

Identity Wars Study 8 – Comparing the Two Kingdoms

How many teams are there in a football game? How many competitors in a tennis match?
How many parties in a democratic race for leadership?

In the battle for our souls, there are two opposing entities vying for our allegiance.

- These entities represent two kingdoms that have nothing in common, and are distinct and separate in every way.
- Therefore, the choice we have as to which kingdom we will join and participate in is actually very clear and distinct.
- There are no crossover principles which would confuse us. The confusion only takes place when the leader of the enemy kingdom adopts principles of God's kingdom, for a short time, in an attempt to gain our attention and win our allegiance.
- But in the end, he will always revert to the principles of the kingdom of darkness.

He will either adopt principles of light into his dark kingdom to make it look attractive to us and lead us away from God's kingdom...

or he will introduce principles of darkness into God's visible kingdom on earth, through people who do it knowingly or unknowingly, as a means of diluting God's light and truth.

- Remember, there are no common principles held in common by the two kingdoms.

Adam and Eve were created and placed in the Garden of Eden firmly established within God's kingdom of light and life, but an enemy from a rival kingdom was lurking, waiting for an opportunity to share the principles of his dark kingdom. The only way they could be removed from God's kingdom of light and life was through lies and deception; because God's kingdom supplied all their requirements for a prosperous, happy and harmonious life.

Philippians 4:19 – "God, who takes care of me, will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

The two kingdoms are defined by three attributes which we will consider today:

1. GOVERNMENT: A system by which the kingdom is ruled. I.E. democracy or dictatorship or beneficent theocracy
2. CURRENCY: A value system by which the citizens exchange their goods.
3. CITIZENSHIP: A way of determining how someone can be a member of that kingdom.

| | God's Kingdom | Satan's Kingdom |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Government | Family | Strongest/Most Influential |
| Currency | Love/Mercy/Free Choice/ Faith in God | Power/Assets/Force/ Faith in self |
| Citizenship | Child of God | Performance and achievement |

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--|
| God's Government | Identity – Family | Head of family – father |
| | Value – relationship | Relationships – intimate |
| | Currency – love | Strength – love, support, care, protection, acceptance |

- In God's kingdom, there is a security in the knowledge that nothing can separate you from God's love, **Romans 8:38, 39.**
- There is no boasting in performance or assets because each child of God knows that everything he is and possesses is a gift from our Heavenly Father. **Jeremiah 9:23, 24.**
- Learning to know God is our highest joy and ambition **Matthew 6:33.**

Love and forgiveness are freely spent or given, as there is a common understanding that we are weak and in need of encouragement and support.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Satan's Government | Identity – strength | Headship - Strongest rules |
| | Value – performance, assets | Performance – who is strongest, prettiest, smartest, most educated |
| | Currency - assets | Assets – material, mental, or relational |

In Satan's kingdom, there is the constant fear of under achievement and judgement.

- Do you know ...? Do you have ...? Can you do ...? How many ... How much ...?

Even success brings the fear of losing it all.

- There is constant pressure to keep ahead of the pack or keep up with the neighbors causes stress.
- Therefore stress can be and is found among the rich and poor. Depression is also an outcome or result of insecurity and the feeling of not being good enough. Many immigrants work so hard and build huge homes to show they are valuable in their new country. The work ethic is great but when the value they seek is gained through this means, then failure to achieve can lead to terrible depression.

Why are so many relationships filled with pain and sorrow? Soul mates or partners?

- Is there any significance in the trend now to call our wives or husbands – partner instead of spouse?

Have our relationships just become business transactions where the other partner can assist us in producing a child in our image, or where the other person can assist us in building an empire – commonly known as a home with its assets?

- What happens if the business breaks down, what if the partners grow apart – do they just look for another partner? Can a loss of assets place a strain on the partnership?

In God's kingdom couples are joined together in marriage so they can support each other in knowing and expressing the love of God while on their journey to heaven. The fruit of this union can be children, but it will always be in a home where the glory of God is taught and practiced.

- The most important aspect of a godly marriage is the coming together to know God and praise Him daily. From this foundation, of security in His love and contentment in the knowledge that we have full value as His children, everything else grows.

Citizenship

In God's kingdom, you are accounted a citizen simply by being a child of God.

You are, so you are! Circumstances or difficulties can never change this fact.

- Your citizenship is secure in your relationship to God, as your Father.

In Satan's kingdom, we are accounted a citizen by doing or not doing. Failure to adhere to the dictates of those above us lessens our value, and puts at risk our citizenship.

- Since we are valued by performance in this kingdom, it is essential to demonstrate our value. If we can't perform, then it is vital that we bow to those who can, and acknowledge their performance. This will assure our continued citizenship, and solicit their support.
- This is sometimes called *social security payments*. Our value in this kind of kingdom may be small to people with more power, but they keep us as citizens because having 'little people' under them gives them self-importance and value.

While we all have citizenship within this kind of kingdom, there is no true equality and security. There is always judging and deciding what measures to judge with. There is constant comparison, and it can be exhausting. (2 Cor 10:12 – comparing isn't wise)

Emotional cycle in Satan's kingdom

This cycle is based in the thinking that we have power in ourselves. Success means I am good or valuable. Failure means I am bad or valueless.

The problem with this kingdom is the emotional cycle that keeps people in a state of insecurity.

- The lowest point in this kingdom is failure, when we are stuck there we are left feeling depressed. At this point we can either give in to depression – a passive reaction, or determine to put in greater effort to beat it – active or aggressive reaction.
- When our determined efforts are met with success, we reach the highest point in this kingdom: pride.

At this point things are great, except there comes to us a fear that we may, at some time, fail again. So, again, we have to either put in another great effort to maintain our successful position in the kingdom, or we can give in to the inevitable reality that we can't stay at the top forever. The risk here is that having experienced the highs of success, we may plummet to the lows of depression. This is often seen in young sportsmen who can't make the grade. Suicide or self harm is sometimes the end for all the wasted years of effort.

Emotional Cycle in Satan's Kingdom



eed for validation from others.

Emotional Cycle in God's Kingdom



Can you think of an example where failure lead to depression or death through suicide? Judas Iscariot – What happened to him? Why?

Emotional cycle in God's kingdom

1 Thess 5:18 "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you."

In all things be content:

Philippians 4:11 - Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Hebrews 13:5 Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Citizens in God's kingdom recognise that the ability to achieve anything comes from God.

- Although they don't get our value from achievement, they still do achieve.
- In fact the capacity to achieve is increased as they do not fear failure. Failure is simply something to learn from. They are still loved, still God's children regardless of whether they succeed or not.

The kingdom of God gives us the best platform from which to achieve our full potential because failure does not destroy our identity or our value.

Our emotions therefore can stay intact, and peace remain in our hearts, through the knowledge that we are loved no matter what.

Now that we have outlined the nature of the two kingdoms, we are ready to take a look at human history and see how following the principles of one or the other of the two kingdoms has affected people, their decisions and their relationships.

Both kingdoms offer freedom, both kingdoms offer much, but which kingdom leaves us with a sense of significance and worth that is unshakable?