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

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Consistent Character

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Faithful Leadership

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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.