



# The Kingdom Perspective

## Finding Your True Self

Hello this is Pastor Don of Christ Redeemer Church. Welcome to The Kingdom Perspective.

There have been deep and dramatic cultural changes in the past 75 years or so, unmooring much of what our civilization took for granted. Nowhere is this more evident than in our sense of “self”. In traditional cultures, one gained an identity either by **pedigree** (being born into a particular family, tribe or nation) or by **proving** oneself according to the values of your family, tribe or nation (e.g., sacrificing for the greater good of the community).

However, in the past 50 years or so, we no longer become a somebody by looking to our family, tribe or nation, but by distinguishing ourselves from them. Belonging to a community is seen as an obstacle to being my “true self”.

You can see this in the change of the advertisements for the US military. A century ago, you had a rather stern looking Uncle Sam pointing his finger at whoever deigned to look, saying: “Your country needs you!” The subtext was you had a *duty* to serve your nation because you *belonged* to it. Your identity was bound by your duty to tribe and nation. However, back in the 1980’s all this changed with a much more consumer/individualistic-driven ad. Join the Army and “Be all that you can be!” we were told. In this new world it is all about you. You create yourself. You are the manufacturer of your identity.

This new ethos has not saved our “sense of self” but only impoverished it even more. We were never meant base our identity on our pedigree or performance but on God who created us in His image and redeemed us for His glory.

And that’s something to think about from The Kingdom Perspective.

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

~ **Colossians 3:9-15 (ESV)**

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