

Upside-Down

The kingdom of God is so countercultural to the ways of the world, that it can be best described as an 'upside-down' kingdom. Most people think Jesus came just to save us from Hell. But in reality, He did that and much more! Jesus came to proclaim and demonstrate the kingdom of God by putting everything back in order through His finished works. We have inherited His legacy and mandate to continue the work He began.

Jesus reframed the ideas of greatness, performance and position. These three elements are the way we commonly define success. Our belief about success forms our culture, which influences our perspective. The culture of the kingdom takes a contradictory perspective on how we view success. Jesus' ministry and leadership were countercultural: upside-down and inside out, a kingdom where weakness is power, suffering leads to glory, leaders are servants, and the last shall be first.

Today's generation defines success based upon outcomes. Let's face it, we all desire to achieve good results. There is nothing wrong with that when the values of the kingdom are at the forefront of why and what we are doing. However, success in the kingdom can't always be measured by outcomes. God doesn't measure the church by these standards. So what is real success in the upside-down kingdom? Success in the kingdom is focused more on faithful obedience than outcomes. This may not always look like a worldwide business or mega church. Jesus spoke of leaving the 99 for 1 sheep. Are we willing to travel to a nation to reach one person, or write an article that impacts only one life? This is upside-down, but it's the culture of the kingdom.