



KINGDOM PARTNERSHIP: PARTNERSHIP

If the term that Jesus used most to refer to himself was the “Son of Man”, then the topic Jesus talked most about was the “Kingdom of God”. Most of us would think that the Kingdom of God meant a geographic location like a nation or empire, but the more correct definition of the word “Kingdom” is, as Dallas Willard phrases, “the range of effective will.” The Kingdom refers to any space, place, or people where Jesus reigns and rules. Where His say and thought and desire and will and character has the first and final say.

Mark 1:14-15 ESV

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the good news.”

Colossians 1:13 ESV

He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

To announce God’s kingdom is to announce that God is at last overthrowing the dark powers that enslave his people. To announce God’s kingdom is to say that this is the time for God to reconstitute his people rescuing them and regrouping them for new life and new tasks. To announce God’s kingdom is to say that God himself is coming back to display his glory in person and in power. [N.T. Wright]

We must live in the Kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the gospel is the answer - no one wants to hear the good news of Jesus but when we live in Jesus’ ways, it makes people ask, “What is that?!” That’s the goal of the church, and when a church is filled with holy people, and they, as a community, is holy together as a counter-culture, God pours His power on it and contends for break-through. [J. Tyson]

The question which has to be put to every local congregation is the question of whether it is a credible sign of God’s reign in justice and mercy over the whole of life, whether it is an open fellowship whose concerns are as wide as the concerns of humanity, whether it cares for its neighbors in a way which reflect and springs out of God’s care for them, whether its common life is recognizable as a foretaste of the blessing which God intends for the whole human family. [L. Newbigin]

And if a community of people were to live in the Kingdom of God and partner with Jesus in it, we would begin to explore how the people and culture and environments around us couldn’t help but be transformed. So, what are the **spaces, places, and people** you come in contact with on the regular?

SPACES (Resources, hobbies, roles, etc.)	PLACES (Locations)	PEOPLE (Relationships and networks)
Example from Keven Wong: Pickle Ball	Employees at work	Parents

Reflect upon your spaces, places, and people. **How would you fill in this chart?**

If we live in the Kingdom of God, then by default, the above spaces, places and people will flourish and be transformed further and further into Jesus' Kingdom — into His kingdom of light, goodness, joy, generosity, peace, and self-giving love. Individuals who are committed to King Jesus and to one another become a community of people who are living out the growing fullness of the Kingdom of God in the here and now, transforming the culture around them, both individually and as a whole.