

Kingdom of God
Intro, Part 4
Sept. 25, 2013

Over 2000 years of church history, 3 general views:

- #1. Church
- #2. Mil. Kingdom of Christ
- #3. Heaven

Over 2000 years of church history, 7 different emphases:

From Worst to First

- #1 Social Kingdom
- #2 Moral Kingdom
- #3 Church
- #4 Spiritual Kingdom
- #5 Heaven
- #6 Israel in OT
- #7 Millennial Kingdom of Christ

#2 The Moral Kingdom emphasis

K of G = a system of ethics

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) –

Human Reason is basis and source of morality.

In simple terms, to achieve happiness, act as if there is a God.

You can have a system of morals then apart from any involvement or belief in the supernatural aspects of the Christian faith

His view of the Bible?

His “Gospel”?

Kant’s view of the organized Church:

Kant on Jesus:

Kant laid ground work for today's working view of Christianity as: Love God, be moral, be nice

Iva McClain sums up:

Must have a God to have morality, but God rules only thru moral law.

God's reign in His Moral Kingdom is then dependent on three things centered in man:

The King & His Kingdom only as strong as the commitment of His followers

Evaluation:

#3 K of G = The Church

Took two forms

1. Visible hierarchy of RCC
2. Invisible church of the Reformers

Father of this view:

RCC version – K of G is the external, visible structure of

Reformers (Luther and Calvin) –

Evaluation?

Good:

- proper emphasis & focus on the church as an institution being built by Christ
- RCC theology and practices needed correcting
- Priesthood of all believers

Bad:

Loss of distinction between the church and the kingdom of God, leads to setting aside Israel, leads to Replacement Theology

#4 Spiritual Kingdom

The K of G is the inner, unseen rule of God in the hearts of men who gladly yield

Evaluation:

Positive:

Neg:

Downplays the role and importance of the visible, organized, local church

Flirts w/ a Gnostic view of matter and a Gnostic distinction between OT and NT

Since the Church isn't the Kingdom and since the Church isn't necessarily where God is at work, the Church can be viewed as _____ and _____ for believers.

Under a Spiritual Kingdom emphasis:

Evangelism emphasized over

Gospel messages vs

Lends itself to conversions in many cases apart from baptisms and church membership b/c those things so closely tied to the local church

K of G is better b/c it's something more spiritual, internal not external, invisible, not visible

My suspicion? gave rise to the para-church movement of last 75 years

Evaluation of Parachurch movement: (<http://www.gotquestions.org/>)

Negative? usually independent of church oversight.

#5 God's reign in heaven

K of G = heaven

Most popular and most persistent emphasis thru out church history

Kingdom of God = Kingdom of Heaven = Heaven right now

Entering the kingdom = going to heaven

#6 K of G is the Jewish kingdom of Israel described in OT

Theocratic kingdom under the reign of the human kings of Israel and later Judah after the division of the kingdom.

#7 the M.K. or Messianic Kingdom

Gov't of God established on earth thru Christ who with His raised and glorified saints, reigns over a literal kingdom for a thousand years after His second coming to earth in power and great glory