

Postmodernism

Early 1960's to the Present

1. Universe Not Self-Contained *
2. No Basis for Morality and Values
3. Progress Not Inevitable *
4. No Basis for Truth *
5. Language of Public Debate Lost *
6. Meaning of Written Texts Lost
7. Limited Autonomy/Process

Response of the Emergent Church

1. identify with the life of Jesus...
2. transform secular space...
3. live highly communal lives...

Because of these three practices, they

4. welcome the stranger...
5. serve with generosity...
6. participate as producers...
7. create as created beings...
8. lead as a group...
9. take part in spiritual activities...



The Church: an Alternative Culture

Matthew 5:13-16

1. Salt of the Earth – to become foolish...
2. Light of the World – represent kingdom salvation to the world...
3. City Set on a Hill – issue is seen or not seen...
4. Live in Such a Way that the Kingdom Will Be Manifested...



The Church Between the Gospel and the Culture

Gospel



The Missio Dei

1. Theology Proper
 - a. Based in the character of God...
 - b. Based in the action of God...
 - 1.) Father sends the Son...
 - 2.) Father and Son send the Spirit...
 - 3.) Father, Son and Spirit send the church...
2. Implications for Ecclesiology...
3. Implication for Soteriology...

Βασιλεία In Jesus' Preaching

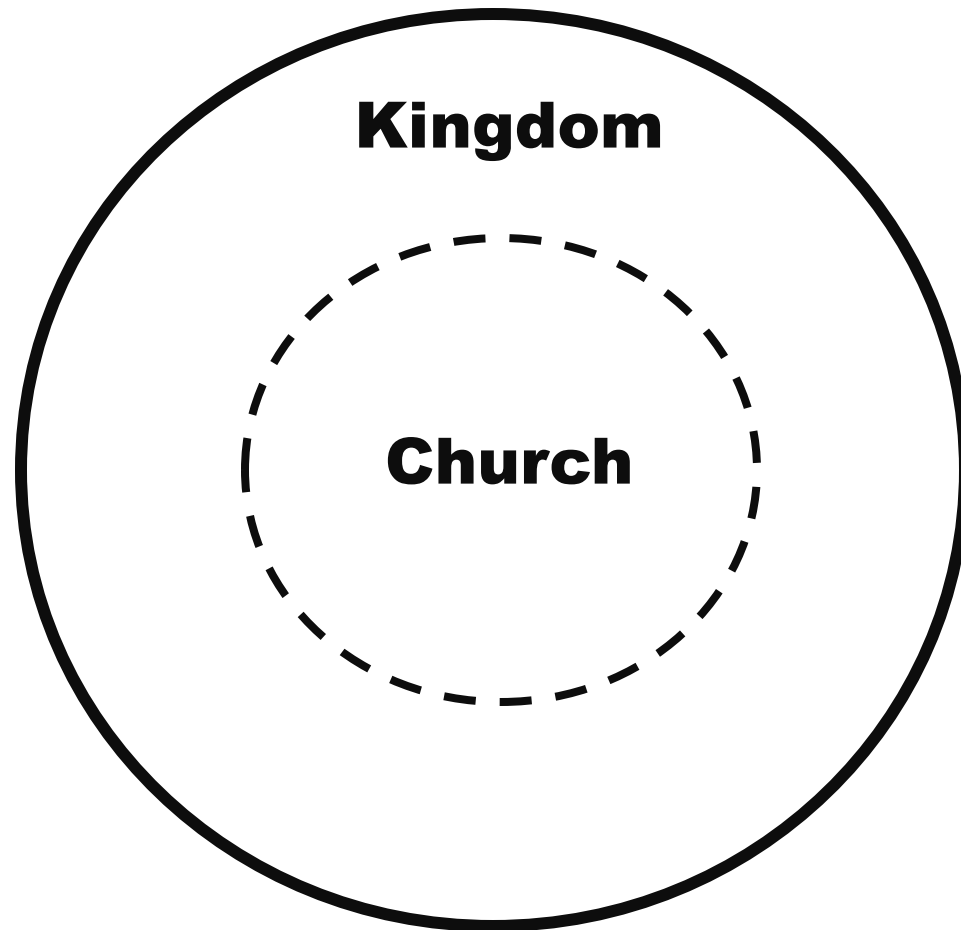
1. Kingdom is distinct from everything present and earthly...
2. Kingdom comes as a cosmic catastrophic event initiated by return of Son of Man...
3. Election sustained – come from every corner of the earth...
4. Kingdom is a gift, a realm one enters...
5. In Kingdom beatitudes fulfilled, great banquet...Kingdom inseparable from Jesus' own person and work...

Kingdom and Church

1. The church is the sign of the kingdom in the present world...
2. The church is an instrument of the kingdom in the present world...
3. The church is a foretaste of the kingdom in the present world...



Kingdom and Church



The Redemptive Mandate

Matthew 28:18-20

“ALL authority is given unto me ...

Move out and disciple ALL the nations,
Baptizing them into ALL of the name of God,
Teaching them to keep ALL I commanded you;
I myself am with you ALL the days even ...”

Church Mission Under the Reign of God

1. Represents the kingdom as its community...(koinonia)
2. Serves the Kingdom as its servant... (diakonia)
3. Announces the Kingdom as its messenger...(kerygma)



Implications for Evangelism & Apologetics

1. God redemptively engages people in their history by the grace of the Holy Spirit.
2. There must be a faith community that demonstrates that the gospel is true in practice and thus in reality.
3. By the use of redemptive history we must show the narrative is compelling and coherent on its own terms.
4. Our faith narrative must be presented as encompassing all of life experience.
5. We must honestly & fully hear other faiths.



Hearing, Responding to & Obeying the Gospel

1. Evangelization – the heart of ministry...
2. Encountering Christ as the purpose and witness of public worship...
3. Community commissioned to be, to do and to say His witness...
4. Holy Spirit shapes community for mission by continuous encounter with Scripture...
5. Ministry of Word equips community through the biblical witness...
6. Gospel fullness recovered...



Preaching in a Postmodern Context

1. Duty of every preacher: to let the image of God's self-revelation mirror itself as fully and clearly as possible in his mind...
2. Consider doing theology in the context of the narrative and not using the narrative only for illustration, application, typology, numerology or morals...
3. The form of the revelation is as much a work of God as is the content...



Grid for Canonical Biblical Theology

1. Historical progress – God’s self-disclosure is a sequence of revealing actions and words over a long period of time...
2. Historical development in both act and word is an internal expansion, an organic unfolding from within...
3. The process increases rapidly the nearer revelation approaches its final goal...
4. Canonical Biblical Theology is the exhibition of the organic progress of special verbal revelation in its historic continuity and multiformity...

