

The Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms

Lesson 1-An Introduction

Why is understanding the doctrine of the 2 Kingdoms important?

The doctrine of the two kingdoms provides one helpful view for how a Christian should _____ in the world.

There are other views that Christians have taken in the past and still do take today. Here are four examples:

1. Radical Anabaptist view-this view has various strands. The Amish for instance believe they are to literally _____ from much of that which is “worldly”. Similar are the Hutterites who believe that Christians should live together in close knit communities to escape outside influences. These groups generally hold to pacifism (which comes from their understanding of the Sermon on the Mount).
2. Medieval Roman Catholicism-This view stressed how the church should not only be involved in every sphere of life but should actually _____ every sphere.
3. The Social Gospel Movement-This view promotes social work for the betterment of humanity as the main call of the Christian. The gospel of Christ is limited to the caring for the _____ wellbeing of others. Christians and the church, therefore, should be very involved in all issues of social concern.
4. Modern Evangelicalism-This view stresses the need to “_____” everything. Christians are to try and usher in the new Creation in the present by redeeming things for Christ. A theology of Triumphalism can be seen here.

“Many contemporary voices assert that God is redeeming all legitimate cultural activities and institutions and that Christians are therefore called to transform them accordingly and to build the kingdom of God through this work.”-VanDrunen

The Reformed doctrine of the Two Kingdoms provides a different approach for how to look at how we are to live in this present world.

“The Reformed two-kingdoms movement’s chief concerns, then-a desire to re-emphasize the centrality of the Church in the Christian life, a suspicion of over-reaching claims for biblical-authority and applicability, a healthy cynicism about the ability to realize gospel

norms in the temporal and political structures, and a stress on the wide area of commonality between believers and unbelievers in our mundane lives.”-Littlejohn

So, what are the Two Kingdoms?

1. The _____ Kingdom (the kingdom of this world)
2. The _____ Kingdom (the kingdom of the world to come)

2 Kingdom basic points:

- 1. These Kingdoms are separate and have very different _____ (2 Peter 3:10 & Rev. 22:1-5)**
- 2. God _____ over both kingdoms. God’s Sovereignty is the starting point.**
- 3. God’s _____ are to be seen as the foundation of these kingdoms.**

-The Noahic Covenant for the common kingdom

“According to this doctrine, God is not redeeming the cultural activities and institutions of this world, but is preserving them through the covenant He made with all living creatures through Noah in Genesis 8:20-9:17. God Himself rules this ‘common kingdom’.”-VD

-The Covenant of Grace for the spiritual kingdom

“God is redeeming a people for Himself, by virtue of the covenant made with Abraham and brought to glorious fulfillment in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has completed Adam’s original task once and for all. These redeemed people are citizens of the ‘redemptive kingdom,’ whom God is gathering now in the church and will welcome into the new heaven and new earth at Christ’s glorious return.”-VD

- 4. Christians, on the earth, live as members of _____ kingdoms**

“God’s people are called to live under both covenants-that is, in two kingdoms. On the one hand they respect the terms of the Noahic Covenant as they pursue a variety of cultural activities in common with unbelievers. On the other hand, they embrace the terms of the covenant of grace as they cling to the promises of salvation and eternal life in a new creation and as they gather in worshipping communities distinguished from the unbelieving world.”-VD