

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THIS WORLD

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. C.S. Lewis

Jesus had the reputation of healing diseases, befriending the outcast, and being critical of the religious leaders. The multitudes who came were the sick, the broken, the poor, the fringe people of society, the oppressed. Sin is the greatest oppressor. Holy Spirit conviction of sin is productive in the humble, the cooperative, the repenters, and those who put their trust and belief in Jesus.

The blessed receive a reward of being in tune with the will of God. Being made holy is the reward.

Blessed are the poor (in Spirit) Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the hungry (for truth)

Blessed are the sad (over sin)

Blessed are the hated (because of their love and faith)

Kingdom parables remind us that everything in the kingdom of God is different from the world.

To lead is to serve. To be first is to be last. To live is to die, that is to die to independence.

Freely forgive without payment or retribution just as God does.

God freely forgives humanity without being paid off to do so. God freely lets go of the wrongs we do against Him. Only refusing to cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction is self-destructive (unforgivable).

The only condition for receiving forgiveness is our cooperation with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads cooperating sinners to repentance and saving faith in Jesus.

Forgiveness has three parts: God letting go of the wrongs we do against Him.

God is changing us by taking away our sins and leading us to do righteous acts.

God glorifies us and completes the work He began in us.

Jesus' death on the cross was the payment of a great price (sinless physical death) so that He would have the right to take away the sin of the world. At the cross, sin was condemned to removal from creation. Romans 8:3 Romans 5:18,19 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Revelation 5:9-14

Everything in the kingdom of God is different than what we imagine.

We hear that Jesus paid our debt to sin. But this is not true. If Jesus paid our debt, then God did not freely forgive us. If Jesus paid our sin debt, there is no necessity for repentance after we are saved. But we are told to be repenters for life. 1 John 1:9

Luke 6:27-31 Love all, bless all, pray for all, give, do good 1 John 4:10,11 Ephesians 5:1,2

Everything in the kingdom of God is different than what we imagine. Human legalism would think that God must have punished Jesus in the place of those who would receive eternal life. But instead, God was rescuing the world from sin and death by allowing the sinless death of Jesus to condemn sin to extermination.

Human legalism would think that man is so dead in sin that he cannot respond to God until God first gives a man a new spirit (regeneration). But the Bible says a man can cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and believe and receive Jesus as he is led by the Spirit. Without cooperation with the Spirit, a man could never of his own free will believe and come to eternal life.

Human legalism would think that Jesus only died for those He intended to save. But Jesus died to reconcile all of creation back to God. And in particular, Jesus died to reconcile those who cooperate with the Spirit to a new relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:20; 2:6-10

Human legalism would think that God must force regeneration upon the unwilling. But God invites us to cooperate with Him and come to the truth. Whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life.

Human legalism would think that we must put our faith in being one of God's chosen. But God invites us to put our faith in Jesus who takes away the sin of the world.

God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so God condemned sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3b

Through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

Romans 5:18b (A person must receive the free gift through cooperation with the Spirit.)

Through the obedience of one Man many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19b

God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

2 Cor. 5:19a God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the sin offering, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Cor. 5:21

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." Revelation 5:9

Being made holy (blessed) are the poor, the hungry, the sad, and the hated. These inherit the Kingdom. Everything in the Kingdom of God is different than what we expect.

To lead, we serve. To live, we die. Freely forgive without being paid off.

Human legalism is the opposite of God's Way.

