciples is a responsibility of God's people. Read Matthew 28:18-20.
2. Making disciples is our ministry and service. Read Acts 14:21-22.
3. Making disciples requires time and consistent teaching. Read Acts 11:26.
(The disciples were called "Christians" because of their association with Christ.)
4. Making disciples is the human process that God uses for the divine work of making people who look like Jesus. Read Romans 8:29.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. Without giving your name, job title, or family role, how would you answer the question posed by the author of who you really are? What would others say? _____

2. Compare living a mediocre Christian life to living a kingdom life. _____

3. The author explains that some Christians who have been saved five years are more spiritually mature and better Disciples of Christ than others who have been Christians for twenty-five years. Why might this be true? _____

4. As disciples, how can we demonstrate our allegiance to God's kingdom agenda? _____

5. In what ways do we miss the kingdom as it relates to discipleship? _____

6. What risks are involved with committing ourselves to Christ? Have you fully committed yourself to the domain of the kingdom? _____

7. Discuss what the author means by "built-in discipline." _____

8. The author explains that many Christians struggle with spiritual discipline because they carry out their lives doing a program rather than pursuing a relationship with Christ. Discuss the differences with the two approaches. _____

9. As a kingdom disciple, God demands that He be first in everything. What possessions or relationships in our lives are often pushed in front of intimate fellowship with Christ? _____

10. From this chapter, you know that Jesus wants to be more important to you than you are to yourself. Is Jesus more important to you than your own comforts? _____



Application

You may not be where you want to be in your spiritual growth, but you ought to be bigger spiritually this year than you were last year. The author explains that the result of discipleship process is conformity to the image of Christ, demonstrated by the reflection of the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the disciple (Galatians 5:16-25).

How often do you express the fruit of the Spirit in your life? Using the following scale, compare the expression of the fruit of the Spirit in your life this year to the previous year.


1 = Rarely	2 = Infrequently	3 = Occasionally	4 = Usually	5 = Freely
------------	------------------	------------------	-------------	------------

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR
Love		
Joy		
Peace		
Patience		
Kindness		
Goodness		
Faithfulness		
Gentleness		
Self-Control		



7

Chapter Seven – The Kingdom Agenda and Your Calling



Amanda is 30-years-old and has two children ages three and four. She has been married to Ted for three years. Amanda and Ted both work full-time jobs, yet Ted earns considerably less than she does. In order to have the things that she wants for her family, Amanda feels that she must work overtime whenever possible. Ted repeatedly complains about her working so many hours. Over the past few months, the arguments have shifted from

her long hours at work to her impatience with the children and her lack of sexual interest. As a result, Amanda has shown signs of depression and fatigue, but she refuses to listen to her husband's plea to either quit her job or cut down her hours. Amanda believes she is fulfilling her calling through her job. Furthermore, she may be eligible for a promotion if she continues to perform at a high level.

[Think it THROUGH]

- Given the problems Amanda's job is creating in her marriage and family, do you believe her job fulfills God's calling for her life?
- What aspects of her calling is Amanda's employment satisfying?
- Was Ted right to demand that Amanda either quit her job or cut down her hours?
- Could Amanda's job be robbing her of time in God's presence? If so, what impact might this have on her finding her calling?
- What advice would you offer Amanda to help her make clear God's calling for her life?

Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What is the definition of calling in terms of God's kingdom agenda? _____

2. The author discusses three principles about a kingdom agenda calling. In your own words, summarize each aspect. _____

3. Explain the meaning of the statement: "Relationship precedes the calling." _____

4. List two imperatives in finding your calling. _____

5. What powerful provision does God provide to enable you to fulfill your calling? _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. There is a revealed collective calling for the believer. All believers are called:
 - Out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9)
 - Into the fellowship of his son (1 Corinthians 1:9)
 - Into his own kingdom and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:12).
 - To be saints (Romans 1:7)
 - To be free (Galatians 5:13)
 - To have hope (Ephesians 1:18).
 - To eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12)
2. Your conduct should match this collective calling. Read Ephesians 4:1.
3. Fulfilling a calling or purpose requires persistent effort and diligence. Read Philippians 3:12.
 (The phrase "I press on" is the idea of "agonizing" to obtain a goal.)
 It is rewarding to fulfill your calling. Read 2 Timothy 6-8.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. Discuss the drawbacks of living an ordinary life as opposed to living out God's calling for your life. _____

2. Why is a relationship with God important in finding your calling? _____

3. What activities consume much of our time and rob us of time in God's presence? _____

4. What does it mean to give ourselves totally to God? Does God have the totality of your life? _____

If not, how might this affect you knowing His will? _____

5. In what ways have we attempted to negotiate God's will? _____

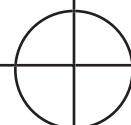
6. Is it difficult to commit to doing God's will before knowing His specific plan for your life? Explain why or why not. _____

7. In what ways have we wasted what God has given us. Does wasting God's gift inhibit Him from blessing us with more? _____

8. God demands humility if He is going to show you your calling. How can we express humility toward God? _____

9. Do you sometimes feel inadequate or overwhelmed by what God is asking of you? Discuss examples in the Bible of men and women who were called by God to do difficult and even impossible things and found God's sufficiency to fulfill their calling. _____

10. Why is it important to know and live out your kingdom agenda calling? _____



Application

God's calling for your life will only be experienced out of your relationship with Him.

If there is no relationship, you will not come to know what your calling is all about.

Describe the time you spend praying and going before the face of God? _____

Describe the time you spend studying God's Word? _____

Describe the time you spend around the people of God? _____

What actions will you take to improve your time in God's presence?



8

Chapter Eight – The Kingdom Agenda and Your Mind



David has been married to Carol for seven years. Until a year ago, the marriage was wonderful. However, the relationship has taken a turn for the worse. During a recent counseling session, David declared that his marriage was like a prison. He complained about Carol's paranoia, claiming she was constantly accusing him of cheating. What's more, David said that Carol often rummaged through his belongings looking unsuccessfully for proof of his infidelity. Although David has explained that he is sometimes required to work late, Carol does not believe him. At a loss, David suggested that the two of them separate because he was worn out by his wife's accusations and paranoia.

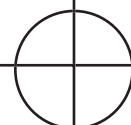
As a last attempt, Carol agreed to work on her issues of mistrust. Regrettably, the change did not last and the constant badgering and accusations

soon returned. As a result, David finally left his wife for the sake of his sanity. During his individual counseling sessions, David realized that no matter how much he tried to prove to his wife that he was faithful, she only saw and accepted what her mind invented.

A few months after his divorce, David ran into his ex-wife. He could not believe his eyes. Carol had lost weight and had lightened her hair. She was more positive and optimistic in her conversation. After talking with her for while, David finally inquired about her happiness. She told David that she had a rebirth and was now living a new life. As she proceeded to walk away, Carol stated that her mindset was no longer on this world, but on higher things.



- How did Carol's mindset affect the areas of her life?
- What could David have done to change Carol's mind?
- How did possessing a kingdom mind change Carol's outlook on life?
- Relate Proverbs 23:7 to this case.



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. The author discussed four things that have to do with cultivating a kingdom mind. In your own words, summarize these four points. _____

2. Describe the nature of a kingdom mind. _____

3. Give the definition of a fortress as discussed in the chapter. _____

4. Describe the three strategies Satan uses to attack our minds. _____

5. Outline the four steps to developing a kingdom mentality. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Mind renewal is achieved when God's peace guards the mind.
Read Philippians 4:6-7.
2. Mind renewal is enhanced by a cleansing of the mind. Read Philippians 4:8.
3. Mind renewal is necessary because of the corruptness of the natural mind.
Read Matthew 15: 19-20a.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What areas of your life would be transformed if you changed your way of thinking? _____

2. How does the world's view on the issues of marriage, sex, money, and children differ from God's viewpoint? _____

3. Tell of an instance when changing your mind helped to change your emotions and your actions. _____

4. What daily chores block God's signal in our lives and His divine viewpoint? _____

5. How would our lives change if God's thoughts were transferred to our thoughts? _____

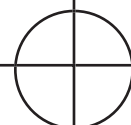
6. What can we do to forgive ourselves of past sins and forgive others who have committed offenses against us? _____

7. What can we do to resist the temptation to sin today and reject the thoughts of sinning in the future? _____

8. What strategies does Satan use to attack your mind? _____

9. According to the chapter, what does it mean to think with a kingdom mind? _____

10. To what degree does Christ dominate your mind? _____



Application

The author ends the chapter with a discussion about developing a kingdom mentality. If you want to develop a kingdom mind, you must set your mind on the things of Christ, put off old ways of thinking, and let the Word of God influence your mind and heart.

What will you do to improve your way of thinking and develop a kingdom mindset? Referring to Colossians 3, write a personal action plan to develop a kingdom mentality.



Make a commitment to set your mind on Christ. Pray this prayer on a daily basis.

Dear Jesus,

Help me to take every opportunity You give me today to think Your thoughts, to include You in my decisions, to meditate on You, to bring You to bear on my life. I need you to dominate my very brain waves today.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen

9

Chapter Nine – The Kingdom Agenda and Your Stewardship

Every day Jimmy complained to his mother about having too much homework. He ranted and raged about how unfair his teacher, Mr. Jackson, was to him and his classmates. Day after day, Jimmy begged his mother to speak to Mr. Jackson, but she refused. One day, Jimmy ripped up his homework and decided to take his complaints to Mr. Jackson.

The next morning Jimmy stormed into the class and slammed his books on the desk. Looking at Mr. Jackson through squinting eyes, he said, “Can I speak to you, Sir?”

With a sense of curiosity, Mr. Jackson agreed to talk with him. First, Jimmy attacked Mr. Jackson with complaints of too much homework. Then, he voiced his dissatisfaction with the strict standards on neatness. Further, Jimmy said, “I don’t understand why we can’t have free time like the students in Ms. Davis’ class.”

After Jimmy finished, Mr. Jackson calmly asked him to take a seat. Looking over the rim of his glasses, Mr. Jackson answered Jimmy’s questions with one word, “Responsibility!”

Judging by Jimmy’s expression, Mr. Jackson knew that this explanation was not sufficient. Mr.

Jackson went on to explain. “As your teacher, I am responsible for your learning. Your parents along with the community expect me to teach you and your classmates.” Jimmy sat still. “Besides that,” Mr. Jackson said, “the people above me expect me to do a good job.”

“But why can’t we have free time too?” Jimmy asked. Mr. Jackson answered him gently. “At the end of the year, I am accountable to how much my students learn. Therefore, free time is not important to my agenda.” Mr. Jackson paused for a moment and then asked, “Have I asked you to do anything that you’re not capable of doing, Jimmy?”

“No sir,” Jimmy said with his head bowed down.

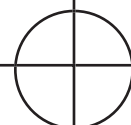
“Well,” Mr. Jackson said, “You have a responsibility too.”

“I do,” Jimmy said.

“Yes,” Mr. Jackson said, “Each day, you and your classmates are given an assignment that must be completed and turned in the next day of class.” With a smile on his face, Mr. Jackson pats Jimmy on the back and asked, “Did you complete yesterday’s homework?”



- How did Mr. Jackson view his role and responsibility as a teacher?
- How did Mr. Jackson’s viewpoint affect how he carried out his job?
- Is Jimmy responsible to function according to Mr. Jackson’s agenda or his own?
- Based on the limited information given in the case study, how would you evaluate Mr. Jackson’s stewardship of the students which have been entrusted to his care?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What is the biblical definition of stewardship? _____

2. What three categories make up a person's life potential? _____

3. Explain the judgment seat of Christ. _____

4. What are the three rewards of stewardship discussed in the chapter? _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. God is not interested in “amount” but “proportion.” How much He expects is based on how much He has entrusted to you. Read Romans 12:6 and Luke 12:48.
2. Faithfulness is the key to good stewardship. Read Luke 16:10.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What does it mean to be a kingdom steward? _____

2. Are you a good steward of what God gives you? Discuss your answer. _____

3. How does recognizing that God owns everything help us to be better stewards? _____

4. Lucifer tried to share ownership with God and was booted out of heaven. In what ways do we also attempt to share ownership with God? _____

5. God expects us to use the life potential He has given us for the kingdom. How are you investing your time, talents, and treasure? _____

6. How can you better invest your time, talents, and treasure? _____

7. Compare the quality of the work we do for an earthly boss to the quality of the work we do for God's kingdom. _____

8. What does it mean to give God your leftovers? _____

9. Which servant in the parable of Luke 19 best reflects your stewardship: the faithful steward, the less productive steward, or the worthless steward? _____

10. What reward do you want to receive for your stewardship when you stand before Christ? _____



Application

Write down three reasons why you should become a better steward of God's kingdom.

The author suggests starting with the following prayer to begin making your stewardship productive and pleasing to God. Pray this prayer and make a commitment to live it.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for the certainty of Your kingdom. Help me to show gratitude to You by serving You faithfully each day. Give me the grace I need to make the most of the time, talents, and treasure You have loaned to me. Help me use them to prioritize Your agenda over mine.

Lord, You are first in my time, my talents, and my treasure. Help me to make an eternal difference for You.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

After praying this prayer, set this verse to memory and make it your daily commitment.

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)



10

Chapter Ten – The Kingdom Agenda and Your Inheritance

Sally was celebrating her fifteenth birthday. For the past five years she has received \$100 from her grandfather. Without fail, before her grandfather gives her the money he always asks her how much she has leftover from the year before. Regretfully, Sally shakes her head and responds, “Nothing.”

This year, Sally decided that she would ask her grandfather why he always asked the same question each year before giving her the money. Just like clockwork, Grandfather reached into his pocket and as he formed his mouth to speak, Sally interrupted and asked him a question instead.

“Why do you always ask how much money I have left from last year?” she asked.

Sally’s grandfather smiled. “The money I give you, you spend right away, with no thought about the future. Each year, I ask how much you have from last year because I want to find out how wisely you are handling the gifts you receive.” Sally listened attentively and her grandfather continued. “As I see you acting more and more responsible with the

money I give you, the more I will let you have.”

“What should I do with the money Grandfather?” Sally asked.

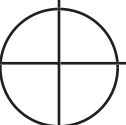
“A wise person would put aside some of the money” he said. “When I die, you will receive an inheritance. The amount of your inheritance will depend on the responsibility you show now.”

Appearing a bit nervous, Sally asked another question. “I have spent all of the money you have given me. Will you take away my inheritance?” “No,” Grandfather said. “You will receive an inheritance just because you are my granddaughter and you don’t have to do anything to deserve it.” Grandfather leaned in close to Sally and whispered. “But, to receive a full inheritance, you must show me that you are responsible.”

“Thank you, Grandfather!” Sally said with excitement. “This year I will save all of it.” Sally took the money from her grandfather’s hand and immediately went to her room and pushed the money into her small bank.



- What lesson was Sally’s grandfather trying to teach her?
- How was the grandfather preparing Sally for her inheritance?
- How is God preparing us for His return?
- In what ways is the lesson of inheritance taught by the grandfather like the issue of kingdom inheritance?
- How does your faithfulness to Christ’s commands compare to Sally’s faithful response to her grandfather’s direction?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What is the definition given in the chapter of a full kingdom inheritance? _____

2. List the four important truths about our kingdom inheritance discussed in the chapter. _____

3. What is the standard Christ will use to evaluate our service and therefore our inheritance? _____



4. In your own words, summarize the five trademarks of kingdom partakers. _____

Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. God rewards those who seek him. Read Hebrews 11:6.
2. God rewards us based on our deeds. Read Revelation 22:12.
3. God rewards faithfulness under persecution. Read Matthew 5:11-12.
4. God himself is our reward. Read Genesis 15:1.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

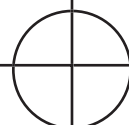
1. What is your reaction the author's assertion that all Christians do not enjoy the same benefits of being saved? _____

2. What can cause us to forfeit our inheritance? _____

3. What does it take to gain a full inheritance? _____

4. Are you living your Christian life faithfully as admonished in Colossians 3:23-24? _____

5. How should the anticipation of Christ's future kingdom affect the way we live today? _____



Application

Every believer must respond to the fundamental question that Christ will ask at His judgment seat. Christ will ask: “Did you finish? Did you complete the task of living for Me that I gave you when I saved you? Were you faithful to Me?”

How would you answer if asked today?



11

Chapter Eleven – The Kingdom Agenda of Husbands



Michael and Rebecca were married six years ago. They have a four-years-old son, Jason. Michael grew up in a single parent home where he and his brothers and sister were reared by a loving, hard-working mother, who was committed to giving her children the best life possible. Rebecca grew up in a two-parent home with a closely knit family who love each other deeply.

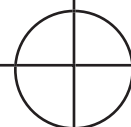
Michael wants desperately to be a loving, devoted husband to Rebecca and a good father to Jason; however, he struggles with his responsibilities as the leader of the house. He often loses his temper with Rebecca and Jason leaving them both in tears. He frequently over commits himself to work and ministry leaving little time for family

outings and quality time. He recognizes that he is often emotionally unavailable and less than affectionate with his family. Michael has no frame of reference for what it means to be a good husband and father.

He has, however, found himself watching how Mr. Spencer, the leader of his men's Bible study, shepherds their group. He notices his priorities, his patience, his leadership style, his character and a host of other qualities that Mr. Spencer brings to his role as the leader of the group. Michael begins to try to model these traits in his home with Rebecca and Jason. Mr. Spencer's example becomes the standard by which Michael lives.



- In spite of Michael's best intentions of being a good husband and father, he has been unsuccessful. Why?
- As a kingdom husband, what should be Michael's top priorities?
- What leadership style should Michael assume at home?
- Based on the principles presented in the chapter, what advice would you give Michael about fulfilling his kingdom agenda in his family?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What are the three aspects of a husband's kingdom-oriented love discussed in the chapter?

2. What does it mean to live with your wife in an understanding way? _____

3. What two things does the author suggest in order for a husband to know his wife intimately? _____

4. What does it mean to assign your wife a place of honor in your life? _____

5. Why is it important for husbands to pray with their wives? _____



Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

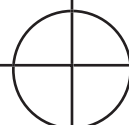
1. Of the five ways a husband can reflect a kingdom agenda in his marriage, which do you believe is most neglected in our culture today? _____

2. In our society, do you think most husbands reflect the kingdom-level commitment to marriage described in the chapter? Discuss your answer. _____

3. God has called husbands to love their wives. What behaviors might we observe in a husband obeying this command? _____

4. How can a wife encourage her husband to be the man God wants him to be? _____

5. Based on the principles presented in the chapter, what traits should a single woman look for in a husband? _____



Application

The Bible has some powerful and very beneficial things to say to Christian husbands. Based on the principles covered in the chapter, answer the following two questions.

How committed are you as a husband to reflecting God's kingdom agenda in your home?

List at least one way you have demonstrated your commitment.

Of the five areas of the kingdom agenda of husbands, which area will you begin to work at in your marriage? List at least one step you will take toward making a change.



12

Chapter Twelve – The Kingdom Agenda of Wives



Lance is a 44-year-old husband. He and his current wife have a 6-year-old son. In his younger, wilder days there was a previous relationship resulting in two daughters who he has not seen in at least 10 years. Though separated by several states, they remain in contact through phone calls, letters, and e-mail. Now his daughters, ages 14 and 16, are going through teenage growing pains, and no longer respect the authority of their mother. They express a desire to live with Lance and his new wife. Lance's wife, Cindy, has left the decision up to him; she knows that while it may be an adjustment for their family, it may have a positive influence on his daughters.

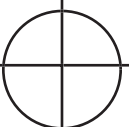
Lance cares for his daughters, but questions the wisdom of having them come to live with his new family. Recognizing that they are currently in a

state of rebellion, he wonders how that rebellion will play itself out in his household.

Lance and Cindy are praying about the decision to bring his teenage daughters into their home. Cindy has concerns about how the girls' behavior may influence their 6-years-old son. Initially, she was receptive to the idea, but now she has doubts. Since the daughters are already rebelling against their mother, she wonders if that rebellion will extend to her as well. She doesn't quite know how to express these concerns to Lance. She feels guilt that she may be the cause of her husband not exercising this opportunity to get to know his daughters. She wonders if she is being selfish and overreacting.



- As her husband's helper, how can Cindy use this situation to help Lance both parentally and personally?
- What biblical responsibility of the wife is Cindy grappling with?
- What biblical principles should Cindy base her decisions and actions on?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What are the two primary areas of God's kingdom agenda for a wife? _____

2. In your own words, summarize the five ways a wife helps her husband according to Proverbs 31. _____

3. Define the word submission as it relates to the kingdom agenda of wives. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Physical and spiritual intimacy is an essential between husband and wife. Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-4.
2. The institution of marriage is to be honored. Read Hebrews 13:4.
3. Spousal priority is biblical. Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-34.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. Discuss why 1 Corinthians 11:3 should be viewed as a statement of function and not of essence. _____

2. Discuss the affects the feminist movement and other societal influences have on the way many women function in marriage? _____

3. God has called wives to be their husband's helper. What behaviors might we observe in a wife obeying this command? _____

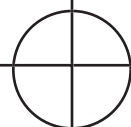
4. Discuss ways a wife's actions undermine a husband's leadership and work against God's agenda for the family. _____

5. Discuss ways a woman's career can pull her away from being an effective wife and mother. _____

6. What affects can a wife's actions have on her marriage if she continues to function as she did as independent, single women? _____

7. Discuss the biblical concept of submission. Why is a wife's submission absolutely necessary to accomplish God's kingdom agenda? _____

8. How can a husband help his wife fulfill God's kingdom agenda for her life? _____



Application

The Bible has some powerful and very beneficial things to say to Christian wives. Based on the principles covered in the chapter, answer the following two questions.

How committed are you as a wife to reflecting God's kingdom agenda in your home?

List at least one way you have demonstrated your commitment.

Of the two areas of the kingdom agenda of wives, which area will you begin to work at in your marriage? List at least one step you will take toward making a change.



13

Chapter Thirteen – The Kingdom Agenda of Parents



In a television sitcom, two families were living in the same household. One of the couples owned the home, Bob and Carol, while the other couple, Dick and Jane, was temporarily living with the other family. Both have children; however, Bob and Carol had rules for their children and Dick and Jane did not.

Bob expressed concern that his kids would grow to resent their rules because their cousins were not held to the same degree of discipline, though they were in the same house. Bob decided that there should be consistency in disciplining all of

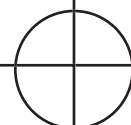
the children. Dick and Jane agreed, recognizing that their kids were out of control.

In one scene, both families went to the mall in the family van. Dick and Jane's kids enjoyed some snacks, but refused to share the bag with their cousins. Eventually the bag was ripped and chips went all over the floor of the van. Dick and Jane's children refused to clean up the mess.

Throughout the show, it was presented as comical for the children to get the best of the adults in each situation. Mom and dad didn't know best, the children did.



- How has the depiction of parents and parenting changed over the years on television?
- How does television contradict God's kingdom agenda for the family?
- How does Dick and Jane's lack of discipline demonstrate an absence of biblical love for their children?
- What advice from the Book of Proverbs would you give these TV families on kingdom parenting?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. List the four ways parents can fulfill their kingdom agenda outlined in Ephesians 6.4 _____

2. List the three ways parents can encourage their children. _____

3. What is the difference between encouragement and praise as it relates to encouraging children? _____

4. List the four ways parents can nurture their children suggested in Luke 2:52. _____

5. What guidance from Deuteronomy 6 does the author give parents about what to teach and how to teach their children? _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. The kingdom family trumps the biological family in, and because of Christ.
Read Matthew 10:34-36, 37 and [Scripture].

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. The author suggests that the reason America is unraveling is because our families are unraveling. Do you agree or disagree with this observation? Explain. _____

2. What challenges do parents face today in their job of raising children? _____

3. How do parents fail their children? _____

4. What affect do absentee fathers have on children and families? _____

5. The author explains that many young people go after significance outside the home. What can parents do to help their children find significance and meaning? _____

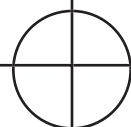
6. In the hustle of day-to-day life, what things do parents tend to put above family? What is the consequence of not prioritizing your family? _____

7. Discuss ways parents can develop children intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially. _____

8. What affect does a parent's failure to discipline their children have on the family unit, the school system, and society at large? _____

9. How much discipline is enough discipline? When is it too much? _____

10. What would you say is the most important thing parents can teach their children? _____



Application

The Bible has some powerful and very beneficial things to say to Christian parents. Based on the principles covered in the chapter, answer the following two questions.

How does your current way of parenting compare to the agenda God's wants parents to follow?

Of the four areas of the kingdom agenda of parents, which area will you begin to work at in your family? List at least one step you will take toward making a change.



14

Chapter Fourteen – The Kingdom Agenda of Children

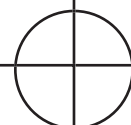


Ida is the oldest girl of six siblings, and at age forty-eight she is responsible both for her husband and four children, as well as her elderly father who has finally agreed to come live with them. Since Ida is a stay-at-home mom, she and her siblings felt she was in a better position to look after their father during the day and everyone else agreed to help out in the evenings.

However, everyone who committed to help is not delivering on their promises. It seems they are going on with their lives, while Ida and her family's lives now revolve around the ailments, doctor appointments, and financial responsibilities of her parent. Ida loves her father dearly, but now she feels a bit resentful of the intrusion on her life and the lives of her family.



- How is Ida adhering to the biblical command to children to honor their parents?
- Do you think the other siblings are dishonoring their father by not helping Ida take care of him?
- What are the rewards of honoring your parents?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. Who is the author referring to when discussing a child's kingdom agenda? _____

2. What are the two things every child needs to give his or her parents? _____

3. List the two reasons why children are to obey their parents. _____

4. How should adult children relate to their parents as it pertains to authority and obedience? _____

5. List the three ways children need to honor their parents. _____



Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

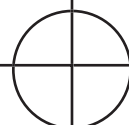
1. Discuss current events that point to the fact that the roles of parent and child have been turned upside down in our culture. _____

2. In what ways have the legal structures of our society increased children's rights? _____

3. How has being a parent changed your relationship with your parents? _____

4. Has making your own mistakes in life changed the way you view the mistakes your parents made in your upbringing? _____

5. What price does society pay when children are allowed to disrespect and dishonor their parents? _____



Application

The principle of honoring parents was given in the Old Testament and it carries right through to the New Testament and today. It still applies and is still a central feature for anyone, no matter what the age, who is serious about functioning in accordance with God's kingdom agenda.

Do you want God to hear and answer your prayers? Do you want God's blessing on your education, career, choice of a mate, or other issue of life? Then honor your mother and father so that things will go well with you.

Write a letter to your parents telling them what they mean to you. (Use a separate piece of paper if you plan to mail the letter, but keep a copy of the letter for yourself.) Read the letter on Mother's Day and Father's Day to remind you of the importance and blessing of honoring your parents.



The author raised the issue that many people are messed up because they have never fixed things with their parents. If you know you need to reconcile with your mother or father and they are still living, make a phone call or pay a visit or write a letter and resolve the matter right away.

15

Chapter Fifteen – The Kingdom Agenda of Singles



M*arried by age twenty-six, first child by age twenty-eight, 2.5 children, a homemaker, and a wonderful, loving husband...* That was the life Beverly had imagined for herself. Now, in her early forties with the years passing quickly, she finds herself single, never married, no children.

“What happened to my dreams?” Beverly asked.
“Why am I still single?”

Tim was voted most likely to succeed in high school, and at thirty-four he is indeed successful. He has a six-figure income, a luxury vehicle, a big house, and not to mention his good looks and a great personality. The only thing Tim doesn’t have is a wife to share it all with. He has no kids to run to meet him when he gets home every evening. He’s alone and he doesn’t understand why.

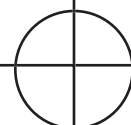
“I’ve got the castle, but I don’t have the queen.”
Tim said.

Tired from work, Monica rushes home so she can cook dinner. Cook dinner; help her fifth-grader with homework; then they both prepare for bed. Every night the same routine, why does she feel so old at only thirty-two?

“When will it be about me?” Monica asked.



- Are the sentiments expressed in this illustration common among singles?
- How does God’s kingdom view on singleness differ from the perspectives represented in this illustration?
- What advice can you offer the singles portrayed in this case based on the kingdom principles presented in the chapter?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. List the four ways single believers can fulfill God's kingdom agenda. _____

2. In what manner should singles wait on the Lord? _____

3. How should singles live life as they anticipate the Lord's return? _____

4. What can singles do to escape the preoccupation of marriage? _____

5. What instructions does the author give to singles who get married? _____



Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. Discuss how television, married people, and church sermons sometimes make being single seem second-rate and not as good as being married? _____

2. What is it that bothers you most about being single? _____

3. What is the difference in waiting on a person and waiting on God to accomplish His will in your life? _____

4. Will your present work situation, finances, level of self-control, and spiritual maturity help or hinder you in fulfilling your kingdom role as a husband or wife as described in the earlier chapters? _____

5. Discuss why marriage is not a solution to loneliness and sexual fulfillment. _____

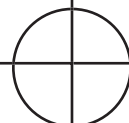
6. Have you ever used a dating service? What was the result? _____

7. Discuss the destructive effects of sex outside marriage. _____

8. How can singles maintain sexual purity? _____

9. How would you feel if God said He wanted you single forever? _____

10. What does it mean to be a successful single? _____



Application

God has a kingdom agenda tailor-made just for singles. In this chapter, God lets single people know that He does not want them to merely cope, but to succeed. Evaluate your success as a kingdom single by answering the following questions.

Am I wasting time or making the most of my time as I serve God in my singleness?

What can I do differently from this point forward that will honor God even more?

What changes do I need to make in my lifestyle to maintain purity in my thoughts and actions?



16

Chapter Sixteen – The Kingdom Agenda of the Church



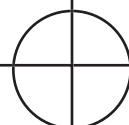
Conrad is a zealous, young pastor in his mid-thirties. He has taken over the church where his father served for many years and his father's father before that. The average age of the congregation is twice that of his own and they are steeped in tradition – for it was tradition that got Conrad the position as pastor.

Now Conrad is becoming frustrated. Every new idea he raises is either disregarded or simply

rejected outright. He doesn't want to disrespect anyone, but he thinks, "I am the Pastor!" Conrad is beginning to realize that the congregation would rather follow their traditions, than to experience a new and exciting time of praise, worship, and ministry.



- What are some ways the local church is charged with carrying out the Kingdom Agenda?
- How might the congregation's allegiance to tradition be working against advancement of the God's kingdom?
- What should Conrad do?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What are the five elements of the kingdom agenda for the church? _____

2. In your own words, summarize the kingdom principles found in the Beatitudes. _____

3. List the five proofs the author offers as to why the church should function as the epicenter of community life in carrying out its kingdom agenda. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. The church is the means by which spiritual maturity is achieved.
Read Ephesians 4:11-12.
2. The church is universal in scope. Read Ephesians 3:19-20.
3. The church is committed to purity. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.
4. The church is a citizen of heaven called to be group of good citizens on earth. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.
5. Kingdom people are the fragrance of Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 3:15-16.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What is the meaning of the saying, “so heavenly minded and no earthly good?” Discuss examples. _____

2. What is the meaning of the saying, “so earthly minded and no heavenly good?” Discuss examples. _____

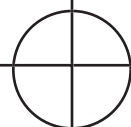
3. How can we have churches on every corner and yet still have so much pandemonium in our streets? What impact is the church having on our communities? _____

4. Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. Which of these principles is most obvious in your daily life? _____

5. Discuss ways the church can bring the blessings and benefits of the kingdom to the world. _____

6. The church is to be the proclaimer of the kingdom, however many Christians are not proclaiming anything. What, if anything, holds you back from telling others about Jesus Christ? _____

7. We proclaim God’s kingdom with our mouths and our lives. What picture are you showing the world by the way you apply God’s truth to the issues of everyday life? _____



Application

Until Jesus Christ returns, God wants the world to see the previews of His kingdom. The church is the preview of God's kingdom to come. People should look at our commitment, our walk, and our impact and see what the kingdom of God looks like. Answer the following questions to fine-tune your picture.

Am I aiding God's agenda for His church or hindering it?




What might others think of the church of God based on the example of my life?

What should I do differently to reflect the right view of God's kingdom agenda?

17

Chapter Seventeen – The Kingdom Agenda of Leaders



Jose is a deacon in a Bible-based church. He's single and never married and finds it difficult to date anyone in light of his position as a leader. He feels as if he's under a microscope. It is difficult for him to really enjoy female companionship because he usually ends up in a counseling situation.

Jared and Juanita are faithful and devoted Christians. They've been at the same church for 20 years. They met and married at this church. Their kids are actively involved in the youth ministry. Jared is on the Elder Board. Juanita helps in the children's ministry. Though things are fine for now, Juanita is concerned about the amount of time Jared spends at the church. He works at the church and it seems that the staff is expected to be there at all hours of the day and night. The elders meetings easily extend into the early hours of the morning. Whenever she mentions it to Jared she feels as if she's nagging him. She never wanted to be a nag.

Franklin and Trisha have been married 10 years. They have a wonderful and loving relationship. They are committed to the Lord and one another. Franklin is a deacon in a large and growing church. He loves serving the Lord through His church, but the increasing demands of leadership are beginning to take a toll on his time with his wife and children. Last week he had a home visit during the time of his daughter's music recital and a leaders' meeting conflicted with "date night" for him and his wife. Each time family outings are planned, it seems that leadership demands seem to overrule a previously made commitment. Now leadership meetings are scheduled during his work hours and there's no way he can leave work to attend the meeting designated as "mandatory". Franklin is seriously considering stepping down from leadership solely because of time conflicts. When he mentions his concerns to the elders and pastors, the answer, "let's pray about it", seems like an insensitive response to him. He feels he's in a fix and commits his decision to fasting and

prayer, his wife joins him in this discipline.

[Think it THROUGH]

- Church leaders represent God. Consider each of the previously mentioned cases. How can each person rightly represent God in their particular situation? Be sure to think about the various responsibilities of church leaders. Use scripture to support your answers.
- What is Franklin's primary responsibility? How do his actions play into his ability to shepherd others?
- Consider Jose. As a church leader and single man, how should he handle himself and handle conflict?
- What advice would you give Jared and Juanita?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. Explain the principle of representation as it relates to church leaders. _____

2. List four ways leaders can fulfill God's kingdom agenda. _____

3. When Paul instructed Timothy to entrust the gospel to faithful men in 2 Timothy 2:2, was he referring to men only or men and women? _____

4. Describe the three levels of leadership in the local church? _____

5. How does God want His leaders to handle conflicts in the body of Christ? _____

Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Leadership is a stewardship. Read 1 1Corinthians 4:1-2.
2. Leadership is service. Read 1Corinthians 9:19.
3. Leadership is not all glamorous, it is full of challenges. Read 2 1Corinthians 4:7.
4. Leaders must resist the temptation to prostitute their people. Read Ezekiel 34:1-11.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. Discuss ways a church leader's actions, whether good or bad, impact the congregation.

2. Discuss the meaning of the saying, "As goes the head so goes the body" as it relates to church leadership.

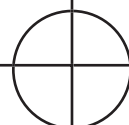
3. Talk about a church leader that has had an impact on your Christian walk.

4. What are some qualities in leaders that you admire? Do you have these same qualities?

5. The author says Moses developed a "theo ego." What is it and how can leaders avoid developing one of their own?

6. Conflict is inevitable. Discuss common conflicts in the church that could be handled by simply applying God's Word.

7. What is the most challenging area of God's kingdom agenda for leaders?



Application

We may not all be called to serve as leaders in the church, but we can do our part to reduce the burden on our leaders by resolving conflict the way God wants us to handle it.

What does God's Word say about conflict?

According to the Word of God, what steps should you take to resolve conflicts with others?

Are you currently involved in a conflict situation with another believer? What can you do to resolve the issue and reconcile with the person?



18

Chapter Eighteen – The Kingdom Agenda of Members

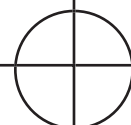


Kendall just became a member of a small, growing church in the suburbs. He decided to switch his membership from the large church he previously attended because there he felt like a number. Here, in his new congregation, he thought he would be able to get to know more people. His new church recently announced that the finance director is working with the pastor to make sure all members are contributing at least a tenth of their income for the tithe. Kendall has been asked to meet with them to discuss his inconsistent giving record. Kendall had not expected this much accountability. He is now considering returning to the larger church, so that he can worship in anonymity.

Theodore and Valerie Patton are parents of three pre-school-aged children and members of a local Bible church. They love the teaching and ministry they receive from their church. The kids attend children's church each Sunday, so the parents can worship without distraction. However, now the children's church is asking parents to miss worship service four times a year to volunteer. Even though they don't regularly attend their ministry meetings, the Patton's justify their actions with the excuse, "At least we're in a ministry." They don't understand why they are required to help out in children's church anyway. "Somehow this does not seem fair," Mr. Patton said. "I'm going to speak with the pastor about this."

Cassie loves her church. She loves listening to the pastor and follows the scriptures closely during the sermons. However, she feels she is unable to participate in a ministry. Her job keeps her so busy that when her workday has ended she has no more energy to give. The pastor insists that everyone be in a ministry. "Could he possibly mean someone as busy as I am?" Cassie asked. She has already quit her Bible study group in order to free up a few more hours each week to take it easy. However, she still feels like she's on the go all the time. By the time she leaves work and gets home from exercise class each day, prepares dinner, and showers, it's time for bed.

Russell reads the entire Bible once each year. He really enjoys reading and meditating on God's Word. However, he does not attend a local church, although his wife does. His wife is at her wits end trying to convince him to join her church. Russell adamantly responds to his wife's pleas. "Why should I sit and listen to those hypocritical men, when I can hear from God directly?" he asked.



[| Think it THROUGH]

- How can the people in each scenario fulfill God's expectations? Be sure to think about the various responsibilities of church members. Use scripture to support your answers.
- What benefits is each person described above gaining from the ministry of a local church?
- What benefits is each person described above missing out on by not fulfilling the agenda for church members?
- Which scenario do you most identify with and why?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. In your own words, summarize the five items on the kingdom agenda of church members. .

2. What are the four vital experiences provided through church membership that are necessary for the discipleship process to occur? _____

3. What are the three principles in Hebrews 13 relating to the way members should relate to church leaders? _____

4. How does the author define spiritual gifts? How do spiritual gifts differ from human talents? _____

5. Summarize the five key principles of giving outlined in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. _____

Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Members must relate properly to one another. Read Romans 12:9-13.
2. Members must hold one another accountable. Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.
3. Members must wisely and carefully engage the “non-churched.” Read Colossians 4:5-6 and Ephesians 5:11-12.
4. Members ought to examine their spirituality. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5.



Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What are God’s expectations of church members? _____

2. Joining church never saves anyone, so why is church membership important? _____

3. How has church membership benefited your spiritual growth? What other areas of your life have improved as a result of church membership? _____

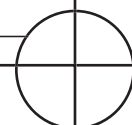
4. What does it mean to remember your leader? How can we as church members remember our leaders? _____

5. Why is it important for members to obey their leaders? _____
6. Discuss barriers to serving in your church. Brainstorm ways to overcome each barrier? _____

7. What is your reaction to the fact that the average evangelical, Bible-believing Christian only gives about 2.9 percent of his or her income to the Lord? _____

8. When it comes to giving, what do the journal entries in your checkbook say about your commitment to the Lord’s work? _____

9. Explain why giving is a test of your faith? _____
10. Why is it important to have a spiritually mature Christian as a guide in the faith? _____



Application

Church membership involves accountability and responsibility. It is a commitment of a believer to identify with and be involved with a local body of people who are under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Am I doing my part as a member of my local church? If not, what can I do to contribute?

Does my giving accurately express my appreciation for what God has done in my life?

Set a plan of action to work at one of the five items on the agenda of church members. Write your plan below.



19

Chapter Nineteen – The Kingdom Agenda of Men

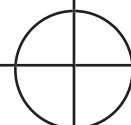


Montgomery once led a very promiscuous life. He has five children by four different women. Now at age 32 and in his second marriage, he has found salvation in Jesus Christ. He is a member of a mega-church and being considered for leadership. The church leaders don't know about his other four children, only the child he has with his current wife who is also a member of the church. He has nothing to do with his other children, but deep in the back of his mind he knows he should be doing more,

or at least something, for them. Recently, he saw one of his daughters at a local sporting event and managed a wave in response to her calling his name. He likes this new life. He likes his new salvation. He tries not to think about the life and children he had prior to marrying his current wife and settling down.



- What effect might Montgomery's absence have on his children's lives?
- What effect could Montgomery have on his children's lives if he decided to get more involved now that he has found salvation in Jesus?
- What is Montgomery's responsibility to his church and family?
- From a kingdom perspective, how should Montgomery view his situation?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. List the four aspects of the kingdom agenda for men in the church discussed in the chapter.

2. What are the two parts of the kingdom vision for men in the church? _____

3. Explain the hierarchy in 1 Corinthians 11:3 under which men are to lead. _____

4. What four things did Abraham have that equipped him to pass on kingdom values to the next generation? _____

5. What does 1 Timothy 3:4-5 say about a man's starting point for leadership? _____



Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What effect do people in Hollywood and professional sports have on a man's vision of the future? _____

2. What does it mean to be a kingdom kind of man? _____

3. What distinguishing characteristics will you find in a man submitted to Christ and the church? _____

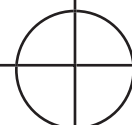
4. Discuss the impact on young boys when fathers fail to pass on Christian values. _____

5. What can men do today to reclaim the present generation and generations to come? _____

6. How can men practice good leadership in the home? _____

7. In what ways do some men misunderstand and misuse their leadership in the home? _____

8. What does the author mean by "Lone Ranger" Christians? Why is it important for Christians, especially men, to have accountability partners? _____



Application

God is looking for faithful men – men after His heart. God wants a man who has a vision of what He can do with him. A kingdom vision is a calling that allows you to make an impact for eternity while you are here in history. If you are going to be a man of the kingdom, you must allow God to develop a kingdom vision for you.

Creating a kingdom-sized vision is best approached through prayer. Pray this prayer.

Dear Lord,

I humbly come before you, seeking wisdom that only you can provide. Lord, please give me the vision to grasp a God's-eye perspective on my life and the impact that you would have me to make in this world. Please develop and mold me into the Godly man that you have called me to be. I'm available and eagerly expecting what you have in store for my life. Lord, please open my eyes and my ears to your vision for my life.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

A vision is a dynamic picture of the future. It is more than a dream or set of hopes; it is a commitment. Begin to write God's kingdom vision for your life.

Next, list two or three kingdom men who will hold you accountable to your vision and offer you support when you get weary.



20

Chapter Twenty – The Kingdom Agenda of Women

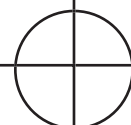


Susie is a no nonsense business woman. She is the head of her company, and everyone follows her orders. She knows they call her “dragon-lady” behind her back, and that’s okay; as long as the job gets done. The problem Susie has is turning off the “head” machine when she goes home. She barks off orders at her kids, barks off orders at her

husband, and it’s starting to cause conflict in their marriage because he is losing patience with her. After all, his job is important as well, and while his salary can’t match hers, he is not one of her employees—he’s her husband, and at home he’s the “head”.



- How is Susie trying to impose the rules of the job on the operation of God’s kingdom in the home?
- What is the world’s view of a women’s role? How is it similar and/or different from the biblical view?
- Susie fulfills her biblical roles as a woman in some ways, and in some ways she does not. Discuss both.



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. List the four items of the kingdom agenda for women in the church as discussed in the chapter. _____

2. How does the author define modest dress for women in the church? _____

3. Explain the hierarchy in 1 Corinthians 11:3 under which men are to lead. _____

4. Explain the hierarchy, or chain of command, that God has established in the corporate worship of the church. What is the one exception? _____

5. What are the priorities of a kingdom woman? _____



Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What is your true intention in the way you dress – are you trying to make a fashion statement, put on airs, or draw attention from the opposite sex? _____

2. How can a woman send the wrong message by the way she dresses? _____

3. Describe clothing that reflects kingdom modesty in dress. _____

4. What does it mean to be a woman of dignity and honor? _____

5. How does the time spent on your personal appearance (hair, nails, facials, shopping, exercise, etc.) compare to the time you spend with God? _____

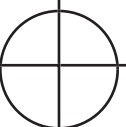
6. How would you describe the value of men and women before God? _____

7. How and where can a woman use her gifts to serve in the church? Discuss the issue of positional hierarchy in corporate worship. _____

8. What areas of your life do you need to reprioritize in order to accomplish your God-given kingdom agenda? _____

9. How can older women in the church help younger women carry out their kingdom agenda? _____

10. What does God expect of kingdom women? _____



Application

The Bible's message to women is that they are indispensable to the kingdom of God. They have an agenda to accomplish what no one else can accomplish. Are you a kingdom woman?

Evaluate your propriety as a kingdom woman. Is your dress modest and pleasing to God? What will you change about your clothing to prevent distracting others during worship?

Examine your priorities as a kingdom woman. Are your priorities in line with God's kingdom agenda for women? How can you reprioritize your agenda so that your first priority is your home? _____

Identify a godly older woman that you can connect with and gain from their wisdom and experience in carrying out God's kingdom agenda for your life. Or, identify younger women in your life that you can mentor and encourage.



21

Chapter Twenty-One – The Kingdom Agenda and Justice

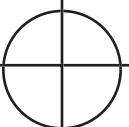


Ted and Esther are caring and loving parents. She stays at home and manages the house, while he earns the financial support for the family. They wake up late one Sunday morning and decide to attend a nearby church rather than their home church twenty miles away. As they enter the church they notice immediately that they are the minority in this congregation. Esther wonders if the stares and looks they receive are real or something she has imagined. That question is quickly answered when they are approached by an usher and asked to leave.

Victoria loves her life. She is living “large” as a carefree, single woman. Attempting to fill up her social calendar, she began attending a small church in her neighborhood, but as it turns out she is learning a lot and growing spiritually. She figures she’ll give this “church thing” a try when she finds out she’s pregnant. She deliberates over whether she should keep the baby or have an abortion. She also wonders what the church people think if she keeps this baby. Victoria thinks all of her problems would be solved by the abortion. However, something in the back of her mind keeps nagging at her about the decision. “Abortion is legal in our society, so why should I feel guilty for considering an easy way out of her dilemma?” Victoria asked.

[Think it THROUGH]

- What does God’s Word say about rejecting a person based on the color of his or her skin?
- According to the principle of social justice in the church, how would you expect the church members to react to Victoria’s decision to keep the baby?
- The Bible is the divine standard by which Christians must operate. What does the Bible say about each of these scenarios?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. In your own words, give the biblical definition of social justice. _____

2. Explain the principle of restitution. _____

3. What are the three ways God deals with crime in the Bible? _____

4. Discuss the differences between the American system of justice and the biblical system.



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. God's people strongly desire God's justice. Read Amos 5:24.
2. God's just character ensures that ultimate justice will be served.

Read the following passages:

- Proverbs 19:17
- Proverbs 20:10
- Proverbs 20: 22
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8
- Hebrews 6:10

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. In what ways is Habakkuk 1:4 true of today's society? _____

2. Discuss the similarities and/or differences between the American system of justice and the biblical system of justice. _____

3. How does the concept of mercy and compassion relate to the concept of biblical justice? _____

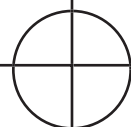
4. What is our personal responsibility when it comes to justice in society? Discuss Micah 6:8. _____

5. How can we raise our families with a sense of Divine justice? _____

6. Discuss forms of injustice found in the world that have infiltrated the church. _____

7. What should a church do to challenge its members to exercise God's justice? _____

8. How can government function as an instrument of God's justice? _____



Application

In Micah 6:8, the prophet asked, “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Evaluate your personal actions when it comes to justice in society. Ask yourself the following questions.

1. What does my attitude toward those different from me demonstrate about my view of God’s justice? _____

2. Is God pleased or ashamed as He observes my interaction with those who are subordinate to me? _____

3. When was the last time I thanked someone for a service and really meant it? _____

We are to uphold the divine standard, to act justly.



22

Chapter Twenty-Two – The Kingdom Agenda and Economics



Tracey and Bob are very happy. Their home is warm and inviting. Their kids are playful and interactive preschoolers. The only glitch in their plan is that their living space is too small for them. They are cramped and feel it even more when anyone comes to visit. Tracey's salary provides most of the support for the family. Even though Bob works too, there never seems to be enough money. Both work extensive overtime and Tracey's job requires occasional travel. Bob

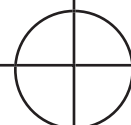
wants Tracey home, but she wants to get a larger house first. He just doesn't see how that's going to happen anytime soon. With the kids in an exclusive preschool and the added day care costs, the couple can barely pay down their student loans and credit card debt. Meanwhile the kids are growing up and will eventually need their own separate bedrooms.

Frieda is a single-parent in her mid-thirties still living at home with her mom. She and her daughter share a bedroom. No matter how she saves, she can't seem to have enough to get her own place. Her daughter, Tatiana, is constantly whining about wanting her own room. While Frieda wants that too, she doesn't see any way for that to happen anytime soon. She juggles her monthly payments on a car note, two student loans, medical bills, and several

department store cards she charged up to keep up with the latest fashion. Frieda is contemplating filing for bankruptcy.



- Apply the kingdom perspective to both of the above scenarios. What biblical principles concerning economics can be applied to each situation?
- What hindrances may be keeping God's economic agenda from being realized in these scenarios?
- How can the individuals in the scenarios prepare to live a kingdom economic plan?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. What does it mean to operate economically on a kingdom agenda? _____

2. What is God's purpose for wealth according to Deuteronomy 8:18? _____

3. What attitudes and practices get in the way of God's economic agenda? _____

4. Explain the Proverbs 13:22 principle. _____

5. Discuss the primary economic responsibility for the individual, family, church, and government according to God's agenda. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. Considerations on wealth: Proverbs 19:1, 4; Proverbs 21:17; and 1 Timothy 6:6-8.
2. Cautions to the wealthy: 1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. Discuss from a biblical perspective why wealth is given and how it should be used. _____

2. What price might one pay for going after wealth apart from God? Discuss ways people gain wealth illegitimately. _____

3. What are the spiritual challenges associated with wealth? _____

4. Discuss common motives that drive our desire for wealth. _____

5. How does the lottery disagree with kingdom economics? _____

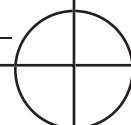
6. What do Proverbs 10:4-5, 12:24, and 13:4, 11 say about laziness? How has laziness blocked God's prosperity from His people? _____

7. Discuss the author's statement: high taxation is an indication of divine judgment. _____

8. Why are so many Christians in debt? _____

9. How can we start to enter into a kingdom economic way of life? _____

10. Based on what you are doing now with what God has entrusted to you, can God trust you with wealth? In what ways has the blessing of God on you become a blessing to others?



Application

Do you want to create personal wealth? You must prepare yourself to live on a kingdom economic plan. Where do you fit?

When it comes to my financial life:

- ☐ I like to plan. I control my financial future by budgeting to give and save.
- ☐ I struggle to make ends meet and find it difficult to give and save.
- ☐ I figure what you don't know won't hurt you, so I don't see a need to budget.
- ☐ I spend today and let tomorrow take care of itself.

Remember, if you are not operating financially by a clear plan, you are gambling with the resources God gives you.

The author outlines the starting point for creating personal wealth by setting financial priorities: (1) give, (2) save, and (3) spend. Assess where you are today and set specific goals to begin living on a kingdom economic plan.



KINGDOM ECONOMICS	AS IS	TO BE
What is your total monthly income?	\$	\$
How much do you give in tithes and offerings each month?	\$	\$
How much do you save monthly for future income and benefit?	\$	\$
How much do you spend on monthly bills and expenses?	\$	\$

Looking forward, begin to draft a plan to meet your goals. Ask yourself the following:

1. What changes can I make to increase my income? _____

2. What can I do to give more and to save more? _____

3. What changes can I make decrease my expenses and get out of debt? _____

23

Chapter Twenty-Three – The Kingdom Agenda and Racism



Nancy is the President of the Women's Auxiliary at her church. Each year the Auxiliary hosts a Christian conference. This year, Nancy is in charge of booking the keynote speaker. She has narrowed her choices down to three and presents the names to the committee. As she reads the bios and names of the speakers she receives feedback from the committee members. The first two names received favorable responses. Nancy presents her favorite choice last—she is certain everyone has the same admiration as she does for this speaker and will be equally excited.

“My final recommendation is a revered speaker and popular author,” Nancy said. “She speaks to women's groups all over the country. She can be heard on Christian radio and watched on Christian television. We will be lucky to get her scheduled for our event. She epitomizes our conference theme of Virtue, Beauty, and Excellence. She is the daughter and wife of a Baptist minister and the mother of three children. I think she can

speak to the issues of every woman that attends our conference.”

As the anticipation builds, Nancy calls the name of the speaker. There was a loud gasp and someone yelled out a racial slur—then a brief silence and soon everyone began to speak at one time.

“But Nancy isn't she black?” one lady asked.

“Our forefathers would turn over in their graves!” another lady shouted.

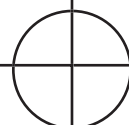
Some lady trying to defend her reaction said, “We're a white church. We must have a white speaker. Otherwise very few people will attend.”

Nancy was appalled. She did not expect such a response.

“I am astonished by your reactions,” Nancy said. “As a church, we should welcome anyone who names the name of Jesus Christ regardless of their skin color!”



- Was Nancy correct in her reply to the committee?
- How does the committee's reaction reflect the racial prejudices and viewpoints in America?
- What biblical truths concerning racism can Nancy share with the committee?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. Describe the two popular theories of racial origins discussed in this chapter and the weaknesses of each. _____

2. According to the Bible, where did the various races originate? _____

3. What is the biblical reason given for one person holding another person in servitude? _____

4. How did biblical servitude differ from the slavery practiced in America? _____

5. What is the solution to the sin of racism given in Galatians 2? _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. God removes the racial divides. Read Ephesians 2:14-16.
2. Christ transcends racial divides. Read Galatians 3:28.
3. God is against racial division, but preserves racial distinction. Read Revelation 7:9.

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What theories have you heard to explain the origin of the races? What are the weaknesses of these theories based on the truth of the Bible? _____

2. How has the reality of racism touched your life or the life of someone close to you? _____

3. Is there biblical support for racism? Discuss what the Bible says about racism and prejudice. _____

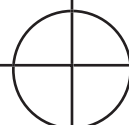
4. Discuss the power racism has over individuals and families. How can individuals overcome this stronghold? _____

5. How has the church failed in addressing the sin of racism? How can the church take the lead in dismantling all forms of racism? _____

6. Should the government of the United States apologize for the evil of slavery? Discuss your opinions. _____

7. Discuss Christian responsibility in bringing about racial reconciliation. _____

8. What can we do to educate others when they radiate racism? _____



Application

Now that you have gained an understanding of how scripture has been wrongly used to support racism and hate, ask yourself some tough questions.

1. Are you an agent of racism or a defender of truth?
2. Are you applying a kingdom agenda as it relates to race and reconciliation?
3. Are you willing to admit if you are not adhering to God's perspective and are you willing to change to follow God's agenda?

If you have failed to deal with people on the basis of their character—not by the color of their skin—ask God to help you make the necessary changes in your life that you may learn to love as God has loved.



24

Chapter Twenty-Four – The Kingdom Agenda and Politics



There are many governments that confess to have strong spiritual foundations. However, the problem is that many have the wrong foundation. Sadly, many of them do cruel and harmful things to the citizens in the name of god. Consequently, many think that there is one universal god and everybody has the right to approach him. Needless to say, there is only one true God and America professes to know Him and follow Him. Yet, the activities of the government and its people do not exemplify this belief. According to the United States constitution, the two entities of church and state are to be separated. Thus, the attempt is to remove any influence of the church on government as

a whole. Somehow in the years of America's existence, the general idea is that we do not need God involved in the affairs of men. As evident by our brief history, there is a need for church involvement. On the other hand, how can society as a whole look to the church when members of the church conduct themselves worse than those in society. The solution is in this statement: Those that belong to the church must live from a biblical perspective making every attempt to win the lost. Therefore, our lifestyle should infiltrate the gutters of society and raise the levels of people's conscience.



- What role does government play in the kingdom agenda?
- What is the role of the church in politics?
- What limitations are placed on government systems by God?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. Describe three examples in the Bible of God placing people strategically in the political realm. _____

2. Explain the doctrine of interposition. _____

3. Describe one example in the Bible of interposition. _____

4. Describe the two types of interposition and give biblical examples of each. _____



Exploration

First, study the Scriptures outlined in the chapter. Then, study the passages below to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented.

1. We must understand that there is a spiritual kingdom as well as earthly kingdoms. Read John 18:36.
2. We must understand our spiritual citizenship as well as our earthly citizenship. Read Philippians 3:20
3. Pray for politicians because they are key to achieving earthly peace. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

1. What can Christians do to accomplish God's kingdom agenda politically? _____

2. Discuss modern day situations that call for Christians to interpose themselves in this culture. _____

3. Why should Christians vote? _____

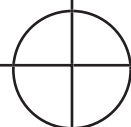
4. What are you doing to interpose God's political view in society? _____

5. Give examples of politicians who have demonstrated a kingdom perspective through their actions. _____

6. Discuss reasons for the political chaos in our society today. _____

7. What can the church do to reflect the kingdom of God in the realm of politics? _____

8. What does the Bible say about the separation of religion and state? _____



Application

Write a prayer offering yourself to God for political action. This prayer should reflect your personal responsibility and willingness to fulfill God's call by serving Him in politics if He chooses to empower you for that action. Pray also for the family and the church as each group seeks to fulfill its role in God's political agenda. Ask God to direct those who are in authority in this country that His righteous standards will prevail. Finally, pray against those who promote unrighteousness and evil in society.

Pray this written prayer during your time with God.



25

Chapter Twenty-Five – The Kingdom Agenda and Education

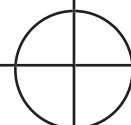


Dr. Ben Carson is a renowned neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Medical School. In several interviews, he has provided insight into how he reached the pinnacle of his profession. He credits his mother for stressing education. In fact, she required that he and his siblings read two books weekly and provide a written report for each. Ironically, he was unaware that his mother only possessed a third grade education and could not read his reports. However, his mother did not allow her lack of knowledge to interfere with her interest in her children's education. She also took the initiative in his spiritual development as well.

Dr. Carson credits both God and his mother for his achievements. He was an under achieving student until both of these entities came together and laid the foundation that took him to the top of his profession. Dr. Carson, in his humility, gives God the glory and does not boast in his achievements. He has made it a priority to keep God first in his life and strives to fulfill the calling that God has given him.



- Consider Dr. Carson's story. How did his mother's attitude toward education shape his life?
- In what ways did your parent's involvement in your education shape your life?
- What can you learn from Dr. Carson's mother about the education of our children?



Comprehension

Check your understanding of the concepts presented in the chapter.

1. Define the two fundamental world views: theistic and humanistic. _____

2. What are the three primary areas of education in which the theistic and humanistic world views are in conflict? _____

3. Describe the context of education from a biblical standpoint. _____

4. What are the two sources of truth discussed by this chapter? How do these two sources of truth relate to education? _____

5. What can the individual, family, church, and government do to bring our education system under the Lordship of Christ. _____



Discussion

Use these questions in your study group to sharpen and refine your understanding.

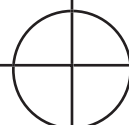
1. What humanistic world views are being taught in our schools today? What impact do these views have on society? _____

2. How can parents counter the humanistic view that pervades public education? _____

3. What can you do personally to see that you are not being unduly influenced by the world's system? _____

4. What does God's Word tell us about such issues as evolution, premarital sex, and homosexuality? _____

5. Discuss the public schools in your area. What do the schools do well and where do they fall short according to God's agenda for education? _____



Application

If you are a parent, take a moment to evaluate your involvement in your child's overall development and education. In what areas do you need to be more involved?

If you are not a parent, you can also get involved. Consider the children in your family or in your church or community that may not have someone taking an interest in their education. Determine how you can take an active part in their development and education. What can you do to ensure that this child receives a comprehensive education?





The Urban Alternative

The National Ministry of Dr. Tony Evans

P.O. Box 4000 Dallas, TX 75208

(800) 800-3222

www.tonyevans.org