



RCCG OCEANIA

Identity & Purpose

Kingdom Culture vs. Religious Misunderstanding

At a Glance

BIG IDEA

Many misunderstand Jesus' message, thinking it is about religion, when it is truly about the Kingdom of Heaven. This study explores how God's original plan was to extend His heavenly kingdom on earth, and how true fulfillment comes from seeking this kingdom, not religious practices.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Matthew 5

Ephesians 1:3

Isaiah 45:18

Genesis 1:26

Psalms 115:16

Key Takeaways

- Jesus' message was centered on the Kingdom of Heaven, not religion.
- The Bible describes a kingdom with a king and a royal family.
- True fulfillment comes from seeking the Kingdom of Heaven.
- God's plan was to extend His heavenly kingdom on earth.
- Prosperity is a natural culture within the kingdom.

Introduction

The message of Jesus Christ often gets entangled in religious practices, but His true focus was on the Kingdom of Heaven. This study aims to unravel the misconceptions and bring clarity to God's original plan for humanity, which is to live under His divine rule and experience the prosperity of His kingdom.

Scripture Reading

- **Matthew 5** — Jesus introduces the concept of the Kingdom of Heaven to those who are spiritually poor.
- **Ephesians 1:3** — Highlights God's choice of believers before the creation of the world.
- **Isaiah 45:18** — Affirms God's intention for the earth to be inhabited.
- **Genesis 1:26** — Describes humanity's dominion over the earth as part of God's plan.
- **Psalms 115:16** — Explains the earth's ownership given to mankind by God.

Key Points

1. **Jesus' Misunderstood Message** — Jesus is often misunderstood as promoting religion, but His true message was about the Kingdom of Heaven. This kingdom offers fulfillment beyond religious practices. In Matthew 5, Jesus speaks to those who are spiritually poor, introducing them to a new way of living that transcends traditional religious boundaries. His teachings focus on the heart and the spirit, emphasizing a relationship with God rather than adherence to rituals.
 - Reflect on areas where religious practices have overshadowed your relationship with God.
 - Study Matthew 5 to understand Jesus' teachings on the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - Pray for a deeper revelation of God's kingdom in your life.

Scripture: Matthew 5

Key Points (cont.)

2. **The Bible's Kingdom Focus** — The Bible is not about religion but about a kingdom, with God as the king and believers as His royal family. This perspective shifts the focus from religious rituals to kingdom living. Genesis 1:26 and Psalms 115:16 highlight humanity's role in God's kingdom, emphasizing dominion and stewardship over the earth. Understanding this kingdom focus helps believers live as heirs to God's promises.

- Consider how your life reflects the values of God's kingdom.
- Identify ways to exercise stewardship in your community.
- Engage in discussions about the kingdom of God with fellow believers.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26 Psalms 115:16

Key Points (cont.)

3. God's Original Plan — God's original idea was to extend His heavenly kingdom on earth, making it a place of prosperity and divine culture. Isaiah 45:18 affirms that God created the earth to be inhabited, reflecting His kingdom's culture. Recognizing this plan helps believers align with God's purpose, living in harmony with His will and experiencing the blessings of His kingdom.

- Meditate on Isaiah 45:18 and its implications for your life.
- Align your personal goals with God's kingdom purposes.
- Seek ways to contribute to the prosperity of your community.

Scripture: **Isaiah 45:18**

Key Points (cont.)

4. **Seeking True Fulfillment** — Every human spirit seeks the Kingdom of Heaven for true satisfaction. This kingdom is not about religious adherence but about living under God's rule and experiencing His blessings. Ephesians 1:3 reminds believers of the spiritual blessings available in Christ, chosen before the world's foundation. Pursuing these blessings leads to a fulfilled life in God's kingdom.
 - Reflect on what true fulfillment means in your life.
 - Explore Ephesians 1:3 to understand the spiritual blessings in Christ.
 - Commit to seeking God's kingdom first in all aspects of life.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3

Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

Observation

- What does Jesus emphasize in Matthew 5 about the Kingdom of Heaven?
- How does Genesis 1:26 describe humanity's role in God's kingdom?
- What is the significance of God's intention for the earth in Isaiah 45:18?

Interpretation

- How can understanding the Kingdom of Heaven change our perspective on religious practices?
- In what ways does the Bible's kingdom focus differ from traditional religious views?
- What does it mean to live under God's rule according to Ephesians 1:3?

Application

- How can you shift your focus from religious rituals to kingdom living?
- What steps can you take to align your life with God's original plan for His kingdom?
- In what ways can you seek true fulfillment in God's kingdom today?

Prayer Focus

- Seek deeper understanding of God's kingdom
- Pray for clarity beyond religious practices
- Ask for alignment with God's original plan

Next Step

Reflect on how your life aligns with the values and purpose of God's kingdom.

Conclusion

Understanding the Kingdom of Heaven as Jesus intended requires moving beyond religious misconceptions. By embracing God's original plan and seeking His kingdom, believers can experience true fulfillment and live as part of His royal family. This study encourages a deeper exploration of what it means to live under God's rule and enjoy the prosperity of His kingdom.