



CHRISTIANITY VS THE KINGDOM PART 2

1. Introduction

- Today's Christianity is far from the original idea. Let's compare:

Christianity	Kingdom of God
Loving God means having positive feelings toward Him.	Love is not a feeling but an action (<i>"For God so loved the world that He gave"</i> John 3:16). To love God is to obey Him and give Him first place in our hearts (I Jn. 3:16-18, 5:3).
The fear of the Lord is seldom discussed.	The fear of God is critical, for we are to fear nothing or anyone besides Him. Fearing God is realizing that He is holy, sovereign, and an all-consuming fire (Heb. 12:29).
Repentance is a one-time event; no need to repent after a person becomes a Christian.	Repentance is a regular occurrence for the Christian. To repent means to "change the mind" and our minds must continually be changed through daily renewing in God's Word.
Pastors preach tithing and pressure members to fund the church's projects.	Pastors preach New Testament giving (100% belongs to God) and members meet the needs of widows and orphans (James 1:27).
Many ministers (especially TV preachers) are greedy for monetary gain (or "filthy lucre," Titus 1:7). They get rich from people's donations. They manipulate listeners to give with their emotional speeches and even speak threats and curses to those who do not give. They make merchandise of Christianity (II Peter 2:3) and sell the Word for profit.	True ministers of the Gospel do not make money off God's Word. They may receive donations to support their basic needs (Luke 10:7 says that a laborer is worthy of his hire), but they are not greedy for riches.

Churches teach blind submission to all authority (citing Romans 13 out of context).	The Bible says that God is our authority. If human authority contradicts His divine commands, we must obey God first (Acts 5:29).
Churches teach a self-focused doctrine of covetousness: how to love yourself and improve your life (II Tim. 3:2); how to manipulate the "Prayer of Jabez" (I Chron. 4:10) for your own desires. The goal is to <i>get</i> from the Lord.	The Bible teaches that godliness with contentment is great gain (I Timothy 6:6). We are to tear down pride in our hearts, turn from the lusts of the flesh, and follow Jesus' example of servanthood (Matt. 11:29; Phil. 2:5-9). The goal is to <i>give</i> to the Lord.
Churches teach the "purpose-driven" life.	The Word of God teaches the "Spirit-led" life.
Church hierarchies resemble the governments of men: pastors, boards, and committees rule over the people (see Revelation 2:6,15).	Church leadership is based on God's government: no hierarchy, pastoral elders serve and lead by example, bishops are overseers, deacons are servants, the laity are priests unto God.
People may buy into the ecumenism lie which states that the pope is the head of the Church and that the Catholic church is the "one true church." (This is deception from the spirit of antichrist!)	True disciples know that Jesus Christ alone is the head of His Church (Eph. 5:23). Jesus has no mediator — He <i>is</i> the Mediator. His flock consists of those who hear and obey His voice anywhere in the world. Unity among brethren is by the Holy Spirit (not by compromising of doctrine), regardless of denominational or cultural divisions.
Pastors wear titles such as "Dr.", "Rev.", and "Father." They delight in external show of superiority by their robes, collars, and special seats. Jesus warned about such men in Matt. 23:1-12 and Luke 20:46.	God sets in place humble shepherds to lead His flock: they are men of integrity who don't care for "people praise" or titles of men (I Peter 5:2).
Christian psychology and counseling is esteemed as beneficial for improving oneself.	Jesus taught that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross (die to self), and follow Him (Mark 8:34-37). No amount of "self-help" advice will achieve that result.

<p>Christian merchandise is relentlessly marketed for profit (see II Peter 2:3). Often, people believe that they are more spiritual or holy if they have the latest Christian trinket.</p>	<p>"Christian things" (crosses, t-shirts, jewelry, prayer beads, etc.) do not impress God. As always, He looks at a person's heart (I Sam. 16:7; Psalm 66:18; Jer. 17:10; I Peter 3:4).</p>
<p>Churches use numerous modern Bible "translations" which lead to confusion. These versions often water down the Word, contradict each other, and mis-translate critical words and phrases. Most of these modern versions have been corrupted by greedy "scholars" who changed the words of God as they saw fit.</p>	<p>The inerrant Word of God does not change. Truth is hidden in parables. Wisdom is found by searching the Scriptures daily and by studying precept upon precept and line upon line (Isaiah 28:10,13; Acts 17:11).</p>
<p>Predictions for the future: masses will be saved through great, sweeping revivals. Christianity will bring peace and unity to the earth.</p>	<p>Biblical prophecies for the future: many will fall away from the faith to the doctrines of devils, only a small remnant will be saved, love will grow cold, wickedness and troubles will increase (Matthew 24:1-12; Luke 18:8; I Thess. 5:3; I Tim. 4:1).</p>

2. **Summary**

God wants us to operate in the Kingdom