The Doctrine of **"The Kingdom of the Self Under Divine Order"**

The expression **"the kingdom of the self under divine order"** is not a direct biblical phrase, but it is a theological and leadership concept that describes **a person's inner life being brought under God's rightful authority**. It emphasizes that before a person can exercise leadership, influence, or stewardship well, the different dimensions of the self must be ordered according to God's wisdom and purposes.

The doctrine can be summarized as:

The kingdom of the self under divine order is the condition in which a person's thoughts, desires, emotions, will, and actions are governed by God's truth rather than by uncontrolled impulses or competing loyalties.

It is not the destruction of the self, nor the exaltation of the self. Rather, it is the **right ordering of the self under God's rule**.

I. What Is the "Kingdom of the Self"?

Imagine every person has an **inner kingdom**.

This kingdom is not physical. It consists of the inner faculties that influence every decision.

These include:

- the mind (thoughts and reasoning)
- the heart (affections and values)
- the will (choices)
- the conscience (moral awareness)
- the emotions (responses)
- the imagination (vision and creativity)
- the desires (what we seek)

Together they form the "kingdom of the self."

II. What Is Divine Order?

Divine order means that God—not ego, fear, greed, or pride—occupies the highest place of authority.

Instead of this:

Pride

↓

Thoughts

↓

Choices

↓

Actions

The order becomes:

God

↓

Truth

↓

Conscience

↓

Mind

↓

Will

↓

Actions

This does not mean a person never struggles. It means the person continually seeks to let God's truth shape those struggles and decisions.

III. The Inner Kingdom as a Government

Think of the self as a kingdom with different roles.

Part of the Person	Symbolic Role
God	Supreme King
Conscience	Judge
Mind	Counselor
Will	Executive
Emotions	Messengers
Desires	Citizens needing guidance
Character	Constitution of daily life

In a healthy kingdom:

- the Judge is informed by truth,
- the Counselor seeks wisdom,
- the Executive acts with integrity,
- the citizens are guided rather than allowed to revolt.

If desires seize control, disorder follows.

IV. Why Divine Order Matters

Every external action begins as an internal decision.

Consider someone tempted to lie.

Before the lie is spoken:

- a desire arises,
- the mind evaluates,
- the conscience responds,
- the will chooses.

If the inner kingdom is well ordered, the person is more likely to choose truth, even at personal cost.

V. Example: A Judge

A judge hears a case involving a close friend.

Without divine order

Personal loyalty overrides justice.

The decision becomes biased.

With divine order

The judge recognizes the conflict, follows the law, and seeks fairness despite personal cost.

The courtroom reflects the order already established in the judge's inner life.

VI. Example: A Business Leader

A company is under financial pressure.

An opportunity arises to hide losses.

Kingdom ruled by fear

The leader manipulates records.

Short-term relief is followed by long-term consequences.

Kingdom under divine order

The leader tells the truth, seeks lawful solutions, and accepts responsibility.

Integrity governs the decision.

VII. Example: A Parent

A child accidentally damages something valuable.

Without inner order

The parent reacts in uncontrolled anger.

With inner order

The parent pauses, corrects the child appropriately, and restores the relationship.

The same event leads to different outcomes because the parent's inner kingdom is governed differently.

VIII. Jesus' Teaching and the Inner Kingdom

Jesus consistently emphasized inward transformation.

He taught that actions such as hatred, lust, hypocrisy, and greed begin in the heart before they become outward behavior.

His teaching points toward this principle:

Transformation of the inner person is the foundation of transformed conduct.

IX. The Fruits of an Ordered Kingdom

When the self is increasingly brought under God's order, qualities such as these become more evident:

Inner Formation	Outward Expression
Humility	Willingness to learn and serve
Wisdom	Sound decisions
Self-control	Calm responses under pressure
Justice	Fair treatment of others
Compassion	Mercy toward those in need
Integrity	Consistency between words and actions
Peace	Stability during adversity

These qualities are not signs of perfection but of ongoing spiritual formation.

X. The Disorder of the Inner Kingdom

An inner kingdom can also become disordered.

For example:

Ego

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Pride

↓

Greed

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Fear

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Poor Decisions

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Broken Relationships

When fear, pride, or selfish ambition become the governing forces, external leadership is eventually affected.

XI. Leadership Scenario

A nonprofit director receives a large donation with unethical conditions attached.

Kingdom ruled by ambition

The leader accepts the money at any cost.

Kingdom under divine order

The leader evaluates the offer in light of the organization's mission and values, even if that means declining the funding.

The decision is shaped by principles rather than immediate advantage.

XII. Personal Growth Scenario

A young professional desires rapid promotion.

Without divine order

- competes unfairly,
- undermines coworkers,
- seeks recognition at any cost.

With divine order

- develops competence,
- serves faithfully,
- accepts correction,
- trusts that integrity is part of long-term success.

The ambition remains, but it is ordered by wisdom and ethics.

XIII. Building the Kingdom of the Self

The process can be pictured as:

God's Truth

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Renewed Mind

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Ordered Desires

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Disciplined Will

↓

Consistent Character

↓

Faithful Leadership

↓

Constructive Influence

This is not a one-time event but a lifelong process of spiritual growth and moral formation.

XIV. Final Doctrine

The doctrine of **the kingdom of the self under divine order** teaches that:

The first kingdom every person is called to govern is the inner kingdom of the self. When thoughts, desires, emotions, conscience, and will are increasingly ordered under God's

truth, the person becomes capable of exercising authority, stewardship, and service with wisdom, justice, humility, and love.

In symbolic terms:

God's Authority

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Inner Kingdom

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Character

↓

Choices

↓

Leadership

↓

Family

↓

Community

↓

Society

The central insight is that **lasting external influence begins with internal formation**. A kingdom built only on outward power is fragile; a kingdom built upon a heart ordered by God's truth has a foundation capable of sustaining faithful leadership and service.

Explain with scenario: The King Exists to Serve, Not to Be Served

The Doctrine: **"The King Exists to Serve, Not to Be Served"**

The statement **"The King exists to serve, not to be served"** expresses one of the central principles of Christian leadership. It contrasts sharply with many ancient ideas of kingship, where rulers were often viewed as existing to receive honor, wealth, and unquestioning service from their subjects.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ taught His disciples:

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

In this model, **greatness is measured not by how many people serve the leader, but by how faithfully the leader serves the people entrusted to his or her care.**

The doctrine can be summarized as:

A true king does not use people to build his kingdom; he uses his authority to build people.

I. The Meaning of Servant Kingship

A king possesses:

- authority
- influence
- responsibility
- resources

The question is:

Why were these given?

According to this doctrine, they are given:

- to protect
- to provide
- to guide
- to administer justice
- to promote the common good

Authority is therefore understood as **a trust**, not merely a privilege.

II. The Difference Between Two Kinds of Kings

Self-Serving King	Servant King
Uses people for personal gain	Uses authority for the people's good
Seeks praise	Seeks justice
Protects personal status	Protects the vulnerable
Demands loyalty without earning trust	Builds trust through faithful service
Measures success by power	Measures success by the well-being of those served

III. The Shepherd Model

The Bible frequently compares good rulers to shepherds.

A shepherd:

- feeds the flock
- protects the flock
- searches for the lost
- leads to safety

A shepherd does not exist because the sheep serve him.

Rather, he serves the flock entrusted to him.

This image illustrates servant leadership.

IV. Scenario 1: The CEO

The Self-Serving CEO

A company's profits decline.

The CEO:

- gives himself a bonus
- lays off employees without explanation
- avoids responsibility
- blames subordinates

Employees lose trust.

Productivity declines.

The organization weakens.

The Servant CEO

The company faces the same crisis.

The CEO:

- reduces executive expenses first
- communicates honestly
- listens to employees
- develops a recovery plan
- shares the burden

Employees work together because they know the leader is serving the mission rather than personal comfort.

V. Scenario 2: The Parent

Parent Seeking Service

The parent believes:

"My children exist to satisfy my expectations."

Rules become harsh.

Communication becomes one-sided.

Fear replaces trust.

Parent Who Serves

The parent understands authority as stewardship.

He or she:

- teaches patiently
- disciplines fairly
- protects consistently
- models integrity

The children learn responsibility because they experience loving leadership.

VI. Scenario 3: The Judge

A respected public official appears before the court.

Judge Seeking Personal Advantage

The judge gives special treatment to preserve friendships or reputation.

Justice is compromised.

Judge Serving Justice

The judge applies the law impartially.

Even when the decision is unpopular, fairness is maintained.

The judge's authority serves justice rather than personal interests.

VII. Scenario 4: Community Leader

A nonprofit receives significant donations.

Self-Serving Leader

The director:

- seeks public recognition
- spends resources on personal prestige
- ignores beneficiaries

The mission suffers.

Servant Leader

The director:

- allocates resources carefully
- listens to community needs
- supports staff and volunteers
- measures success by meaningful impact

The organization grows because the leader serves the mission.

VIII. Jesus Washing His Disciples' Feet

One of the clearest illustrations of servant leadership is Jesus washing His disciples' feet.

In that culture, foot washing was normally performed by servants.

Jesus deliberately performed this humble act to teach that genuine authority is expressed through service.

The lesson was not that leaders never exercise authority.

Rather:

The highest authority is exercised with humility and love.

IX. Leadership Pyramid

Many organizations operate like this:

Leader

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Managers

↓

Workers

Servant leadership turns the focus upside down:

People's Needs

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Leader Supports

↑

Leader Equips

↑

Leader Protects

The leader's role is to help others succeed in fulfilling the shared mission.

X. Practical Workplace Scenario

A hospital administrator notices staff burnout.

Power-Oriented Leader

Says:

"Work harder."

Morale continues to fall.

Servant Leader

Meets with staff.

Identifies causes.

Improves scheduling where possible.

Provides needed resources.

Supports professional development.

Patient care improves because leadership addressed the needs of those providing the care.

XI. National Leadership Scenario

A king or president faces an economic crisis.

Self-Serving Ruler

Protects political image.

Suppresses criticism.

Places personal power above public welfare.

Servant Ruler

Consults advisors.

Communicates honestly.

Makes difficult but fair decisions.

Accepts accountability.

Works for the long-term good of the nation, even when doing so is politically costly.

XII. Personal Scenario

A team leader receives praise for a successful project.

Self-Serving Response

Claims all the credit.

The team feels overlooked.

Servant Response

Publicly recognizes the contributions of others.

Accepts responsibility for failures.

Shares success generously.

Trust and cooperation increase.

XIII. Characteristics of a Servant King

A servant king seeks to:

- protect before controlling
- listen before speaking
- encourage before criticizing
- give before taking
- serve before demanding service
- accept responsibility before assigning blame

These habits create durable trust.

XIV. Final Doctrine

The doctrine of **"The King Exists to Serve, Not to Be Served"** teaches that:

Leadership is not a license for privilege but a calling to stewardship. The greater a person's authority, the greater that person's responsibility to seek the good of those entrusted to their care.

In symbolic form:

Authority

↓

Responsibility

↓

Service

↓

Trust

↓

Justice

↓

Human Flourishing

The Christian model of kingship is therefore not defined primarily by crowns, thrones, or power. It is defined by **faithful stewardship, humility, justice, and sacrificial service**.

As Jesus demonstrated, **the highest King is the one who uses His authority not to elevate Himself above others, but to lift others up.**