

The Church and the Kingdom of God

In the Westminster Confession of Faith, we confess that, “The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel... is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus.” WCF 25.2. As we consider the doctrine of the church this summer, this is where we will begin: the church is the penultimate expression of the kingdom of God.

1. The Kingdom of God and Redemptive History
 - a. Kingdom of God = the rule of God
 - b. God’s kingdom manifests differently throughout redemptive history
 - c. Ultimately, the Kingdom of God will be perfectly realized in heaven
 - d. Right now, the Church is the Kingdom of God

2. The Kingdom of God and Ephesians 1:15-23
 - a. The Ephesians as a ‘bullied’ people
 - b. Paul’s prayer is that they would genuinely appreciate that ‘theirs is the kingdom!’

3. Because Jesus is the true king, we can know...
 - a. Our hope
 - b. Our inheritance
 - c. His power

Application:

1. Do you have a king?
2. Do you see your church as an expression of his kingdom?