

The Uniqueness of the Lord's Kingdom

Luke 17:20-21; John 18:33-36

Introduction:

- A. The Lord's Kingdom is unique among kingdoms — temporal or spiritual.
 - 1. Many are uncomfortable with this, even among Christians.
 - a. Had rather not be considered different.
 - b. Had rather preachers not point out differences.
 - 2. Others find it attractive (cf. Phil. Holman's statement at baptism).
- B. We need to understand and appreciate the unique *features* of the kingdom.

Discussion:

I. The Uniqueness of its Standards.

- A. Its standard of authority (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
- B. Its standard of greatness (Matt. 18:1-4).
- C. Its standard of conduct (Matt. 5:17-48).
- D. Its standard of success (Jesus and Apostles failures by earthly standards)

II. The Uniqueness of its Dominion.

- A. Neither earthly head nor headquarters (cf. Eph. 1:20-23).
- B. Neither geographical nor ethnic boundaries (Luke 17:20-21; Acts 10:35)
- C. Universal in scope but no universal organization (cf. Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-5).

III. The Uniqueness of its Message.

- A. It is a uniquely designed message (1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2:1-5).
- B. It differs for all other gospels (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - 1. From denominational gospels.
 - 2. From social gospel.
 - 3. From Health and wealth gospel.
 - 4. From all-positive gospel (convicts then converts).

IV. The Uniqueness of its Mission.

- A. To honor and praise God as the Lord directs not men (cf. Matt. 15:9, 14).
- B. To honor and serve God congregationally and individually.
 - 1. Some things may be done collectively — church action.
 - 2. Other things must be done individually (cf. 1 Tim. 5:16; 1 Cor. 11:22, 34)

V. The Uniqueness of its Methods.

- A. It is neither coy nor crafty (2 Cor. 4:1-4; Acts 26:26).
 - 1. Makes not attempts to hide aims, designs, nor identity.
 - 2. Has nothing up sleeves, nor pigs in a poke.
- B. It lays all truth on the table — both appealing and objectionable.

Conclusion:

- A. Why should kingdom appeal to our neighbors if it offers nothing different?
- B. How can church be effective in the world unless it maintains its uniqueness?