

God Has Spoken

Tract Series

The Kingdom & The Church: Are They The Same?

No single verse of scripture explicitly says that the kingdom and the church are the same. Then again, the Bible doesn't teach only by explicit statements. Comparing the church with the kingdom shows clearly that they are identical. Suppose you know that my car is a blue 2009 Chevrolet located at 1234 Main Street in this town, has the license number 1B3-C71, and has on the left end of the bumper a sticker promoting the church of Christ. Then suppose that you learn that my wife's car is a blue 2009 Chevrolet located at 1234 Main Street in this town, has the license number 1B3-C71, and has on the left end of the bumper a sticker promoting the church of Christ. Wouldn't you naturally conclude that my wife and I drive the same car? Two descriptions of identical characteristics in every respect are describing only one thing. That is the kingdom of God and the church of Christ.

The word "church" is used in the Bible in various ways:

- The total number of saved persons – Matt. 16:18
- The local number of saved persons – Col. 4:16
- Several local assemblies in a region – Gal. 1:2

The word "kingdom" is used in the Bible in various ways:

- Of the King's domain on earth – Rev. 1:9
- Of the King's domain in heaven – Matt. 25:34

When we speak of the church as the total number of saved persons, and we speak of the kingdom as the King's domain on earth, we are speaking of but one entity. It is also called in scripture:

the house of God – II Timothy 3:15

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds (Hebrews 1:1-2).

the bride of Christ – Revelation 21:2
the body of Christ – I Corinthians 12:27

The following chart shows that the kingdom of God and the church of Christ are identical in their identifying characteristics. When some teach that Christ built the church on His first visit to earth, and will build the kingdom on His second visit, that person is mis-interpreting some difficult passages of scripture. The plain passages teach otherwise, as you can see:

	The Kingdom	The Church
Place of Origin	Jerusalem Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-2	Jerusalem Acts 2:5, 47
Manner of Origin	With Power Mark 9:1	With Power Acts 2:1-4, 47
Time of Origin	Roman Empire Dan. 2:44; Mark 9:1; Matt. 16:28	Roman Empire Acts 2:47
Duration	Forever Dan. 2:44	Forever Rev. 21:24; 22:5
Head	Christ Luke 19:37-40	Christ Eph. 1:22-23
Law	the Gospel Matt. 4:23	the Gospel II Cor. 8:8
Constituents	the Redeemed Col. 1:13-14	the Redeemed Acts 2:47
-Their condition	Eternal Life Luke 18:18-25	Eternal Life I Jn. 5:20; Rom. 6:3,4; I Cor. 12:13
Work	Preach God's Glory Psa. 145:11-12	Preach God's Glory Eph. 3:10, 21
Destiny	Delivered to God I Cor. 15:24	Presented to Christ Eph. 5:27
Entrance	Repent & Believe Mark 1:15	Repent & Believe Acts 2:38,41,47; 16:31-34; I Cor. 15:1-3
Location	Within You Luke 17:20-21	Among Men's Souls Acts 9:1-4

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28).

Jesus told the apostles that He would sit on His throne as a King “in the regeneration.”

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:5).

“The washing of regeneration,” with the renewing of the Holy Spirit, saves man from punishment for his sins.

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47).

The saved are in (constitute) the church.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41).

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9).

The apostles were in the church from the beginning – as the new converts were added to them – and John, one of the apostles, said that he was in the kingdom with the seven churches of Asia.

The Bible teaches that the kingdom and the church are the same.



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