



LIVING FROM ABOVE

Session 4: Kingdom Culturalized

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. Scripture:

- 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. 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. There are many in the Body of Christ that truly have been born into the Kingdom of God. However, they have never changed systems.

- a. They think like the world.
- b. They act and react like the world.
- c. They live like this world.

C. Seated Above – Living Above

1. **Ephesians 2:1-6**

AMPC “And you [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course *and* fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God]. Among these we as well as you once lived *and* conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [our behavior governed by our corrupt and sensual nature], obeying the impulses of



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the flesh and the thoughts of the mind [our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings]. We were then by nature children of [God's] wrath *and* heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind. But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of *and* in order to satisfy the great *and* wonderful *and* intense love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings *and* trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship *and* in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation). And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."

2. 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."

II. SESSION FOUR: CULTURALIZED

A. "Culturalized" Defined:

1. To be shaped, trained, conditioned, or influenced by a particular culture until its beliefs, values, and behaviors become your own.
 - a. Many are "under the influence" of the world's culture.



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2. A person is culturalized when they begin to:
 - a. Think like their culture.
 - b. Speak like their culture.
 - c. Value what their culture values.
 - d. React the way their culture reacts.
 - e. Live according to the standards of their culture.
3. The question: *"Have I been more culturalized by the Kingdom of God or by the culture of this world?"*

B. Culturalized by the Kingdom

1. The **Word** culturalizes us.

- 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."

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."

2. The Word changes / transforms / culturalizes us to Kingdom thinking.

- a. **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...'"



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GNT “As high as the heavens are **above** the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours”

3. If His thoughts and ways are above ours, what changes things?

a. **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.”

- Where the curse once operated, the blessing now prevails.
- The very place where the curse once worked is now where the blessing works.

b. The **WORD** begins to transform you—your thinking, your mindsets, your actions.

- The more the Word **CULTURALIZES** you to Heaven’s thoughts and ways, the more the flow of the blessing can operate in your life.

PASTOR’S NOTE: *The first thing the Word does is change the heart, which is the soil for the seed. The Word serves more than one purpose. It represents the seed, but it also represents the water that changes the condition of the soil / heart. Before the Word can be planted and produce a harvest in your life, the soil of your heart must be changed.*

4. **Ephesians 5:25-27**

NKJV “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”



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CEB “He did this to make her holy by washing her in a bath of water with the word. He did this to present himself with a splendid church, one without any sort of stain or wrinkle on her clothes, but rather one that is holy and blameless.”

a. This passage can represent two spiritual works:

- **Salvation** (our repositioning ABOVE)
 - New birth
 - New identity
 - New spirit
 - One-time event
- **Christian Living** (our Kingdom culturalization / living ABOVE)
 - Renewed mind
 - Changed thinking
 - New habits
 - Growing maturity
 - Daily obedience

C. The Change Agent / Cleansing Agent: The Word

1. The Word of God, like water, washes us.

- a. The world’s culture needs to be washed out.
- b. While the water of the Word is washing things out it is replacing old mindsets with the Kingdom’s way of thinking.

2. **James 1:21**

NKJV “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

AMP “So get rid of all uncleanness and all that remains of wickedness, and with a humble spirit receive the word [of God] which is implanted [actually rooted in your heart], which is able to save your souls...”

a. *Psuchē* (soul):

- The Greek word *psuchē* generally refers to:
 - The mind
 - The will
 - The emotions



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- The personality
 - The inner life of a person
- b. A distinction: Soul vs. Spirit
- **Spirit**
 - Born again instantly.
 - Made righteous.
 - United with Christ.
 - **Soul**
 - Must be renewed.
 - Learns to think differently.
 - Is transformed by the Word over time.
3. It will take the Word for **REAL** transformation.

D. Acclimate

1. “Acclimate” means to adjust, adapt, or become accustomed to a new environment, condition, or way of life.
 - a. Spiritually, we could say that to **acclimate** to the Kingdom is to allow our thinking, speaking, expectations, and behavior to become adjusted to the culture and ways of God’s Kingdom.
 - b. Salvation brings us into the Kingdom (**Colossians 1:13**), but our minds must be renewed so that we learn to live according to the Kingdom.

E. Mind Renewal Isn’t Easy

1. Salvation brings us into the Kingdom (**Colossians 1:13**), but our minds must be renewed so that we learn to live according to the Kingdom.
2. 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.



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3. 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 (action).
- f. Replace old thought patterns (reject thoughts that contradict Kingdom culture).
- g. Continue the process daily.

4. Scriptures:

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.”

- “Set your mind”: Firmly fixed, focused without distraction, settled.

b. **Ephesians 4:22-24**

AMPC “Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts *and* desires that spring from delusion; And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God’s image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.”