

Enter The Kingdom

The Kingdom - A kingdom is a governing influence of a King over his territory impacting it with his *will*, his *purpose* and *intent*. Producing a **citizenry of people** who *express his culture* and *reflect his nature*.

HOW DO YOU ENTER THE KINGDOM?

1. REMOVE THE BARRIERS

- The barrier of EARTHLY POSSESSIONS

- **Matthew 19:22-26 NLT** - 22 *But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.* 23 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, **it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.**"* 24 *I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"* 25 *The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked.* 26 *Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."*

- The barrier of LOVING THE WORLD

- **1 John 2:15-17** - 15 ***Do not love the world or the things in the world.*** *If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* 16 *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.* 17 ***And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.***

- You can't change citizenship from one kingdom to another if you're trying to hold on to the kingdom you are coming from.

- The barrier of RELATIONSHIPS

- **Matthew 10:37** - 37 *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

- The barrier of RELIGION

- Religion is doing a God thing without God.

- **Matthew 23:13 NLT** - 13 *"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! **For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces.** You won't go in yourselves, and you don't let others enter either.*

- The barrier of PRIDE

- God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble - Only the humble will be granted entry into the kingdom

- **Matthew 5:3** - 3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

- **Matthew 18:3-4** - 3 *“Truly, I say to you, **unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.** 4 *Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

2. ENTER THROUGH THE RIGHT DOOR

- **John 10:9** - 9 *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*
- He didn't say “Church is the door” - “Pastor is the door” - “Your Parents are the door” - “Your Spouse is the door” - “Religion is the door”
- **John 14:6** - *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*
- **Matthew 7:13-14 NIV** - 13 *“**Enter through the narrow gate.** For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 *But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**

You can't get into the Kingdom any other way than through the KING.

3. SUBMIT TO THE PROCESS

- **Mark 1:15 NLT** - 15 *“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! **Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!**”*
- **Repent from sins** - Repent means to “change your mind” - Metanoeo - think differently after
- **Confess and believe in Jesus.**
- **Romans 10:9-10 NLT** - 9 *If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*
- **John 3:3-5** - 3 *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” 4 *Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**”**

The benefits of the kingdom are far greater than the barriers we have to overcome or what we give up to follow Jesus.

Matthew 19:27-29 NLT -27 *Then Peter said to him, “**We've given up everything to follow you.** What will we get?” 28 *Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 **And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.**”**