

Kingdom Series - Prologue

Prayer...

- Into
-
- **Psalm 121** “**God** neither sleeps nor slumbers.”
-

New Series:

- **Kingdom Kids**
- **Kingdom Family**
- **Kingdom Come**
-
- We are framing this whole thing under the umbrella of “Kingdom”
-
- **When we talk about the Kingdom**, it is often so grand and almost out of reach. I mean, it’s a Kingdom. And it’s **God’s** Kingdom, and God is **infinite**. Which means his rule is **infinite**, which means his Kingdom is **infinite**.
- But God is not Holy and infinite. He is also present and personal. And so is his Kingdom.
- **Prologue:**
 - **Ephesians 1:1-5 (CSB)**
 - “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will: To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. Grace to you and peace from God **our Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed is the God **and Father** of **our** Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed **us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. For he chose **us** in him before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined **us** to be **adopted**.”
- Familial language here.
- **It’s not just “God”** in verses two and three. It’s “God our **Father**”. That’s familial language. Only families have Fathers.
- The second thing we see is that this Father chose us for something? Vs. 5: To be what? **adopted**.
- Christian, God chose you to be **adopted**. Which would make sense because if He is OUR father, then we must be His.... children.
- **Only someone with children can be a Father.**
- And then thirdly:
- **Who** did he choose to be adopted?
- Was it just **me**? Read **vs. 5**... Who did he predestine to adoption?
- **“Us”**. He didn’t predestine just you, or just me. He predestined us. Which means that this whole thing is not just about me. It is about US. It is about family.

In the Kingdom of God, the King is a Father

- God is a judge, God is a ruler. God is a commander of the His armies. God is a warrior Himself.
- There are a lot of things that God is.
- But notice that Paul doesn't use any of those titles or descriptors. He uses the title **"Father"**.
- **What if everything God is, comes from Him being a Father first?** Isn't that how we see Him interacting with Adam in the Garden? He gives him authority to rule his creation and like a Father gives authority to a son?
- **What about Jesus.** How does Jesus refer to God? Does He call him his master, or commander, or "your honor"? He calls him him "Father."
- And when Jesus taught his FOLLOWERS to pray to God, why did He not choose a different word than "Our **Father**"?
-
- From God's Father heart of love, everything else flows. Not as something King first, otherwise that's how Jesus would have told us to interact with Him and that's how Jesus himself would've interacted with him. And not as a commander, creator or judge first, although He is those things, but as a FATHER first.
-
- **Now, let's be honest**, for some of us, that does not make us comfortable. Because here's the deal: if I can keep God as my boss or King or even commander, then I can have a purely cerebral relationship with him. I don't have to have to experience intimacy.
-
- **It's safer for us to keep God in the box** of boss or King or commander.
- **This isn't a male or female thing. This is a parental thing.**
- In fact, to give you a broader picture of just how beautiful and COMPLETE God's heart is for us, Jesus said that he wanted to gather Israel like a **mother** hen gathers her chicks.
-
- Women that emotional **sensitivity** you might have - that's from God. Men, that **critical thinking** that you might have, that's from God.
- That **maternal instinct**, that's from God. That **PATernal instinct**, that's from God.
- God is a complete being in and of himself, and is perfectly whole AND is neither man nor woman. He is God. He is other."
- So FIRST, in the Kingdom of God, the King is a Father, and in any family, especially in the first century, the family takes on the culture of the Father.
- **A family always starts with a father.** Even genetically. That is physiologically how a family starts.
- It's the same way in the Kingdom of God. The family of God begins with the Father.
- And from the Father, everyone else and everything else flows.

Second thing:

In the Kingdom of God, the citizens are children.

- He predestined us to be **adopted (Ephesians 1:5)**
- We are adopted — we are CHILDREN.
-
- And it's not that our sonship IS PART of our identity. It is the foundation of our identity. **Sonship is the foundation of identity.** Every part of who we are flows from and is BECAUSE OF our identity as being chosen, adopted, children.
-
- If your root system is corrupted by false ideas about who God is, and who you are to God, then you should not expect to bear healthy, vibrant, life-giving spiritual, emotional, and relational fruit.
-
- We all have things that have defined us over the years, but the question is: "who does God say that we are? And where are we drawing our identity from?"
-
- You say, "Well, I'm a **Christian**. Isn't that enough? **That's** my identity. I follow Christ." Christian = little christ. "Christ imitator." Ok, cool. Sure, you could stop there, and most people do. Many Christians live their whole lives from that foundation — "I'm going to imitate Christ. I'll do what Christ did and I'll be good."
- But let's take it even deeper than that. Let's take it back one step. From what place are you following and imitating Christ? I would say, the vast majority of Christians live from a root system of something other than "beloved **child**".

Example:

- **I AM A:**
- **Worker** in the Kingdom of God
- **Servant** in the Kingdom of God
- **Bond-Slave** in the Kingdom of God
- **Soldier** in the Kingdom of God
- **Warrior** in the Kingdom of God
- **Manager (Steward)** in the Kingdom of God
- **Ambassador** in the Kingdom of God
- **Priest** in the Kingdom of God
-
- Sonship demonstrates intimate relationship.
-
- **What did the Father say about Jesus?**
- **Matthew 3:17** - This is my beloved **Son**, with whom I am well-pleased.
-
- **Luke 9:35** - This is my Son, the Chosen One; listen to him!

- This was the practice of the first century Jewish family. When the oldest son, was of age, the Father, would bring him to the town square where he would publicly declare to the whole community that this was His son and that the son was authorized to deal and speak on His behalf.
-
- And so Jesus comes as a **son**, who had all of the approval, blessing, acceptance, and authority of the father.
- BUT he also had all of the PREFERENCE and ACCESS of the Father. You may love someone else's kid and KIND OF treat them like your own. But only your kids get THAT kind of preference and access. Jesus had all of the ACCESS of Heaven because he was a son of the King of heaven.
 - Servants don't get all the access.
 - Soldiers don't.
 - Ambassadors don't.
 - Slaves don't.
 - Only children have access to everything that is their Father's.
-
- JESUS SAYS, **"My Father has given me authority to gather all of the orphans and bring them into our family."**
- And when he invites people to follow him into the family, it's not as co-servants or co-ambassadors, or co-soldiers, or co-partners, PRIMARILY. But as we will see in Eph. 3, it **as CO-HIERS**. He doesn't say, "follow me as a **servant**, and I will show you what the **King** is like." He says, "Follow me as a **child**, and I will show you what the **Father** is like."
-
- We are not co-workers, co-soldiers, co-ambassadors, co-laborers first. We are **co-heirs** first, and all of that other stuff that is also true about us, must flow out of us being co-heirs, which means sons and daughters, FIRST.
- **Co-HEIRS!**
-
- Jesus, not as a servant, not as a prophet, not as a messenger, or an ambassador first, but as but as a son FIRST, invites us, not to just follow His ways or emulate Him, but to be CO-HEIRS with Him AS children.
- Jesus, the only begotten Son of God — the natural (so to speak) "heir" of the Father. His inheritance is the whole universe, all that is in existence: **Hebrews 1:2** says that the Son has been **"appointed heir of all things."**
- And as co-heirs, we share in THIS inheritance with Christ. What belongs to Jesus will also belong to us. Christ gives us His glory (John 17), His riches (2 Cor. 8), and all things (Hebrews 1)
- We are as welcome in God's family as Jesus is because we are "accepted in the Beloved" (**ref. Eph. 6:1**).
-

- And this is not only the truest thing about our identity, but THIS is the BEST THING IDENTITY. And the very foundation of who we are. And if we don't get this, we will always be sailing a few degrees off, never quite sure why we keep getting lost or shipwrecked.
- Our identity as Kingdom Kids is **THE** root system that produces trees that bear sustainable, vibrant, healthy, life giving, fruit.
-
- So this is a Kingdom that we are living in for sure. **But in this Kingdom, the King is a Father, and the citizens are children.**

Lastly:

In the Kingdom of God, the community is a family.

- This adoption as children is not for me. But it is for "US". It is plural, right? Vs. 2 "our" father. Vs. 3 "our" lord. Vs. 3 blessed "us" with everything spiritual blessing. vs. 4 he chose "us". that "we" would be holy, vs. 5 He predestined "us".
- This is communal language here.
- So in this Kingdom, the King is a Father and the citizens are His children. But the children have brothers and sisters
- In this Kingdom the community is a family. And it acts like a family.
 - **"The Kingdom of God should look like family."**
- And in this family where there is a father and you are a child, you are not an ONLY child.
-
- If individual identity must grow from a foundation of being children of God, then family must grow from a foundation of the love of God. That's why Paul writes in this letter the Ephesian church that his prayer for them is that they **would be rooted and firmly established in love (Ephesians 3:17)**. — rooted = that their root system that they grow from would be love, and that they would be firmly established NASB "grounded" = their foundation, would be love.
- **In the Kingdom Family Love IS the foundation of all things.**
-
- In the Kingdom of God, the COMMUNITY is a family —that means that THE CHURCH is a family. **But the foundation of that family is love.**
-
- Love is the motivator and the end of goal.
-
- We were created in the image of God, and everything God does, he does from the foundation of love because God IS love.

Prayer:

Ephesians 3:14-20

“For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God’s love, and to know Christ’s love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us— to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”