

What is sphere sovereignty?

Sphere sovereignty or *differentiated responsibility* is a concept developed by Dutch prime minister Abraham Kuyper. It holds that various spheres in life have differing responsibilities and authorities (e.g. separation of church and state).

David Koyzis wrote:

...“[S]phere sovereignty,” [is] a translation of the Dutch expression *sovereiniteit in eigen kring*, or “sovereignty in one’s own circle.” Facing the twin threats of liberal individualism and socialist statism, Kuyper, based on his reading of the Bible and the larger Christian tradition, came up with this rather inelegant phrase to describe his party’s unique approach to society. Above all, sphere sovereignty entails balance—a balanced society in which the various activities and institutions develop in proportionate fashion, with none attempting to crowd out the others.¹

J. Vernon McGee believed that any form of government would work if men were God-fearers; but, where men reject God--no system succeeds.

Samuel Adams wrote: “The religion and public liberty of a people are intimately connected; their interest are interwoven, they cannot subsist separately; and therefore they rise and fall together.”

Men have lived under: communism, socialism and capitalism and have proven that they cannot rule and reign.

Jesus will lead during the millennial kingdom (Re 20:1–10). God will live among his people (21:3) and minister to them (21:4). He will be a Father to the saved (21:5–7) and a foe to the unsaved (21:8). At that time when the “wolf shall dwell with the lamb” the world will experience peace (Is 11:6–9).²

¹ Koyzis, David. *Kuyper’s Flawed Example: Sphere Sovereignty on the Personal Front*. *Kuyperian Commentary*. 25 Mar 20: <http://kuyperian.com/kuyper-flawed-example-sphere-sovereignty-on-the-personal-front/>

² Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Re 21:3–8). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.