

# SEMANTIC CONNECTIONS BIBLICAL INTEGRATION MODEL

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## Foundations of Kingdom Citizenship (The Proactive Approach)

-Implications for Kingdom Education-

Cox, Edelmann, and Swezey  
Regent University

“A church performing ... the New Testament script would have a distinctive and living communal culture, with its roots in Israelite narrative, gospel story, sacramental practice, and the liturgical drama, a communal culture with at least sufficient density, that converts and children would actually need a serious initiation into it. It would ... have its own distinctive ethos, shaped by its identify-defining stories, with its own definition of virtues and its own ‘take’ on the structure of moral questions.”

Yeago, D.S. (1997). Messiah's people: The culture of the church in the midst of nations.

*Pro Ecclesia*, VI. (2), 146-71.

“The energy of reconciliation is the dynamo at the heart of the universe.”

Introduction to the Book of Ephesians, *Message Bible*.

“The glory of God, and, as our only means to glorifying Him, the salvation of human souls is the real business of life.”

Lewis, C.S. (1940). *Christianity and Culture, Christian Reflections*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, section I, para. 4, p.14.

# INITIAL PERSPECTIVES

Our thinking about the matter of how the kingdom works might be helped by viewing the majority of biblical injunctions as fitting into

3 main categories:

1. Dominion Mandate
2. Two Greatest Commandments
  - a. Love God
  - b. Love self as God does
  - c. Love Neighbor as God does
3. Great Commission

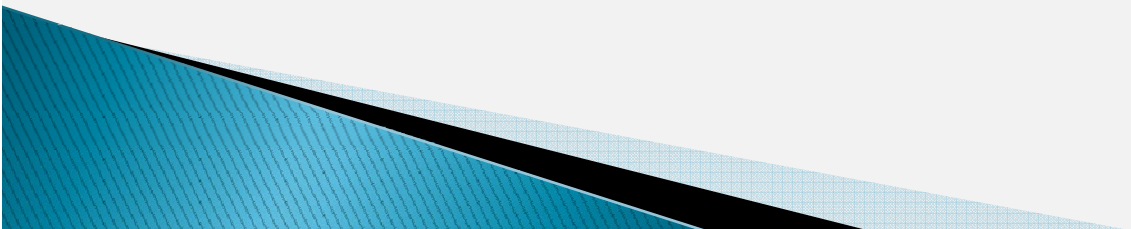
# Biblically Based Rationale for Kingdom Education

1. Most academic work involves preparation for worldly competence and particularly for master over the physical and societal environments.
2. Academics for temporal competency development has its biblical roots in the Dominion Mandate charge of Gen 1:26, 28 & 9:1-3, 7. The so-called Cultural Mandate flows out from sinful people following the Genesis 1:28 mandate to be fruitful and replenish the earth.
3. Important as it is, the Dominion Mandate is preempted in its importance biblically by three things:
  - a) Total omission of it in Jesus' messages
  - b) Exclusive emphasis by Jesus on things other than the Dominion Mandate
  - c) the emphasis of Jesus on the Kingdom He ushered in and its primary emphasis on "relationship morality".
4. A crucial question then is to articulate what this Kingdom looks like on earth. A significant and related issue relates to how to integrate it with academics. Embedded in these questions is the issue of how to balance teachings appropriate to living simultaneously in two kingdoms.
5. Equally important is the necessity of understanding internal personal hindrances to bring true to kingdom expectations. This understanding must be accompanied by the knowledge of how to remove or at least diminish the operation of these hindrances.
6. In fact, optimum learning and performance is dependent upon possession of the inner Kingdom qualities of righteousness, peace, and joy (Rom 14:17). Possession of these qualities requires the closest alignment possible with God's view of Himself and others (i.e., Two Greatest Commandments). Correspondingly, the fulfillment here optimizes attainment of the other two biblical charges, i.e., the Dominion/Cultural Mandate and the Great Commission.

# THE KINGDOM IS HERE

- ❖ Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near (Matt 3:2)
- ❖ Jesus came preaching the good news of the Kingdom (Matt 4:23)
- ❖ Pray – They Kingdom come (Matt 6:10)
- ❖ Seek first His Kingdom (Matt 6:33)
- ❖ Jesus has given us the secrets of the Kingdom (Matt 13:11)
- ❖ Jesus has given us the keys of the Kingdom (Matt 16:19)
- ❖ The Kingdom of God belongs to the child-like (Mark 10:14)
- ❖ Yours is the Kingdom (Luke 6:20)
- ❖ God is please to give us the Kingdom (Luke 12:32)
- ❖ The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17)
- ❖ God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into His Kingdom (Col 1:13)
- ❖ He has made us a Kingdom of priests (Rev 1:6)
- ❖ The Kingdom is not of talk but of power (I Cor 4:20)

## The following major propositions will help guide our thinking:

1. The Church, i.e., all believers worldwide, is the literal Body of Christ on this earth continuing the work He started.
  2. The essential task of human existence is to add to and mentor God's family on earth, both generationally and culturally.
  3. The Beatitude qualities constitute the Constitution of Kingdom life.
  4. Holy Spirit empowerment is crucial to living the Kingdom life.
  5. All Christians are grafted into the Jewish heritage and have a responsibility to encourage restoration of Jews unto Jesus.
  6. Christians have primary citizenship in God's Kingdom and secondarily in an earthly kingdom.
  7. Jesus cancelled the legal right of Satan to harass believers but they themselves can reinstitute that right to Satan.
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The slides that follow represent some understandings about God's Kingdom here on earth. The information on these slides can be integrated, as appropriate, into existing curriculum materials. Or, more potent would be the use of this information as a frame-work for developing a fresh Kingdom education curriculum.

# Cosmic Battle

- a. Historical Context -set in context of the “pre-history” incident of Satan’s original rebellion & its impact temporally thereafter
- b. Literary Examples - stories about this cosmic battle
  - ❖ E.g., Screwtape letters,
  - ❖ Peretti novels
  - ❖ Paradise Lost (Milton)
  - ❖ Dante’s Inferno
  - ❖ The devil & Daniel Webster
  - ❖ LaHaye novels

# Cosmic Battle

- c. Spiritual Nature -high order but much neglected study of the nature of the rebellious and of the submitted spirit
  - ❖ e.g., identification and response to the sins that so easily beset us (Heb12:1)
  - ❖ role of passions on behavior
  
- d. Spiritual Government – study of principles of spiritual government which are often mirrored in temporal settings-e.g., need for, and role of an advocate; leaders responsible for but not to their people (cf. 3 books on *Kingdom* by Munroe).
  
- e. Spiritual warfare tactics
  - ❖ Not against flesh and blood; battle is against lies, imaginations and false gods embedded in the mind (2 Cor 10:3-5)
  - ❖ Soulsh nature of humans open to implanting of statements by demonic forces (Eph 2:2; 4:27; 1 John 5:19).

# Church

- a. Salt & Light – role of church in history  
(cf. *Under the influence by A.J. Schmidt - 2001*)
- b. Priesthood Responsibilities—
  - 1) e.g., impact of prayer & fasting & spiritual warfare as in the collapse of Berlin Wall
  - 2) evidence of intercession on communities as documented in Transformations I & II videos
- c. Community
  - 1) Unity (John 17:21)
  - 2) Sharing (Acts 2:42-46; 4:32-35)
- d. Jewish roots
  - 1) Grafted in (Rom 11)
  - 2) One “new man” (Eph 2:15)



# Satan's Defeat

- a. Spiritual Law -legal explanation of factors of law
  - ❖ e.g., General Wainwright prison authority
  - ❖ Court procedure of decision v. sentencing
  
- b. Spiritual Government - governmental principles as founded in spiritual realm
  - ❖ e.g., binding/loosening in heaven and in earth (Matt 16:19)
  - ❖ principles of appeal
  - ❖ principles of submission vs. obedience
  - ❖ principles of spiritual warfare
  
- c. Spiritual Dynamics -an understanding of the doctrines of evil, Satan, free will, etc.

# Works

- a. Heavenly Rewards – explanation & examples of works that are rewarded in heaven vs. those that are not
- b. Verification – actual accounts of “good” works
- c. Spiritual Empowerment
  - 1) Made strong in weakness
  - 2) Do all things God assigns
  - 3) His workmanship (Eph 2:10)



# Stewardship (Dominion-taking)



- a. Physical Sciences ~ principles of environmental stewardship
- b. Natural & Social Sciences ~ evidence of success/failure according to principle adherence

# Gospel

- a. Apologetics – development of apologetic and evangelistic skills
  - ❖ e.g., logical reasoning
  - ❖ rhetorical skills
  - ❖ human relation skills
  
- b. Bible study— understanding of key Gospel concepts
  - ❖ e.g., ~ predestination & election
  - ❖ free will
  - ❖ Satan's continued existence (Is 14 & Ez 28)
  - ❖ Heavenly Family restoration
  
- c. Human Nature ~ ~ how the mind works...particularly regarding receptivity to the Gospel
  - ❖ e.g., understanding of typical counter—arguments to the Gospel
  - ❖ understanding of defense mechanisms

# Credibility of Believers

- a. Human Relations—development of human relationship skills
  - ❖ e.g., develop Beatitude type character
  - ❖ practice human relation skills
  - ❖ develop unity in the Body
  - ❖ demonstrate role behaviors
- b. Signs & Wonders – living by the Spirit
  - ❖ e.g., practice spiritual disciplines
  - ❖ develop spiritual gifts
  - ❖ develop spiritual sensitivities
  - ❖ healing, deliverance, etc.
- c. Church Evidences—historical accounts of Church/believers unity/disunity
  - ❖ Protestant v. Catholics
  - ❖ Denominational wars
- d. Character –documentation of disciple training results upon society
  - ❖ Renewed mind



# Other Dimensions

- a. Testimonials~human interest stories of devotional/religious nature
- b. Spiritual Consequences~facts about consequences of obedience/disobedience
- c. Isaiah 61 ministry
- d. Kingdom citizenship nationality
- e. Royal Priesthood
- f. Ambassador
- g. Discipleship
- h. Love (1 Cor 13:1-7)
- i. Warrior
- j. Bride of Christ
- k. Aliens

