

# Understanding the Kingdom of God and the Church



**Acts 1:3-4; Matt. 16:18**

- Kingdom of God – the rule and reign of God in the universe.
  - Church – “The called-out ones”
  - The church is the agency that is to take the mind, rule, principles, and systems of the Kingdom to the world.  
The church is called to preach the gospel of the kingdom to the world.
  - Purpose: to get us back on track with why we were created.
  - Goal: to make God’s kingdom a top priority in our lives (Matt. 6:33).
  - Understand – knowing things in their right relationship.
  - Spiritual Principles: Agreement, Authority, Faith, Grace, Organization, Obedience, Stewardship, Sowing & Reaping, and Unconditional Love.
  - We must understand the Kingdom’s assignment of the church.
  - The message of the kingdom is sorely lacking today.
  - Churches are having a limited impact on society because they fail to understand that the goal of the church is not the church itself but the kingdom.
  - Jesus came to restore us to Genesis 1:26 where Adam had rulership, dominion, and authority over the earth.
- Statements About the Kingdom of God:
    1. The original purpose and plan of God was the extension of His Kingdom of Heaven on earth.
    2. The purpose and destiny of mankind was dominion and rulership over the earth.
      - If one of our ambassadors would sell secrets to one of our enemies, it would be called treason.
      - Adam was God’s representative on earth, and he was given the secrets of the kingdom to rule earth.
      - God never gave Adam the ownership of the earth (Psalm 24).
      - Dominion – rule, govern, control, master, manage, authority, and lead.
      - Genesis 3 – man fell, not from heaven but from dominion.
      - Jesus said – “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22).

- **The kingdom was our inheritance before the foundation of the world.**
- **The mission and the vision of the church is different.**