

The Generic Jesus

*“WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I, THE
SON OF MAN, AM?” (MATTHEW 16:13)*

The Distinctive Fellowship of God

Fellowship with God through Jesus

- Eternal life is to know God - *John 17:1-3*
- Knowledge of God comes through Jesus - *John 14:6; 5:24-27; 8:31-32; Luke 6:46*

The Distinctive Fellowship of God

Fellowship with God through Jesus

Knowledge of Jesus through the Holy Spirit

- Apostles declare Jesus by the Spirit of God - *1 John 1:1-4; 4:1-6*
- Apostles promised the Holy Spirit - *John 14:25-26; 16:12-15*
- Apostles' doctrine is inspired of the Holy Spirit - *2 Peter 1:19-21; 3:2; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:20*

The Distinctive Fellowship of God

Fellowship with God through Jesus

Knowledge of Jesus through the Holy Spirit

Sanctification by the Spirit

- Thessalonians elected by God through following word in faith –
1 Thessalonians 1:4, 6, 8-10; 2:13

The Distinctive Fellowship of God

Fellowship with God through Jesus

Knowledge of Jesus through the Holy Spirit

Sanctification by the Spirit

- Thessalonians chosen by God for salvation –
2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 – “Sanctification” – set apart.
- Set apart by truth from the world for salvation – *John 17:14-19*

The Distinctive Message and Proclamation

Understanding is Necessary

- Committed to understand by being filled with Christ's word – *Ephesians 5:17-19 (cf. Colossians 3:16); 3:3-5; 4:11-13*
- Teachers need careful attention, must be distinct – *James 3:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:15; Nehemiah 8:2, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 14:6-12*
- Indistinct preaching leaves more questions than answers!

The Distinctive Message and Proclamation

Understanding is Necessary

Misunderstanding is Deadly

- Believing a lie leads to destruction - *2 Thessalonians 2:9-12*
- God will uproot what He has not planted - *Matthew 15:10-14*
- There will be those who THOUGHT they knew Jesus, but they didn't. Neither will Jesus know them - *Luke 13:23-27; Matthew 7:23*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Kingdom – the church of Christ

- The kingdom and the church are the same – *Matthew 16:17-19*
- The kingdom contains the saved – *Colossians 1:13-14*
- Only ONE – *Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; Matthew 16:18*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Citizenship

- Entrance - *Matthew 16:19* - disclosed by apostolic doctrine.
- Obedience to the gospel - *Mark 16:15-16*
- *Romans 10:13-17* - preacher sent, gospel heard/believed, call on the name of the Lord (cf. *Acts 2:21, 41, 47; 22:16*).

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Organization

- Christ as Head - *Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 3:17*
- Autonomous local congregations - *Romans 16:16; 1 Peter 5:2*
 - Elders and Deacons - *Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4*
 - Members - *1 Peter 5:5; Romans 12:4-8*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Work

- Evangelism - *Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:4; 1 Peter 3:15*
- Edification - *1 Corinthians 14:26, 40; Ephesians 4:11-16*
- Benevolence (saints) - *1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Romans 15:26*
- Spiritual work - *Luke 19:10* - Like that of the Head (Christ).

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Worship

➤ In Spirit and Truth – *John 4:24; Colossians 3:17; Matthew 15:8-9*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Worship

- Singing – *Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16*
- Praying – *Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 14:15*
- Lord's Supper – *Acts 2:42; 20:7*
- Giving – *1 Corinthians 16:1-2*
- Preaching – *Acts 20:7, 26-27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Sanctification

- Called to sanctification - 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- *Doctrine - John 17:14-19; Morality - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Sanctification

- Indispensable components in promoting sanctification:
 - *Belief in God's promises - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24;
2 Peter 1:2-4*
 - *Acceptance of objective truth - John 8:31-32*
 - *Distinctive application of truth - 1 Timothy 1:8-11;
Romans 12:1-2*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Sanctification

- Reasons for ambiguity leading to compromised sanctification:
 - *Desire to avoid offense - Galatians 5:11; 6:12*
 - *Desire for extended fellowship - 1 Thessalonians 5:14;
2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 5; Matthew 10:34;
2 John 9-11*

The Distinctive Kingdom of God

The Fate of the Foreigners

- They are lost without being citizens of the true kingdom -
Colossians 1:13-14
- Subject to eternal destruction from the presence of the Lord -
1 Thessalonians 1:8-9

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