

KINGDOM COMMUNITY: Relationship, Not Structure

Ruth shared this with us at our Kingdom Community meeting.

“What is the structure with which the Holy Spirit establishes and builds the kingdom? It is the structure of relationships—not rules, traditions, or statutes established by denominations or churches. Christianity is not a religion, but we have often turned it into one by being led by human criteria rather than by the Holy Spirit.

When the church was birthed, it was an organism—not an organization. What is the difference? The dictionary defines organization as an “association”, “society”, or “administrative and functional structure (as a business or a political party)”. An organism is defined as “a complex structure of interdependent and subordinate elements whose relations and properties are largely determined by their function in the whole”. There is nothing wrong with establishing an organization, as long as it is based on relationships.

The members of the church—the body of Christ—are meant to be interdependent as they exercise their stewardship of the power and presence of God’s kingdom on earth. However, for the most part, the church has fragmented into a multitude of independent parts, so that it operates more like multiple organizations than one organism. This fragmentation prevents the Holy Spirit from moving as He did in the days of the early church. Today, when a spontaneous manifestation of God’s glory descends upon a congregation, it must “submit” to the vote of the elders and deacons to see if it will be welcomed or not! It is incredible that God has to “ask permission” to manifest in His own church. This is like a steward or butler calling a meeting of the domestic staff to decide if they should allow the owner of the home to enter it, or what the owner is allowed to do on his own property.

When Jesus ministered on earth, He taught and established a flexible structure for the kingdom based on relationships. He said that the Father was in Him, and He was in the Father.¹ He told His disciples, “I am the vine, you are the branches”,² “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you”,³ and “You know [the Holy Spirit], for He dwells with you and will be in you”.⁴ Jesus prayed, “That they [His disciples] all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You”.⁵ And Paul wrote, “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ”.⁶ The kingdom of God is about relationships.

As the Administrator of the kingdom, the Holy Spirit is always moving; He doesn’t adhere to rigid structures. Today’s church is full of strict structures that cause people to act in independent ways rather than developing relationships through which the power of God can work. For instance, a spirit of independence can cause leaders to deal harshly with people instead of nurturing them. They can grow insensitive to other people’s pain and, most seriously, to the voice of God.”⁷

(20-9-2015)

1 – See John 17:21

2 – John 15:5

3 – John 15:7

4 – John 14:17

5 – John 17:21

6 – 1 Corinthians 12:12

7 – Guillermo Maldonado (2013) “The Kingdom of Power: How to Demonstrate It Here & Now” Whitaker House: Miami, FL p:256-257