

DNA CLOSE

Knowing who you are Spiritually, Biblically and Culturally must all be Christ Centered.

RECAP:

Know who you are Spiritually

3 Observations

1) Without new birth there is no life and no relationship with God

- a. **John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2) In new birth, new perspective comes as we see the kingdom of God. God's word becomes clear, and the Holy Spirit's works and wonders are believed and experienced – faith comes alive.

- a. **John 3:3** Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

3) Through new birth we are introduced- literally we "enter" to a new realm, where God's new kingdom order can be realized.

- a. **John 3:5** Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

New birth is more than simply being saved. It is requalifying experience, opening up the possibilities of our whole being to the supernatural dimension of life and fitting us for a beginning in Gods Kingdom order

Know who you are Biblically

Foundation: If you do not know your history... you do not know your destiny

Reminder: all Believer acknowledge and come into understanding that the Word of God is infallible (Flawless)

Location, Location, Location – People of Color

- It is amazing what we can learn about the origin and history of the races of mankind by studying God's textbook.

Acts 17:26

26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

- **One man** - Adam (pre-flood)/Noah (after-flood)

God formed Adam from the dust of the ground – Genesis 2:7

Genesis 2:7

7 Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

- **After the flood: Noah and his sons (Genesis 9:18-19 and 10:1-32)**

Noah had three sons named Ham, Shem and Japheth. (resulted in 70 nations)

Know Who We Are Culturally

Note: Christianity was not established for simply one nation, but Christ dies for the salvation of all nations

Psalm 68:31

31 Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God.

Zechariah 2:1

11 “Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.

Heroes of the faith past:

- Jethro – Moses’ father-in-law (assisted with the first of structuring government)
- Rahab of Jericho – Canaanite - Assisted the Israelites in taking Jericho
- Queen of Sheba – Woman ruler - Met with King Solomon
- Simon of Cyrene – Carried cross

Heroes of the faith modern day: you’ve read about and may know

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - American Christian minister and activist
- George Washington Carver - American agricultural scientist and inventor
- Pastor Fred Price - Pastor and Apostle
- Harriet Tubman - American abolitionist and political activist.
- Mary Jane McLeod Bethune - American educator, stateswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian,
- William J. Seymour - an African American preacher. Azusa St Revival

Made Alive In Christ

From God's Perspective (the only perspective that counts)

- **1 Samuel 16:7**

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. **The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**"

Let's not get sidetracked with genealogy/skin color

We will close this teaching with 3 more Observations

God did not see skin color, but in Ephesians chapter 2 we get a glimpse of what He did see.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Observation #1: Our Initial Position

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 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. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

- you were dead in your transgressions and sins
- you followed the ways of this world
- we were disobedient
- gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts
- we were by nature deserving of God's wrath

Observation #2: God's Position

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. God had a great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy

- made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions
- it is by grace you have been saved

Observation #3: A Re-Positioned Nation

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus
- That he might show the incomparable riches of his grace
- by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God
- we are God’s handiwork
- created in Christ Jesus to do good works
- God prepared these good works in advance for us to do **(He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation – Mark 16:15).**

What are you doing to ADVANCE the Kingdom of God?

Supporting Scripture References for Ephesian 2:1-10

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

- Col 2:13 - When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

² 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.

- Col 3:7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.
- Jn 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.
- Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
- Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

- Gal 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

- Act 15:11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

- Eph 1:20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

- **Titus 3:4-7** *4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

- 2 Tim 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,
- 1 Cor 1:29 so that no one may boast before him.

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- **Eph 4:22-24** *22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*
- Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.