

The Bible speaks of the church as the kingdom of God. While the two are not exactly the same, as far as the Christian is concerned to be in the church means you are also in the kingdom and vice versa.

For any kingdom to exist it must have four parts. There must be; a king, a territory, subjects, and a law. Let's briefly examine each one in a spiritual context.

First, the king in this spiritual kingdom is Jesus Christ. He is head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22). He is King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 17:14). Jesus built the church (Mt. 16:18), and rules over it (Lk. 1:33; 1Cor. 15:25). There is no provision in the NT for any other king than Jesus!

Second, the territory of this spiritual kingdom is the heart of all believers (Jn. 18:36). Christ's spiritual kingdom is not about land or political boundaries. Jesus gave only one religion for all people and is ruler of all (Phil. 2:9-11). Both the kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of Satan are universal. Everyone lives in one or the other.

Third, the subjects of this spiritual kingdom are those who by their faith and obedience have been saved by grace. While there are several NT names for the saved, the one that gives the greatest description of the members of Christ's kingdom is the name-Christian. Believers were first called Christians in Antioch (Ac. 11:26). We are to suffer for and glorify God in that name (1Pet. 4:16). To be a Christian is to be Christ-like. Subjects in Christ's spiritual kingdom strive to be like their King in every way.

Fourth, the law in this spiritual kingdom is the new covenant (or New Testament). This covenant of grace contains a law to be obeyed (Rom. 8:2; Gal. 6:2; Jas. 1:25). To reject the words of Christ is to forfeit one's salvation (Jn. 12:48).

Are you a member of Christ's spiritual kingdom?

See you Sunday! -gls