



SEEK FIRST

Matthew 6:33

The Bible is the story
of two kingdoms.

To seek first His Kingdom is to trust
Him above every competing king.

Which king am I submitting to?

"The Church is an alternative community that embodies a different sort of kingdom, and that allegiance to that kingdom is our truest political and social responsibility. The disruptive words of Jesus call the church to be a community of ordinary people who follow Him in the concreteness of our lives in a concrete world."

-Tish Harrison Warren

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

²⁹ God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. ⁸ The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. ⁹ The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.” ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.”

²² Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman,” for she was taken from man. ²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.”

-Genesis 1:26-30, 2:7-9, 2:15-18, 2:22-25

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

Humanity doesn't choose its
identity or mission, it's received.

²⁹ God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. **This will be food for you,** ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Before Adam works a single day,
God provides.

2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

Adam never possesses
life independently.

⁸ The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. ⁹ The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Adam doesn't create
paradise, he is placed into it.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

Work itself is a gift,
not a curse.

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

Dependence includes trusting
God’s wisdom about what is
good.

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.”

Humanity is created to need others.

²² Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman,” for she was taken from man. ²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.”

Relationship itself is
received from God.





4, 6"

Sometimes the best part of
the pool is where you can't
touch.

As a member of the C&MA, we
are part of a deeper life
movement.

"Most of us get about knee-deep in the Christian life, discover that the water feels fine, and stop there. **We never swim in the depths of the divine intimacy Jesus won for us.**"

-Tyler Staton, *Living Like Monks, Praying Like Fools*

"Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people."

-Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*



N

THE DEEPEST BREATH



The stronger the diver, the deeper they
dive. The deeper they dive, the more
essential it is to rely on safety divers.

The longer we follow Jesus, the deeper we are invited to go. The deeper we are invited to go, the more we must depend on God.

The longer we follow Jesus, the deeper we are invited to go. The deeper we are invited to go, the more we must depend on God.

Holiness is a
dangerous endeavor.

"The unspoken assumption is, "As I ascend in relationship with God, I confess less because I have less to confess." True spiritual maturity, though, is the opposite. It's not an ascension; it's an archaeological dig as we discover layer after layer of what was in us all along. Spiritual maturity means more confession, not less. **Maturity is discovering the depths of my personal brand of fallenness and the depths to which God's grace has really penetrated, even without me knowing it."**

-Tyler Staton, *Living Like Monks, Praying Like Fools*

Before sin enters the world,
Adam and Eve are already
dependent.

Dependence isn't a consequence of the Fall. Dependence is part of creation.

We were made to need God, receive from God, trust God.

Where do you need to
depend on God more?

Could it be the goal of the
Christian life is to love the 4'
6"?



Seek First **throughout** the week.