



LIVING FROM ABOVE

Session 3: Understanding Kingdom Culture

Pastor Dale Campbell

I. REVIEW

A. “Living from Above” Defined

1. A biblical way of describing a believer who lives from the reality of their union with Christ rather than being governed by the world’s way of thinking. It means drawing your identity, perspective, wisdom, peace, and strength from God’s kingdom instead of merely reacting to earthly circumstances.

2. Scriptures:

- a. **Philippians 3:20**

NKJV “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”

- b. **John 17:16**

NKJV “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world”

B. Kingdoms and Systems

1. “Systems”:

- a. The order of the kingdom.
 - b. The principles and methods by which the kingdom operates.
 - c. An established order.

2. When we are born again we not only **change kingdoms**, but we are supposed to **change systems**.

- a. There are many in the Body of Christ that truly have been born into the kingdom of God, however, they have never changed systems.
 - They think like the world.
 - They act and react like the world.
 - They live like this world.
 - b. When I enter a new kingdom, I am supposed to adapt to the systems of that kingdom.
 - The Old Testament example of the Shunamite woman (type and shadow).
 - She did not live as everyone else lived in her day.



LIVING FROM ABOVE

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II. SEATED ABOVE – LIVING ABOVE

A. Scriptures

1. Colossians 3:1-3

NKJV “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

TPT “Christ’s resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that’s where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor, and authority! Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm. Your crucifixion with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: When we are seated FAR ABOVE, we should begin to LIVE far above. Now that we know that we have been POSITIONED far above—in Christ, over ALL the power of the enemy—we are going to learn how to LIVE the NEW LIFE. The new life must be lived from the NEW PLACE / POSITION / REALM of above.

2. Ephesians 2:2

KJV “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...”

NIV “...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”

B. The Culture of the Kingdom

1. What is “culture”?

- a. Culture is the collection of beliefs, values, attitudes, habits, and behaviors that become the normal way of life for a person or group.



LIVING FROM ABOVE

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2. Characteristics of culture:

- a. Culture is learned. It is developed through repeated exposure and experience. What we are exposed to affects us.
- b. Culture is shared. It influences an entire family, church, community, or nation.
- c. Culture is sustained. It grows stronger through repeated words and actions.
- d. Culture shapes behavior. People eventually act according to what has become normal around them.

3. Examples of cultures:

a. Family Culture:

- In one family, everyone eats dinner together every night. In another family, everyone eats whenever they want. Each family has a different culture.
- In one family, everyone hugs, laughs, and spends time together. In another, everyone keeps to themselves.

b. Business Culture:

- A company that values honesty, excellence, and customer service creates a culture of excellence. Another company cuts corners and develops a culture of mediocrity.

c. National Culture:

- There is a massive difference in the Western world's culture and the Middle East's culture (i.e. laws, customs, religious practices, etc.).

4. Cultural contrast:

- a. There is a distinct contrast between the culture of the Kingdom of God and the culture of this world.
- b. Each is governed by different values, principles, and ways of thinking.
- c. A "contrast" is simply showing the difference between two things.

C. Yes, We Are *Different!*

1. God's people are always different.

a. Scriptures:

- **1 Peter 2:9**

NKJV "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..."



LIVING FROM ABOVE

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CEV “But you are God’s chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things he has done.”

- **Deuteronomy 26:18-19**

NKJV “Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken.”

- **Deuteronomy 28:1-2**

NKJV “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God...”

NET “If you indeed obey the LORD your God and are careful to observe all his commandments I am giving you today, the LORD your God will elevate you above all the nations of the earth.”

2. Covenant sets God’s people high above / elevates them. (Deut. 26:19; 28:1)

a. High above:

- The Lord will set you “high above”.
- The covenant sets you apart—HIGH ABOVE.
- The covenant never makes you beneath or less than the inhabitants of earth.

b. Elevate defined:

- A position of victory.
- A position of honor.
- Hebrew: To be lifted up, exalted, and elevated.
- Greek (“hyperano”): Far above, over and beyond, superior to.



LIVING FROM ABOVE

Session 3: Understanding Kingdom Culture

Pastor Dale Campbell

PASTOR'S NOTE: *If God has positioned you above this world's kingdom, then you should no longer think, speak, or live according to its culture. Kingdom citizens are called to operate from a higher system—the culture of Heaven—not the culture of this present world. The blessings of **Deuteronomy 28** were conditional. They required living above!*

3. The contrast—see the DIFFERENCE:

KINGDOM CULTURE	WORLD'S CULTURE
Lives by faith	Lives by sight
Depends on God	Depends on self
Led by the Holy Spirit	Led by emotions and circumstances
Seeks God's will	Seeks personal desires
Gives generously	Hoards to themselves
Loves and forgives quickly	Holds grudges and seeks revenge
Speaks life	Speaks negativity and death
Walks in peace	Lives in anxiety and fear
Rejoices always	Complains continually

D. “Culturalized”

- Culturalized means to be shaped, trained, conditioned, or influenced by a particular culture until its beliefs, values, and behaviors become your own.
 - Many are “under the influence” of their culture.
- A person is culturalized when they begin to:
 - Think like their culture.
 - Speak like their culture.
 - Value what their culture values.
 - React the way their culture reacts.
 - Live according to the standards of their culture.
- The question: “Have I been more culturalized by the Kingdom of God or by the culture of this world?”



LIVING FROM ABOVE

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III. CULTURALIZED BY THE KINGDOM

A. The Word “Culturalizes” Us by Transforming Our Minds

1. We are to be a “Word culture”.
2. Scriptures:

a. **Romans 12:2**

NKJV “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

NIV “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will”

GW “Don’t become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants-what is good, pleasing, and perfect.”

Aramaic Bible in Plain English “And do not imitate this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your minds, and you shall distinguish what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God”

Weymouth “And do not follow the customs of the present age, but be transformed by the entire renewal of your minds, so that you may learn by experience what God's will is--that will which is good and beautiful and perfect.”

TPT “Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God’s will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.”

b. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

NKJV “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts’...”



LIVING FROM ABOVE

Session 3: Understanding Kingdom Culture

Pastor Dale Campbell

GNT "...as high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours..."

- If His thoughts and ways are above ours, what changes things?
- **Isaiah 55:10-13**
NKJV "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."
- Note the first thing the Word does is change the soil. (See also: **Genesis 3**)

B. Mind Renewal Isn't Easy

1. Mind renewal is not limited to reading God's Word. It also involves putting the Word into practice.
 - a. True transformation comes not only from hearing the truth, but from living it daily.
2. Stick with the process.
 - a. Hear the Word.
 - b. Receive the Word (decide to believe what the Word says).
 - c. Meditate on the Word (think on the Word over and over).
 - d. Speak the Word (declare openly what the Word says).
 - e. Practice the Word (take action).
 - f. Replace old thought patterns (reject thoughts that contradict Kingdom culture).
 - g. Continue the process DAILY.



LIVING FROM ABOVE

Session 3: Understanding Kingdom Culture

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3. Set your mind toward Kingdom things.
 - a. **Colossians 3:1-2**
NKJV “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”
 - b. To “set your mind” is to be firmly fixed, focused without distraction, settled.