

We distinguish Christ's kingdoms based on...

- A. The subjects of the kingdom
- B. The governance of the kingdom

Christ's Kingdoms

I. The kingdom of power –

A. Subjects

- 1. Believers/Unbelievers
- 2. Good angels/Fallen angels (demons)
- 3. Irrational creatures (creation)

The Father (who has always had all dominion, etc.) has given to the Son.

Psalm 8:6-8 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put **all things** under his feet, **7All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field, 8The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.**

Daniel 7:13-14, “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14Then to Him was given **dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.** His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Matthew 11:27 “**All things** have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given **all things** into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

B. Governance by Christ's Omnipotence and Omnipresence (*Regnum potentiae*)

“Christ's uniform will and purpose directs, and His divine power and majesty controls, all affairs.”

Psalm 139:9-10 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

Psalm 118:15-18 The voice of rejoicing and salvation Is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly. 16The right hand of the Lord is exalted; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly. 17I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the Lord. 18The Lord has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

John 10:28-29 “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29“My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

- 1. **Jesus is reigning means that all things are subject to Him.** (Sitting at the Right Hand)

Matthew 28:18, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”

Ephesians 1:20-23 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21**far above all principality and power and might and dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22And He put **all things under His feet**, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

2. **But all things are subject, but not yet made subject to Him** (It is an article of faith)
Hebrews 2:8 “**You have put all things in subjection under his feet.**” {*Psalm 8:6*}

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. **But now we do not yet see all things put under him.**”

Psalm 110:1-2 “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, **Till** I make **Your enemies** Your footstool.” 2The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 Then comes the end, when He delivers **the kingdom** to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25For He must reign **till** He has put **all enemies** under His feet. 26**The last enemy** that will be destroyed is death. 27For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28Now when all things are **made subject to Him**, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (also Rom 14:10)

Acts 3:21 “whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (1 Cor 15:28)

3. **After Christ’s Second Coming**

Zechariah 9:10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; **His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.’**

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11and that **every tongue should confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 17:14, “These will make war with the Lamb, and **the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings**; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Psalm 93:1-2ff The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. 2Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

Psalm 2:6 “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.”

Note: God rules the Kingdom of Power(the universe) in the interest of the Kingdom of Grace(the Church)

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** 19“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 4:10-14 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that **He might fill all things.**) 11And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith....

Romans 8:28 And we know that **all things work together** for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

2 Peter 3:7-9 But **the heavens and the earth** which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (Mt 24:14)

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 Then comes the end, when He delivers **the kingdom** to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25For He must reign **till** He has put **all enemies** under His feet.

II. The kingdom of this world (Government)

A. The subjects of the kingdom of this world: Believers and unbelievers

Romans 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

2Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. {*continued below*}

Ephesians 6:2-3 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work...

B. The governance of the kingdom of this world: Law, office, rulers, punishment/rewards

Daniel 4:17 ‘... In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.’ (Is 45:1 Cyrus)

Romans 13:3-7 For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.

John 18:36-37 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

1 Timothy 2:2 Prayer... for kings and all who are in authority, that we {*believers*} may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (*God rules in the interest of His church*)

Human reason is the guide for governance in the things of this world.

Romans 1:19-20, ...For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Romans 2:14-15, “...the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Colossians 2:8, “...the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world....” .

1 Corinthians 3:19, “For the wisdom of this world;” 1 Corinthians 7:31 “the form of this world”

III. The kingdom of grace (Church)

A. The subjects of the kingdom of grace: limited to the church, only over believers

John 3:3, 5, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’... 5‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”

Romans 8:9b ...Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Luke 17:20-21 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God **does not come with observation**; 21“nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God **is within you.**”

1 Peter 1:5 who are kept by **the power of God through faith for salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up **a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

B. The governance of the kingdom of grace

1. The Word of God (Preaching the Word of Law and the Promise of the Gospel and administering the Sacraments)

Mark 1:14-15, “...Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**’”

Acts 20:24 St. Paul: “... and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

2. Apostolic Office/Pastoral Office

Matthew 28:19-20, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Luke 10:19 “Behold, **I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

NOTE: The Church is IN the World, but not OF this world (1. The church doesn't use worldly methods, but only the Word and Sacraments. 2. The church is not simply an external association.)

John 18:36-37, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

2 Corinthians 10:4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. 4For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

1 Corinthians 10:1-5, Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

John 17:11-15 “Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name... 14“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.