

**A FRESH LOOK AT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**  
Practical Implications of Living as Citizens of the Kingdom of God

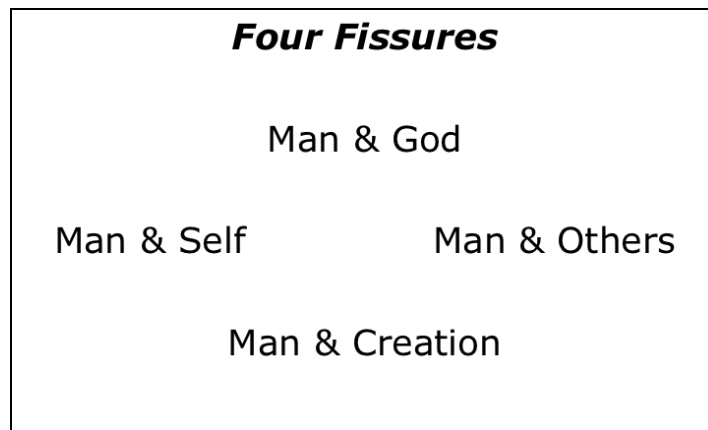
*What difference does belief in a present and coming Kingdom of God make in the way I approach life and ministry?*

**Mercy and Pastoral Ministry**

● **Backstory of the Kingdom**

1. God creates and rules
2. Man sins and destroys
3. God reveals His restoration through the coming of His Kingdom

● **Four Fissures**



● **Old Testament Descriptions of Restoration.**

*7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, 8 the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. 9 The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. 10 The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.*  
*Psalms 146:7-10 cf. Isa. 61:1-2*

- **Jesus' message and restorative acts (miracles and casting out demons) confirm His identity as the Messiah/King Who brings the reign of God to earth.**

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."  
Luke 4:18-19,21*

*4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."  
Matt. 11:4-6*

- **Jesus Proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom through Word and Deed Ministry, thus the Church proclaims the Kingdom through Word and Deed Ministry.**

*The renewal of Christ's salvation ultimately includes a renewed universe... Christ's miracles were miracles of the kingdom, performed as signs of what the kingdom means... His blessing was pronounced upon the poor, the afflicted, the burdened and heavy-laden who came to Him and believed in Him... The miraculous signs that attested Jesus' deity and authenticated the witness of those who transmitted the gospel to the church is not continued, for their purpose was fulfilled. But the pattern of the kingdom that was revealed through those signs must continue in the church... Kingdom evangelism is therefore holistic as it transmits by word and deed Christ's promise for body and soul as well as Christ's demand for body and soul.*

*Edmund Clowney "Kingdom Evangelism" quoted in Ministries of Mercy, Timothy J. Keller*

From BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR MERCY MINISTRY IN THE PCA, 15th General Assembly, 1987, Appendix T

*"A. To what ministry of mercy does Christ call his church?*

- 1. To a ministry that flows from the compassion of Christ*
- 2. To a ministry defined by the kingdom/gospel of Christ...*

*(1) Deeds of mercy point to the gospel promise*

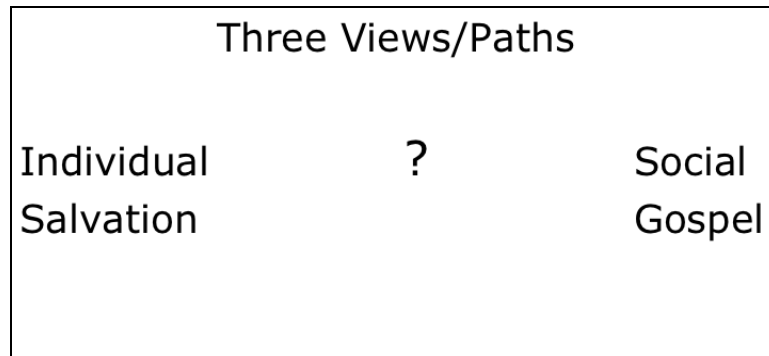
*Jesus' miracles were signs of the kingdom, pledges of the time of the restoration of all things. Our deeds of mercy in Christ's name do not have the authenticating power of his miracles, but they do point in hope to the consummation triumph of God's saving mercy.*

*(2) Deeds of mercy provide a foretaste of God's goodness*

*Our deeds of mercy have a double implication: they point forward to the promise of the new heavens and earth; they also show the beginning of the*

*fulfillment of the promise in the pouring out of the love of Christ through the Spirit. Visiting the prisoner is an example of this: we minister hope to the prisoner, for we proclaim the liberty to the captives that Christ will bring (Lk. 4:18). While the final day of Christ's jubilee is yet to come, it is already present in the saving power of Christ's Spirit."*

- **Three Views/Paths**



What is the scripturally balanced ministry path?

**Questions** (Reordered according to the video)

1. How big of a role does the truth of the Kingdom of God play in your thinking about life and ministry?  
On a scale of 1 to 10: 1=None and 10=Dominates
2. Has this changed over the last ten years? How and why?
3. Describe what you think a "Kingdom perspective" on the church and ministry would be.
4. How do you think the truth of the Kingdom of God could affect motivation for ministry?
5. How do you think the truth of the Kingdom of God could affect vision and mission for ministry?
6. How would you describe a scripturally balanced ministry path between the two extremes of "Individual Salvation Focus" and "Social Gospel"? What would that kind of ministry look like? How would it be different from your present church?