

**KINGDOM LIVING:  
LIVING OUT THE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM**

Closeness to God is at the heart of living out the Kingdom's values

Proverbs 3: 1 - 8

- This is what provides the motivation and inner dynamic for Christian service
  - its not a matter of “doing good” but doing it for God, and in a loving response to him
  - it is enriched by linking the life of word and sacrament, prayer and service
  - the values of the Kingdom sit easily with those who have learnt to recognise the presence of God – and others notice too!
  - living out the values of the Kingdom is good for your health.

There is a Corporate dimension to Kingdom Living

Acts 4: 32 – 37

- Christianity is always corporate, drawing people into relationship with one another. Kingdom living will challenge individualism, and individuals have to learn how to say “we”.
- the quality of these relationships and the ethos of the community will be signs of the Kingdom (or not). A loving community has the potential to affect change simply by being what it is.
- the ever present danger of the Church being privatised – “its here to provide what I need”.
- Common Fund is a sign of Kingdom values which help us bear one another’s burdens.

Issues of Power and Authority will reveal how serious we are about Kingdom Living

Mark 10 : 35

- the way that power and authority is exercised in our Church will either connect with servanthood or gently pass it by – and the results will be clear for all to see.
- Jesus speaks of Power and Servanthood, yet the Disciples saw it in terms of Power and Authority. We do not serve God merely

in our power – our health, success, attractiveness or leadership qualities. We also serve him in our weakness, in our struggles to find him, in our feelings of inadequacy or loneliness. God is not present in our terms of power and absent in our times of weakness. In both, he is our God and our Father.

Kingdom Living will provoke opposition and bring suffering

Luke 4: 16 – 21, 28 – 30

Jesus' actions meet suspicion and opposition. People are baffled and threatened because these are signs of a form of human living yet to be realised, and at odds with the political and religious status quo.

- peace and justice are themes which disturb political leaders from Zimbabwe to Washington and challenge how resources are allocated
- fairness and justice in commerce threaten profit driven commercial companies because they introduce an alternative set of criteria against which to measure themselves
- the work of a prophet is part of the Kingdom's call to explore how God's word and truth apply to all parts of society
- we forget how "revolutionary" are the ancient words endlessly chanted each week in our liturgy - see Magnificat (Luke 1: 51 – 53)

Insights into Kingdom Living come from outside the Church

Luke 7: 9

- Did Christ come to form a Church or to build the Kingdom, and are the two interchangeable?
- Churches need to be communities that are open to receive and learn, as well as looking to give and teach.

Kingdom Living has a converting power in people's lives

- Hospitality                      John 21: 12
- Acceptance                      Mark 14: 3 – 9
- Availability                      Acts 9: 10 – 11
- Humility                          Acts 11: 25
- Time                                Luke 10: 38 – 42

Kingdom Living means living out the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6: 9 – 13

- linked with "Your will be done"
  - if we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom and live anticipating its coming, we find ourselves wanting to do his will here and now.

- linked with contentment (Phil 4 : 12)
- glimpsed by the merciful, forgiving and those who have made positive uses of their suffering.

Kingdom Living is sustained by grace