



Peninsula City Church

Kingdom Identify

How to Live from Our Kingdom Identity

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How to Live from Our Kingdom Identity

Q. How does a Christ-follower live from their Kingdom Identity?

An Introduction

Have you ever stopped and wondered if you are living from your Kingdom identity or from your old identity? What does your life look like on a daily basis? Is it who you really are, or who you used to be? We need to be growing into the new me, and not relying on the old me. The new me is being been constantly being transformed. As Paul said to the Christ-followers in Rome,

¹ “I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not allow yourself to be conformed to this world's pattern, but be continually transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may be discerning what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom 12:1-2 ESV).

So, what does that look like in our lives today?

1. The way a Christ-follower should live as the new me

Q. What would you say to a Christ-follower on how to live today?

We need to know who we are and how to live to honour our Heavenly Father. We need to live from our Kingdom identity. As Christ-followers we are God's children. This should make us more thoughtful in the way we live our life moment by moment. This is not stating that we will not have our challenging and hard times, but it does say that we have a basis to live from as His children. In light of this truth, we need to live a life of thoughtful practice.

As Christ-followers we have received God the Holy Spirit from the moment that we were born again, from above. We need to remember that we are in constant relationship with the ever-present Holy Spirit. He is always with us, but we need to ask ourselves “Are we always present with Him?” Jesus made it very clear that the Holy Spirit would **never** leave us. We have not been and will never be left as orphans, but He said,

¹⁵ “If you love Me, obey (keep) My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him because it isn't looking for Him and doesn't recognise Him. But you know Him because He lives with you now and later will be in you. ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me. Since I live, you also will live” (Jn 14:15-19 NLT).

This is our status; we have an advocate who will never leave us. He now lives within us and us in Him. We are not orphans but His beloved children. Therefore, since we are His children, we need to live like Him. People should be able to look at us and see God's character in us. Is that the case, are we living a fruitful life?

2. What does it mean to live a fruitful life as the new me?

Q. Are you fruitful or just a worker?

So, if the Holy Spirit has testified to us that, we are His children and that, He lives resident within His church, we need to be fruitful. In the letter to the Galatians Paul pointed out that as God's children we need to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. He desires that we grow up, and grow up into Him. However, we cannot do this growing up ourselves. If we try, then we step out of the freedom that was given us from the Father and get tangled up in the old lifestyle, Gal 5:1.

¹“For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Gal 5:1,13 ESV).

Paul wanted to know what happened to them that they reverted to the old lifestyle,

⁷ “You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven (yeast) leavens the whole lump (batch of dough)” (Gal 5:7-9 ESV).

We become estranged from Christ and show that we have fallen from grace, Gal 5:4. Paul lists the kind of things or works that we used to do and will do again if we do not keep in step with the Holy Spirit. That is, we try to live a life in polarity (or polarisation), oscillating (wavering) back and forward between who we used to be with its old lifestyle and who we are and the new life. That is, we can tend to live in the condition of having two opposite and clashing lifestyles. We try to find our place in this polarity but have no real place of rest. We do the things that we do not want to do, and we cannot do the things that we want to do, (cf. Rom 7:15-21). In the end, we often find ourselves doing the following,

¹⁹ “When you follow the desires (works, business) of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God” (Gal 5:19-21 NLT).

That is why it is so important to; walk (keep in step with) by the Holy Spirit, so we will not satisfy the desires of the old lifestyle, Gal 5:16. The craving of the old lifestyle is against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the old lifestyle. In fact, they are always in opposition to each other, Gal 5:17. So, if we are led and accompanied by the Holy Spirit, we are not under the law, Gal 5:18. Therefore, in summary, Paul says,

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit” (Gal 5:25 ESV)

So, Paul supported this idea of our new life with the Holy Spirit, with the truth that, we need to be with walking with, being led, and then keeping in step with the Holy Spirit. He then went on to point out this kind of lifestyle in our own strength with that of the fruit provider. That is the Holy Spirit; He is continually developing us from within (as His church). However, this happens as we walk in step with Him, Gal 5:16,25. So, the life we once lived will no longer work as we are God’s new children being transformed by means of the Kingdom of God.

As God’s children, we need to be continually being transformed by the renewal of your mind. One thing that we need to realise is that we are a new creation in unity with God and not a dual being with two natures living in polarity, but it us in Christ and it is us in Christ,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has already come” (2 Cor 5:17 ESV).

As Paul had already said in Galatians,

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal 2:19 ESV).

There needs to be evidence of the transforming new lifestyle in our lives, that is, the fruit or character of God the Holy Spirit. What is God’s character like? Well, it is mentioned here in Gal 5:22-23 are as follows,

²² “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit (singular harvest, or result, effect) in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” (Gal 5:22-23 NLT).

This stands in complete contrast to the old way we were used to living. It is the Kingdom of God way of living in step with the Holy Spirit. It is God’s character that we need to be imitating.

So, what are these features of our new life that we need to be letting the Holy Spirit continually display? These following qualities are really only one fruit, as Paul used the singular and not a plural. He also used the singular for each of them. That means that there is only one fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and control. However, these nine are in complete unity, as they are part of the character of the person of the Holy Spirit and not many substances. So, it could be said that there is one Holy Spirit, who is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and control. Well, they are,

- Love: This is the agape or heavenly love, that seeks the highest good of another, whether there is any response or not.
- Joy: This is not happiness, but rather a deep, internal and unmovable resting in the Holy Spirit’s joy.
- Peace: This is in fact, a deep, internal and unmovable “repose and quietness, even in the face of adverse circumstances; it defies human understanding.”¹
- Patience: It carries the idea of no revenge in any way, but rather to temper one’s impatience. But it also has the meaning, “that means ‘never stopping’ or ‘never quitting.’”² That is, being able to tolerate what life throws our way, or having long-temperance or restraint.
- Kindness: The idea of goodwill or having a sweet spirit, or reacting in the opposite spirit if someone treats you badly.
- Goodness: Is being full of virtue and integrity. This is that, which is to be found within Christ-followers, reaching out to others for good, regardless of whether it is merited or not.
- Faithfulness: This is the faith that overcomes in all circumstances to become a trustworthy one.
- Gentleness: This carries the idea of being humbly submitted to the will of God without deviousness and being truly understanding of others.
- Self-control: “Although the word self is not found in this verse, most translations render this as ‘self-control.’ The word is actually ‘lordship,’ or by implication ‘spirit-strength.’”³ Or another way to look at it is self-mastery under the influence and Lordship of the Holy Spirit.

However, all of this is based on the truth that we are dead to self and alive to Jesus Christ by faith. This is seen in the next verse in Galatians,

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there” (Gal 5:24 NLT)

¹ Walvoord, John F. & Zuck, Roy B. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament Edition*. (Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1984), 608.

² Simmons, Brian. *Letters From Heaven By the Apostle Paul: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Timothy*. (The Passion Translation) (p. 32). BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC. Kindle Edition.

³ The background material for these nine characteristics of the Holy Spirit came from the following source material. Simmons, Brian. *Letters From Heaven By the Apostle Paul: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Timothy*. (The Passion Translation) (p. 32). BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC. Kindle Edition. Walvoord, John F. & Zuck, Roy B. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament Edition*. (Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1984), 608.

So, by receiving the Holy Spirit, it declares that we have “identified with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection.”⁴ Wow, this is an amazingly liberating truth that if, accepted by faith can have far-reaching implications. It has been pointed out that,

“While co-crucifixion took place at the cross, it becomes effective for believers when they are converted... Faith must continually lay hold of this truth, or a believer will be tempted to try to secure victory by self-effort.”⁵

That is why Paul said to keep in step with the Holy Spirit as He leads us,

“Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives” (Gal 5:25 NLT).

The idea here is that it is step by step relationship, totally reliant on the Holy Spirit at all times. Now, remember that all of this second point, “The way a Christ-follower should live.” This is within the context of how to live each day.

Some concluding thoughts

So, coming back to the opening question,

Q. How does a Christ-follower live from their Kingdom Identity?

We need our eyes wide opened to see ourselves as God sees us. We need just to take a good hard look at ourselves in the mirror of God. We need to look in the mirror at who we are and how we respond in certain challenging moments. Stop and listen to Him right now,

In response, need to ask through this process:

- What personal application can be found from the passages?
- What is God teaching me for today?
- That is, “What is God saying to me?”
- Maybe something like:
 - What does He say about how we are walking?
 - Are we walking step by step being led by the Spirit?
 - Or are we fulfilling the lust of the flesh and displaying hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, dissension, and division?

So, “Stop and reflect.” Then act from the truth of our true identity as a child of God the Father, who has been crucified with Christ and has the Holy Spirit with us. Remember that, the idea here is that, life needs to be a step by step relationship, totally reliant on the Holy Spirit at all times. That is, we are not to be conformed to this world’s pattern, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom 12:1-2 ESV).

“How should I respond to what is being said?” or, “so what?”

- What are you going to do about it?
- What do you need to do to respond?
- Pray and respond

⁴ Walvoord, & Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 609.

⁵ Walvoord, & Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 609.