

# The Kingdom 'Trumps' Culture

We do not live in isolation. We are part of a community – unless we choose to live isolated either socially or geographically.

To become part of a community, we must come under the culture of that community, otherwise we will be ostracised. We must bring our lives into line with that culture so we are acceptable to others and so we're not categorised as criminals.

For example, because of an artistic flair we may like spray painting wonderful artwork with an air-brush, but in our culture if this desire causes us to become graffiti artists, we become vandals. We then step outside the bounds set by our culture.

We cannot do what we like in a culture (unless we create a subculture) and fulfil what that culture requires of us. The culture we live in over-arches us and our lives, taking predominance outside our personal lives.

The Kingdom, however, is all encompassing. It over-arches us and everything else, including our culture. It is predominant in relation to our culture. The components of our culture **MUST** submit to the Kingdom in every respect. If this does not occur, we cannot be part of the Kingdom.



This Kingdom is not referring to the structured church, but to the true spiritual Kingdom that Father has his Son running for him.

We may be 'born' into the Kingdom through 'the front door' via salvation, but if we don't align ourselves with the Kingdom we are not true citizens of the Kingdom.

Like a criminal, vandal, rebel, anarchist, etc., who puts themselves outside of their natural culture, we do the same if we rebel against The Kingdom or fail to adopt its precepts and structures.

Everything in our lives must align with the Kingdom. We must discard any 'fleshy' desires, actions and thoughts that do not fit in with the Kingdom. We already know about this – this relates to sin and unrighteousness.

In addition to that and going beyond that, we have to learn to live in the Kingdom – the Kingdom’s way. We have to discard anything from our culture and personal lives which doesn’t fit into the Kingdom way.

For example, in The Kingdom:

1. The relationship between husband and wife is different to the culture we live in. This is because it is based on delegated spiritual authority from heaven, not supremacy. It’s not about who wants to be boss, and it’s not about co-leadership which are both cultural norms.
2. Gossip is OUT in the Kingdom. The cultural norm of gossiping and wanting to know other people’s business is not acceptable in the Kingdom. Reality TV shows are built on this, as are women’s gossip magazines – to name just a few culturally acceptable gossip entities.

Everything in our lives must be brought into line with the King and His Kingdom – not just the ‘flesh’. Sin, unrighteousness and transgression are definitely OUT, but so are a lot of what we call ‘normal living’ derived from our culture.

This does not include rules and regulations, such as the Jewish food laws<sup>1</sup>. It does not include keeping special or sacred days<sup>2</sup>. We have great liberty<sup>3</sup> and freedom and the Kingdom that is frees us from legalism<sup>4</sup>.

Jesus was radical in this way and it put many in his culture against him. We will have the same treatment as our Master – which is probably why most of us don’t want to change so that we ‘rock the boat’. We don’t want to be ostracised or treated as an outcast from our culture – we want to be accepted by family and friends. In the Kingdom, however, this attitude is called ‘the fear of man’ or the desire for ‘the praise of man’ and scripturally speaking, this is sin.

Our whole mindset needs to change. We must have a Kingdom worldview, not based on our concept of the Kingdom, but one based on Kingdom reality – we must have the King’s mind on all things.

Laurence  
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1 - 1 Timothy 4:3-4; Romans 14:14

2 - Romans 14:5-6

3 - Galatians 2:4, 5:1,13; 2 Corinthians 3:17

4 - James 2:10; Galatians 4:9-10