

ADAPT TO KINGDOM CULTURE

If you have traveled to or lived in different countries as I have, you know how enriching it is to experience various cultures. When I first moved to England long term in 1986, it required some adaptation, even though it is an English speaking culture. I came with many American ideas that I felt would be helpful in our church life there. Not everyone concurred. One lady would scorn my ideas with the phrase: 'Oh, that's so American!'. That stung a bit. It took me about four years before I began to take on an English mentality. I began to see the value of things that I could learn from them. The following quote is appropriate.

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.”
- Mark Twain

You may never travel to other countries, but there is still hope for you. Jesus has given everyone an opportunity to enter another world no matter where they may live. It is called **'The Kingdom of God.'** Jesus wants all of us to develop a **'kingdom mentality'**. It is an invisible and supernatural world. It is available wherever Jesus is recognized and obeyed as King. In the four gospels, Jesus mentioned the kingdom over 100 times and the church only two times. Jesus loves the church, it is his bride, but he wants her to know that she is royalty. She is part of the Father's kingdom filled with joy, excitement and adventure. He is preparing her to reign with him when he returns to fully set up his kingdom on earth. However, the school of kings is in session even now as he trains her to reign in this life. - Romans 5:17.

The kingdom culture was in God's heart even before he created man. The church is not the kingdom, it is the vehicle that God uses to spread his kingdom culture in this life and to enjoy it even more in the ages to come.

The kingdom of Jesus operates much different from the kingdoms of this world. It is our human nature to get caught up in who we are, what we eat, drink, wear or have in this world and run after these things like the pagans do. - 1 John 2:15-17; Matthew 6:28-32. We can become anxious and fearful. Jesus tells us.....

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. - Matt.6:33 NIV

Do not fear little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. - Luke 12:32 NKJV

Jesus wants us to stop thinking like natural human beings who only go by what they see, hear, feel and experience in the physical world. He wants us step over into his kingdom way of living, to activate our spiritual senses of our born from above spiritual nature that he has given to us. It is time to set aside the old ways. You can't put new wine into old wine skins.

- John Beckerink

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