

# The Kingdom of God

*“...Jesus answered, ‘**You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’” John 18:37***

Are you “of the truth”....?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “understands and knows me”

# The Kingdom of God

## Five Principles that Guided the Early Church

- 1. We must obey Jesus' commandments*
- 2. Don't add to Jesus' laws*
- 3. Jesus' commandments are not all on the same level*
- 4. Don't develop spiritual pride*
- 5. Kingdom life comes with a cross*

# Kingdom Principle #1

## We must obey Jesus' commandments

*To see who really loves Him, Jesus looks at whether or not we are willing to keep His commandments. And if we don't keep His commandments, we don't love him.*

### References:

**John 15:1-17** – *We bear fruit by loving Christ and abiding in His love. And we abide in Christ's love by obeying His commandments.*

**Matthew 7:21-27** – *Jesus' commandments aren't suggestions.*

### Similar passages:

**Luke 13:24-27** – *strive to enter the narrow gate*

**I Corinthians 7:19** – *keeping the commandments of God is what matters*

## Kingdom Principle #2

### Don't add to (or takeaway from) God's Commandments

*Jesus made it clear when He was here that He does not want us adding to God's commandments.*

#### References:

**Mark 7:3-9** – Speaking of the Scribes and Pharisees...

**Matthew 23:4** – Describing the Pharisees...

#### Concept:

*The “theologians” missed the big picture because they focused on the minutiae of the Law instead of the major things: love, mercy, faith, justice, and forgiveness.*

Exodus 35:2-3 “work on Sabbath was not described in detail originally”

# Kingdom Principle #3

## Not all Commandments are Equal

*As within any government, not all laws are considered at the same level of severity. It's no different in the Kingdom of God. God's laws are not all on the same level.*

### References:

**Matthew 23:23-28** – *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees...*

**Matthew 22:35-40** – *"Teacher, which is the great commandment..."*

### Similar Passages:

**I Corinthians 6:9-10** – *Certain sins are weightier than others.*

### Concept:

*What makes you a godly Kingdom Christian is that, first, you focus on the weightier commandments – such as love, mercy, justice, and forgiveness. Having made sure of that, we still don't neglect the others.*

# Kingdom Principle #4

## Avoid Spiritual Pride

*Even if, by the grace of God, you live by the first three laws, don't develop spiritual pride or start judging others.*

### References:

**Matthew 7:1-5** – Judge not, that you be not judged.

### Concept:

**Matthew 18** – Chapter 7 is addressing the everyday shortcomings that we notice in our brothers and sisters. Chapter 18 is talking about the beam in your brother's eye (the serious type of sin that may cost the brother's soul).

# Kingdom Principle #5

## Kingdom Life Brings Conflicts

*Kingdom life will normally bring upon conflicts, criticism, persecution, stress, and maybe even torture and death.*

### References:

**Matthew 10:16-42** – *Disciples sent out as sheep in the midst of wolves.*

### Concepts:

**Luke 17:1-4** – *Stumbling blocks will come... keep focused on Christ and keep going.*

# Focusing on the King's Perspective

A mission from our King... (Matt. 22:37-40; 28:19-20)

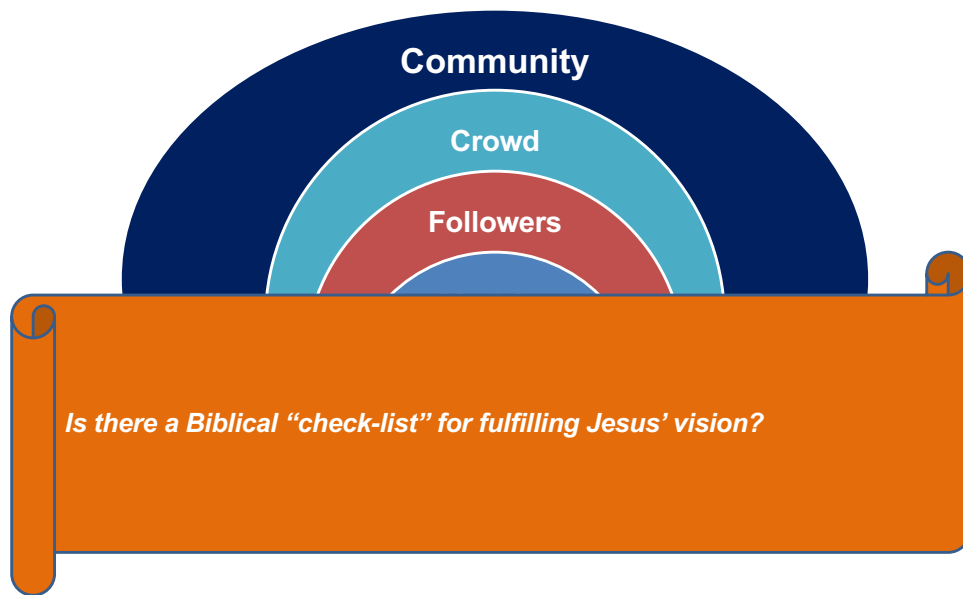
1. Love the Lord with all your heart (Worship – Matt. 4:10).
2. Love your neighbor as yourself (Service - Eph. 4:12)
3. Go and make disciples (Evangelism – Acts 1:8).
4. Baptize them (Fellowship; Covenant Relationship – Eph. 4:4-5)
5. Teach them to obey (Discipleship – Col. 1:28)

*We trust the Lord that you are putting into practice the things we taught you. 2 Thes. 3:4*



# What did Jesus do?

Go and make Disciples...



Jesus's example: Matt 4:19

Paul's example: 1 Cor. 9:22

Matthew 10 (also in Luke 10)

***Read Ephesians 4:11-14; 2 Corinthians 13:5-9; Romans 8:29***

- ***What does God want of every believer?***
- ***How does spiritual growth happen?***
- ***How do we become mature in Christ?***
- ***Is maturity attainable only by a few?***

# First Principles for Fishermen

Becoming “Fishers of Men” (Matt 4:19; Col 4:5)

Job #1 for Believers..?

John 17:20-23

Eph 4:1-16

Rom 15:5-6

1 Pet 3:8-11

*Finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble. Do*

**UNITY** – The way that people will know that we belong to Jesus.  
(John 17)

**UNITY IS JOB #1** – Regardless of our different temperaments, backgrounds, passions, gifts, abilities, and resources, we are all equipped to accomplish **UNITY**. (Ephesians 4, 5)

Can you quote John 3:16..? Can you quote 1 John 3:16...?

Jesus’s example: Matt 4:19

Paul’s example: 1 Cor. 9:22

Matthew 10 (also in Luke 10)

Targets:

- Is it biblical to target a demographic within the community? Matt: 10:5-6;
- Go where the “fish” are biting... Matt 10:14
- How do we learn to think like a fish? Jesus knew people. Matt 9:4; 12:25; Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22; 9:47; 11:17; Col. 4:5
  - What do people think about church? What are their complaints?
- Are we to be “strategic” in evangelism? Matt: 10:16
- How do we catch fish on their terms? (Adapt to and penetrate their culture?)
  - Eat what is set before you... Luke 10:8;
  - Do gentile believers have to follow Jewish customs to be considered true Christians? Acts 15
  - Let the fish determine your approach... 1 Cor. 9:19-23
  - Focusing upon felt needs (Matt 10:8)
  - Understand and respond to peoples problems (hang-ups)
  - Be willing to change methods
- Does it cost to fish? Where do we get the money?
  - It is not the neediest institutions that God supplies, but rather those that pursue His vision (Luke 19:26)
  - God’s work done God’s way will not lack God’s support. If you focus on fishing (evangelism), God will pay your bills. (Matt 17:27)