

THE KINGDOM

**Kingdom
Dweller**

Recap

The Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned 31 times in Matthews gospel and the Kingdom of God 68 times in all four gospels

Recap

**relationship
with God**

Covenant

+

Kingdom

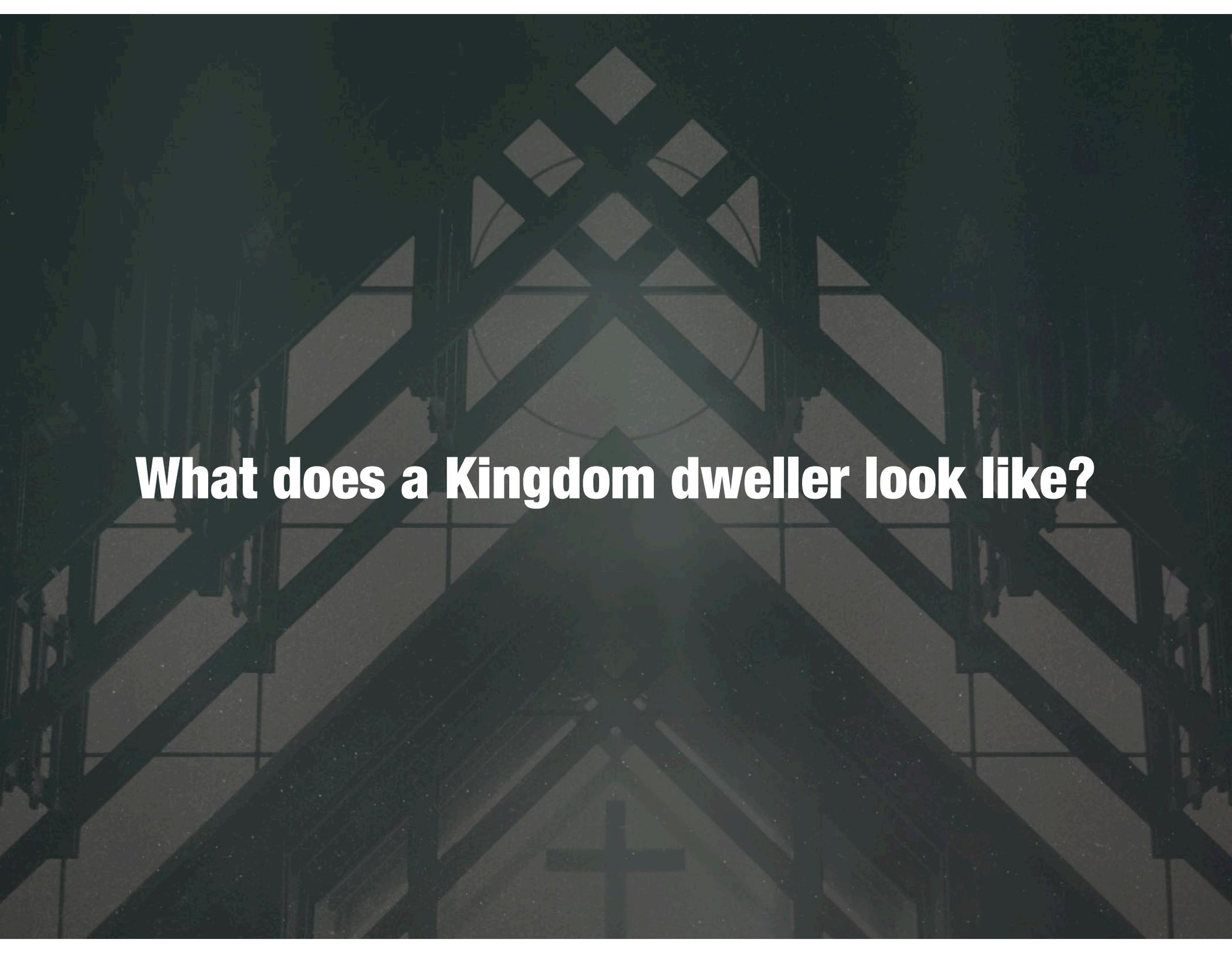
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**Kingdom
of God**

**rule of
God's love**

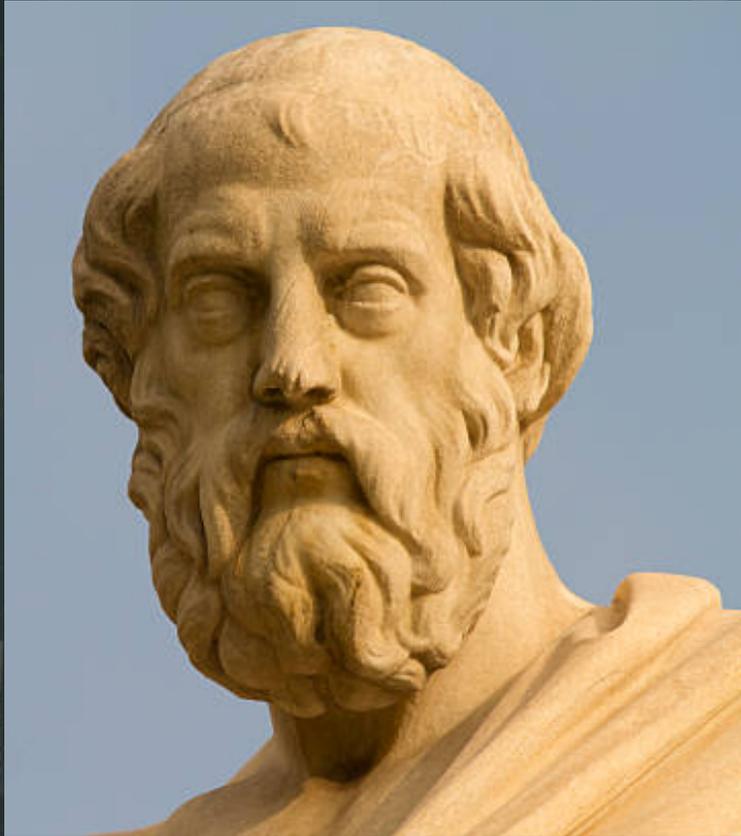
Recap

“Certainly we in the modern world find it very difficult to accept many of the older interpretations of the kingdom of God. But however varied our interpretations may be, there is at bottom a profound spiritual {meaning) in the concept. The phrase meant literally **the reign of God**, the condition of things in which God's will is everywhere supreme. Here we are left in no doubt as to the true meaning of the concept. Whether it come soon or late, by sudden crisis or through slow development, **the kingdom of God will be a society in which all men and women will be controlled by the eternal love of God.**” **Martin Luther King Jr**



What does a Kingdom dweller look like?

Plato



Plato
427-347 B.C.E.

“The utterance of Plato, the most pure and bright in all philosophy, scattering the clouds of error . . .”

Augustine

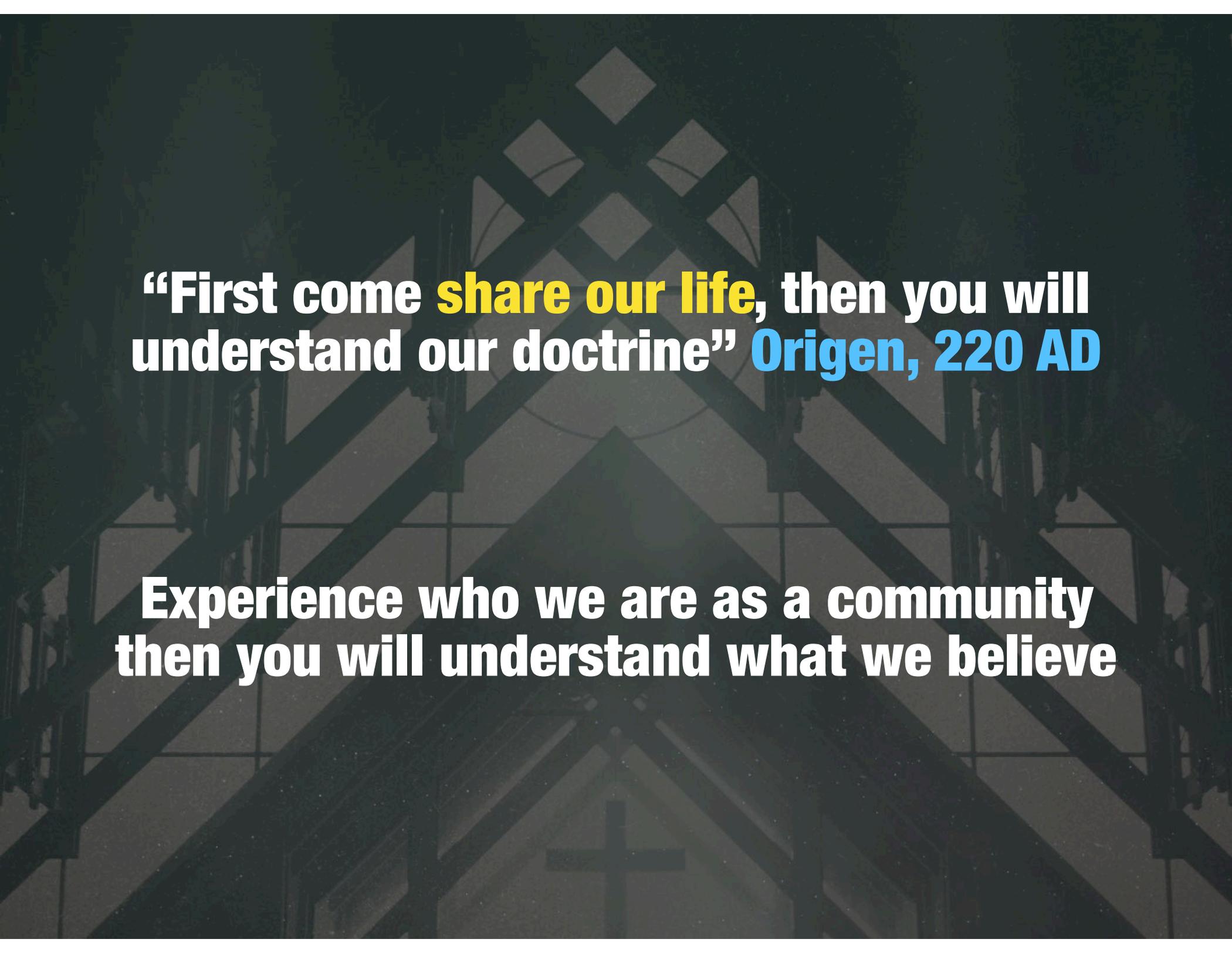
“[Plato is] the only Greek who has attained the porch of (Christian) truth.”

Eusebius of Caesarea

Plato

Plato understood the self as **divided** between body and soul, with the soul more closely related to **goodness and truth**; this made Christianity's later **soul-body division** easier to understand.

In other words, Christianity was influenced with the belief that reality was evil and the spiritual was good, thus the beginning of our **behavioural dichotomy**



“First come **share our life, then you will understand our doctrine” **Origen, 220 AD****

**Experience who we are as a community
then you will understand what we believe**

Milk Delivery 'Aha'

Religion

Relationship



Kingdom of God

Belief

Behaviour

The Kingdom is both

Religion is what humans do until they find the **Kingdom**.

Religion prepares people to leave earth; the **Kingdom** empowers humanity to dominate earth.

Religion focuses on Heaven; the **Kingdom** focuses on earth.

Religion is reaching up to God; the **Kingdom** is God coming down to humanity.

Religion wants to escape earth; the **Kingdom** impacts, influences and changes earth.

Religion seeks to take earth to Heaven; the **Kingdom** seeks to bring Heaven to earth.

The Kingdom of God is First

A Kingdom dweller is focused

Priority is defined as:

The principal thing.

Putting first things first.

Placing in order of importance.

Placing highest value and worth upon.

First among all others.

But **seek first his kingdom and his
righteousness, and all these things will be
given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33****

The Kingdom of God is First

If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—**such a person cannot be my disciple.** And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26-27

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is **not worthy of me**; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me.** Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is **not worthy of me.** **Matthew 10:37-38**

Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back **is fit for service in the kingdom of God.**” **Luke 9:62**

The Kingdom of God Grows

A Kingdom dweller grows and multiplies

The kingdom of heaven is like **yeast** that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough. **Matthew 13:33**

What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a **mustard seed**, **Mark 4:30-32**

This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a **hundred, sixty** or **thirty** times what was sown. **Matthew 13:23**

The Kingdom of God is Generous

A Kingdom dweller uses their resources for God

One out of every seven verses in the first three gospels spoke on money

About **one-third** (16 of 38) parables are on money.

He spoke on money **twice as much as prayer** and faith combined.

The **Kingdom of God** is the only subject that Jesus gave more attention to than money.

The Kingdom of God is Generous

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and **sold all he had** and bought that field. **Matthew 13:44**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and **sold everything** he had and bought it. **vs 45**

The Kingdom of God is Generous

Do not store up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **Matthew 6:19-20**

For where your treasure is, **there your heart will be** also. **vs 21**

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and **the deceitfulness of wealth** choke the word, making it unfruitful. **Mathew 13:22**

The Kingdom of God is Generous

Generosity Index 2016, Ontario

**3.0 out of 10, Aggregate
giving per income, 0.6%**

**\$513 average yearly donation,
individual (2013, Statscan)**

The Kingdom of God is Generous

<https://www.haloproject.ca>

For every dollar in a religious congregation's annual budget, a city gets an estimated **\$4.77** worth of common good services.

McMaster University vetted the T3010 (2013) data via their Public Economic Data Analysis Lab (PEDAL). This data verification does not imply endorsement of the way in which the Halo Calculator is being used to generate a Halo Effect value.



WATERLOO (ON)

of Organizations in City

95

Annual Budgets Total

\$63,987,267

Halo Effect

x4.77

Halo Benefit

\$305,219,264

The Kingdom of God is Life in the Spirit

A Kingdom dweller is Spirit led

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again.” **John 3:3****

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water **and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **vs 5-6****

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes **are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you**. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

Matthew 21:31-32

Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people **who will produce its fruit. vs 43**