

Chapter 1: Entering the Eternal Kind of Life Now

Our contemporary culture contrasted to the idea of the kingdom

Introduction: Dallas Willard begins *The Divine Conspiracy* with the premise that we are currently flying upside down, largely unaware. This impacts the decisions we make and how we live—specifically, how are we living the good life and becoming more like Christ. The goal in our life of discipleship is for our whole life—our will, actions and work to be anchored in the work of God in this world. This is what it means to dwell in the kingdom of God on earth and to actually fly right-side up.

- **Words:** Kingdom. When we talk about the Kingdom of Heaven and other kingdoms, what do we mean?
- **Rule:** Having a place to rule is at the heart of who we are. What is your personal rule? (p22-23)
- **Images:** Flying upside down without knowing it. (Example of the student who knows ethics as an idea but doesn't practice or aspire to be good).
- **Quotes:**
 - “very few people today find Jesus interesting as a person or of vital relevance to the course of their actual lives. He is not generally regarded as a real-life personality who deals with real-life issues but is thought to be concerned with some feathery realm other than the one we must deal with” (introduction xiii)
 - **CS Lewis**, “Jesus is beginning to turn you into the same kind of thing as Himself.” p.20
- **Scripture:** Col 1:15-17; 2:1-3, 9-10

To Discuss:

What did you connect with in this chapter or in this week's sermon?

What questions do you have? What gave you pause?

Where does this connect with your life today?

Dallas proposes, “Jesus invites us to make a pilgrimage into the heart and life of God....The major problem is people think they have heard the invitation.” (p. 11) How do/or don't we hear this invitation?

What does it look like to fly “right-side up?” How do we try to learn to fly right side up, with and without Jesus?

Consider the Harvard student example, what is the point of knowing good if you don't try to be good? What makes a person good?

The young ruler asks Jesus, What must I do to have eternal life? So what must we do?

Choose a Practice This Week:

Writing: Take some time to reflect on your life, family, job, friendships, leisure, and morals and ask.... “How do I look to Jesus to guide and inform my life in these areas?” “Where do I need Jesus' wisdom and knowledge to direct my thoughts and decisions?”

Walking: take a 20 minute prayer walk around your neighborhood. Take time to enjoy the natural beauty, notice the sounds around you and pray for those who are your neighbors.