

KBL KINGDOM #4

PURSUE RELATIONALLY

To kick things off, go around the circle, and answer the following statement:

Tell the best story that happened to you over thanksgiving break.

LIVE AUTHENTICALLY

Welcome to the last week of KBL Kingdom. In this series, we are getting focused on the culture we are creating at Lifeway Church Celina. As the KBL Kingdom, we are committing to be a people who choose Kingdom Culture over Worldly Culture in our day to day lives. We want to be different so that when people interact with us in the community or when they come through the doors of Lifeway, they want to be a part of the Kingdom and its culture. Before we jump into this week's discussion let's take a few minutes to catch up with one another and check how we are doing spiritually.

How did you feed your soul this week (scripture reading, worship music, prayer time, etc.)?

How did you feed your flesh this week (confession of sin)?

LIFEWAY
LIFE





COUNSEL BIBLICALLY

This week Josh challenged us that as Kingdom Guards our first duty is to guard our hearts because the Kingdom of God is near, the Kingdom of God is actually in you. You are God's Kingdom representative that is to display the values and principles of your King, but even in that there's a problem.

Read Jeremiah 17:9

Do you believe this is true? Why or why not?

Scripture makes it very clear our hearts are the “most wicked of all things. Who really knows how bad it is?”. As we've said in previous weeks, our sin-sick spirit will lean towards choosing worldly culture over kingdom culture every single time. It's part of our spiritual makeup, and as a result, it's easy for us to let our guards down to allow ungodly influences into our lives, but we're not the only ones to struggle with a wicked unchecked heart.

Read 1 Kings 11:1-11

Scripture tells us that Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. He was commissioned to build the temple for the Lord because of his devotion to God. In 1 Kings 8, the temple is completed and Solomon leads Israel in worship, dedicating the temple to the Lord.

Just a few chapters later we find Solomon led away from the Lord and even rejected by God because of his disobedience. How does one lead an entire nation in an act of worship to God, and turn around and be led astray? Scripture tells us the answer to this question: by not guarding his heart.



Even though God warned him of the dangers of his actions, Solomon followed his own heart and was led astray by his wives. He insists on following his heart and loving the women that God has warned him against. As a consequence, he is convinced by these women to worship false gods and idols and in verse 7 he even builds a pagan shrine to a false god. When left unguarded, Solomon's heart was led astray to do wicked things in the sight of God.

If we are not careful, we can fall into this same trap as well. We can easily be led astray by following our own heart and not guarding it from the world. Paul gives us guidance in Romans on just how we go about guarding our hearts from following worldly culture over kingdom culture.

Read Romans 12:1-2

When it comes to your daily choices (your marriage, your parenting, how you use your time, etc.) would you say you are more conformed to the world's patterns or kingdom patterns?

Is there any area of your life in which you need to change your thinking in order to worship God fully? Share with the group.

As you guard your heart and allow God to change your thinking, then you are able to discern the will of God, and worship Him with your life, not just practice a religion. But when we allow our daily decisions to be influenced by worldly culture, our guard comes down and all we offer God is empty religion. It's in those moments that we are most susceptible to temptation and being led away from God.



When this happens, our kingdom values are compromised, and our hearts become a den of thieves, like Josh said on Sunday. But when we guard our hearts and allow Him to transform the way we think, our actions become directed by kingdom culture over worldly culture. Only then will we discover what is the “good, pleasing and perfect” will that God has for our life.

DEVOTE DAILY

This week, think about an area of your life that has been more focused on worldly culture than kingdom culture. Maybe it is your finances; the things you buy, the way you choose to spend your resources. Maybe it is in your time; the way you spend your free time or in the activities you choose to do. Pick one of these areas this week and find ways to devote that area to worshipping the Lord.

This could be as simple as turning off your music in your car and taking time to pray on your way to work. Instead of eating dinner in front of the TV, have the whole family sit down and pray before your meal and enjoy each other's time. Pick one small tangible thing you can accomplish this week and tell your group about it so that they can hold you accountable.

Pray: This week pray as a group that you would choose to have Kingdom culture over worldly culture. Pray for the strength to guard your heart this week. Pray that you would begin to allow God to transform your mind and begin to have more of a kingdom identity instead of a worldly identity.

Memorize: “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” -Romans 12:2