

**Kingdom of God**  
**Intro, Part 4**  
**October 2, 2013**

Tie up a Parachurch loose ends

Fair Questions for founders and leaders of parachurch ministries:

- 1) Who gave you the authority to start this ministry?
- 2) How much of the budget goes to the leadership salaries? How much for admin/advertising?
- 3) Who affirmed your calling and qualifications to lead this ministry?
- 4) Who trained you to teach sound doctrine and protect this ministry from error?
- 5) Under whose authority does this ministry carry out its activities? Are they biblically qualified to be in that position? Are they being paid?
- 6) In what specific ways does your ministry support and feed and protect and uphold the local church? Is there tangible evidence you support the local church?
- 7) Are you a ministry or business?
- 8) Are the people ministered to in this ministry strongly encouraged to attend church? Are those led to Christ also led to the church? Are those evangelized also disciplined in the context of the church?
- 9) Are those who work in this ministry encouraged or required to attend church? Encouraged or required to be a functioning member of a church? Or does this ministry actually keep people from functioning in a local church? When would it ever be reasonable or biblical to routinely miss church as a believer?

**Kingdom of God – Our Approach**

the Bible itself will define the Kingdom of God for us

## **Our Definition**

Any Kingdom in fullest expression always has these 3 elements:

- 1) Ruler/King with adequate authority and power to rule
- 2) Realm of subjects to be ruled
- 3) Rule – actual exercise of ruling power

Broadest definition: The Kingdom of God is the rule of God over His creation.

### **Key Biblical Distinctions:**

#### **#1 Starting Point?**

since creation or definite starting point yet future?

#### **#2 Size?**

Universal or Local?

#### **#3 Means of Ruling?**

Direct or Mediated/Delegated?

#### **#4 Timing: Now or Later?**

Present Reality or Future reality?

#### **#5 Conditions for Ruling?**

Unconditional or Conditional, based on mutual covenant?

So which is it?