



VISION SERIES 2025

PART TWO

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

DO YOU LOVE THE KINGDOM OR DO YOU JUST SORT OF LIKE IT?

LIFE IS NOT ABOUT “DOING” BUT “BEING” LIKE JESUS, AND THAT IS A PROCESS OF BEING:

-FLIPPED UPSIDE DOWN

-SET ON FIRE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

-WILLING TO EMBRACE KINGDOM LIFE (THE WAYS OF JESUS)

THAT IS WHAT I MEAN BY SAYING “WE ARE KINGDOM FOCUSED”

SEE HERE’S WHAT I’VE FOUND WHEN I READ THE ACCOUNTS OF JESUS’ MINISTRY AND THE BOOKS OF ACTS... THEY DIDN’T JUST LIKE THE KINGDOM. THEY LOVED THE KINGDOM.

THE EARLY CHURCH:

- THEY DIDN'T JUST LIKE JESUS, THEY LOVED JESUS.
- THEY DIDN'T JUST LIKE THE GOSPEL, THEY LOVED THE GOSPEL.
- THEY DIDN'T JUST LIKE THE HOLY SPIRIT, THEY LOVED THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- THEY DIDN'T JUST LIKE SERVING, THEY LOVED SERVING.
- THEY DIDN'T JUST LIKE SOULS, THEY LOVED SOULS.
- THEY WERE NOT COMPLACENT, BORING OR DULL. THEY WERE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH SITTING AND WAITING THEY BELIEVED WHAT JESUS SAID AND THEY DID IT...

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM?

TRUTH: JESUS DID NOT PRESENT A SUNDAY MORNING RELIGION, NOR DID HE PRESENT A PLACE TO COME AND GET A QUICK SPIRITUAL FIX. JESUS CHRIST PRESENTED A TOTALLY NEW, ALTERNATIVE WAY OF LIFE, AND HE CALLED IT **THE KINGDOM**. THAT IS BEING FORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF JESUS!

JESUS REVEALS HIS PURPOSE:

LUKE 4:42-43

JESUS DESCRIBES HIS KINGDOM:

MATTHEW 5:2-12

NONE OF WHAT JESUS CALLS BLESSED ALIGNS WITH WHAT THE WORLD SAYS IS "BLESSED. "

JESUS' KINGDOM IS VERY MUCH INVERTED WHEN COMPARED TO THE WORLD'S STANDARDS.

HIS KINGDOM IS SO DIFFERENT THAT IN THE EARLY CHURCH, JESUS' DISCIPLES ARE BLAMED FOR TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN:

ACTS 17:1-9

"WHAT WAS IT THAT MADE THE EARLY CHURCH SO DIFFERENT"

EPHESIANS 4:20-24 CEB But you didn't learn that sort of thing from Christ. ²¹ Since you really listened to him and you were taught how the truth is in Jesus, ²² change the former way of life that was part of the person you once were, corrupted by deceitful desires. ²³ Instead, renew the thinking in your mind by the Spirit ²⁴ and clothe yourself with the new person created according to God's image in justice and true holiness.

RENEWED GREEK: *ananeoo*: renovate, reform, make new, not the physical flesh but of the Spirit!

This word "ananeoo" only occurs once in the Bible; this is a brand-new word... the other word for "renew" was: **anakainósis** (Romans 12)

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

HERE'S THE DIFFERENCE

Anakainósis is a **noun**, it's a thing... a thing that has happened. a willing response of the believer, **actual thoughts and attitude/flesh**, from ἀνα + καίνωσις = an intensified form of the noun meaning **making + fresh**

Ananeo is a **verb**, an action that you do. **not the physical flesh** but something done by God that brings a believer into completeness! from ἀνα + νεόω = **complete/up + new**

UNDERSTAND:

-BOTH ARE ACTIONS THAT TAKE PLACE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (BY GOD'S GRACE IN JESUS)

-BOTH ARE IMPORTANT TEACHINGS ON HOW TO FUNCTION AS A BELIEVER

-BOTH ARE NECESSARY

-BOTH SIGNIFY A CHANGE IN THE BELIEVER

BUT ONE IS ABOUT THE INITIAL ONE TIME CHANGE IN THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PERSON (REPENTANCE) THAT BRINGS ABOUT RENEWEL BY RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE (**SALVATION**).... THE OTHER IS (FROM THAT POINT ON) GOD MOLDING, SHAPING AND GROWING YOU INTO HIS IMAGE! (**DISCIPLESHIP**)

TRUTH: Being a Christian is not just about “being saved” (which you are). That is where your journey begins as a new creation. Afterward, there must be a process of spiritual formation and discipleship.

MATTHEW RECORDS JESUS’ COMMISSION TO HIS CHURCH:

MATTHEW 28:16-20

TRUTH: A Kingdom has a King, and Jesus Christ is our King. He is the only one with the right to give a commission (orders) and He did, and they have not changed. One of the reasons the early church was so bold was because they heard these orders and took them seriously. They not only evangelized, not only healed the sick, not only cast out demons but they **MADE DISCIPLES**.

QUOTE

“The heart of being a disciple involves living in intimate union and daily contact with Christ. Discipleship — the effort both to be a disciple and to make other disciples — is about the immense value of God at work in one individual’s life and the resulting impact on other lives.” -**Bill Hull, *The Complete Book of Discipleship***

SO, WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH US AS A LOCAL CHURCH? WITH OUR LOCAL VISION AND MISSION???

OUR MISSION:

WE ARE KINGDOM FOCUSED: We hope to inspire people to experience Christ and help them grow, building the kingdom today.

OUR VISION:

THE EDGE CHURCH SEEKS TO BE: A Bible based community, that is Kingdom Focused, Spirit Empowered, Authentic in worship, Effective in service and one that Impacts our world for Christ.

BROKEN DOWN:

BIBLE BASED: The core of everything we believe, teach and do must come from the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. (Not the opinions of man/culture)
2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21

KINGDOM FOCUSED: We are focused on Jesus Christ, His Gospel message, and ways presented in the Bible. **Matthew 6:31-34, Colossians 1:13-14, Luke 17:20-21**

SPIRIT EMPOWERED: We are unashamed to believe in the Baptism (in filling) of the Holy Spirit. And With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. **Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31**

AUTHENTIC IN WORSHIP: Worship is a lifestyle! We believe that the whole purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. **Psalms 150, Mark 12:29-31, Ephesians 5:18-21**

EFFECTIVE IN SERVICE: We believe in the divinely called, commissioned, and equipped five-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers as given to the Church by the Lord Jesus Christ after His ascension. We further believe that all Christians are called to be ambassadors for Christ and that all believers have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We work best together as ONE! **Ephesians 4:11-13, 2 Corinthians 5:20, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

A CHURCH THAT IMPACTS OUR WORLD FOR CHRIST: the local church is God's chosen vehicle for world evangelism, the nurturing of Christians, and the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, thereby building the Body of Christ.

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being part of the Church is:

- To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world. **Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19,20, Mark 16:15,16**
- To be a corporate body in which man may worship God. **1 Corinthians 12:13**
- To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. **Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:28, 1 Corinthians 14:12**
- To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world. **Psalms 112:9, Galatians 2:10; 6:10, James 1:27**