

NBC Proposed Confession of Faith

Sunday School Class

January 2, 2011

Class Outline



Class #1: Introduction: *Why Do This Study?*

Class #2:

1. The Tri-une God
2. Revelation (Part 1)

Class #3:

2. Revelation (Part 2)

Class #4:

3. Creation of Humanity

Class #5:

4. The Fall
5. The Plan of God
6. The Gospel

Class #6:

7. The Redemption of Christ

Class #7:

8. The Justification of Sinners

Class #8:

9. The Power of the Holy Spirit

Class #9:

10. The Kingdom of God

Class #10:

11. God's New People

Class #11 & 12:

12. Baptism and the Lord's Supper
13. The Restoration of All Things

The Kingdom of God

“There was something not right, something ultimately dissatisfactory and intolerable, about a world which was made, sustained, and “ruled” by God, but which nonetheless failed to acknowledge its Creator or give him his due.” – **STEPHEN WESTERHOLM**

Paragraph #10 “The Kingdom of God”

Kingdom Blessings Enjoyed:

We believe that those who have been saved by the grace of God through union with Christ by faith and through regeneration by the Holy Spirit enter **the kingdom of God** and *delight in the blessings of the new covenant*:

- the forgiveness of sins,
- the inward transformation that awakens a desire to glorify, trust, and obey God,
- and the prospect of the glory yet to be revealed. (Hope)

Kingdom Character Demonstrated:

Good works constitute indispensable evidence of saving grace. Living as *salt* in a world that is decaying and *light* in a world that is dark, believers should neither withdraw into seclusion from the world, **nor become indistinguishable** from it: **rather**, we are to do good to the city, for all the glory and honor of the nations is to be offered up to the living God. *Recognizing whose created order this is*, and because we are citizens of **God’s kingdom**, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God.

The Kingdom’s Transforming Power:

The kingdom of God, already present but *not fully realized*, is the exercise of God’s sovereignty in the world *toward the eventual redemption of all creation*. **The kingdom of God** is an *invasive power* that plunders Satan’s dark kingdom and regenerates and renovates through repentance and faith the lives of individuals rescued from that kingdom. *It therefore inevitably establishes a new community* of human life together under God.

The Kingdom of God in the Sermon on the Mount:

- Read **Matthew 4:17, 23**
- Read **Matthew 5:3-12**
- Read **Matthew 5:13-16**
- Read **Matthew 5:17-20**
- Survey **Matthew 5:21-7:6**
- Read **Matthew 7:7-11** (Cf. Hard for the Rich)
- Read **Matthew 7:21-23**

“What Matthew’s Gospel does not tolerate—and it is here at one with all the writings of the NT—is moral indifference, the complacency which supposes that because one belongs to a believing community, divine favor is guaranteed regardless of one’s behavior.”

– **STEPHEN WESTERHOLM**

Does it Matter to God How We Live?

Read **Ephesians 2:10**