

People of the Spirit

Series: Our Identity

Philippians 1:21 (1803)

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Philippians 1:21 NIV *For to me, to live is Christ*

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 NIV ¹⁵ *Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.* ¹⁶ *Therefore I urge you to imitate me.*

I. How can I evaluate what is really most important to me?

a. What does my calendar and my bank account tell me?

Matthew 6:24-25 NLT ²⁴ *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.* ²⁵ *"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?"*

b. How does my comfortable life potentially cloud the issues?

Proverbs 30:8-9 NLT *give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.* ⁹ *For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.*

II. What does it really mean to have Jesus at the center of my life?

a. The potential trap of becoming "a religious person"

b. I don't have to be a monk to live with Jesus at the center of my life

Austin O'Malley *We use religion like a trolley-car--we ride on it only while it is going our way.*

III. What role does the Holy Spirit play as I seek to live this out?

a. By definition, Jesus cannot be at the true center of anyone's life who denies or seeks to ignore the presence of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-18 NLT *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 recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.*

Thomas Tarrants III *Being led by the Holy Spirit is at the heart of the Christian life. This is clear in the Bible and in the history of the church. If we let the Spirit lead us, our lives will blossom and flourish. But if we neglect or refuse His leading, our lives will languish.*

b. To grasp the true work of the Holy Spirit requires a commitment to learning, practicing and growing together by the Spirit's lead

Dianne Leman *Freedom comes through the power of the Holy Spirit living inside us, whether it is freedom from religion or freedom from reckless living. We want to live Spirit-led lives, not sinful, selfish ones.*

Dianne Leman *We can overflow daily with the Spirit—in our work, family, worship, and play. He empowers us to walk and live in His Presence all day long. He teaches us the “unforced rhythms of grace,” and His grace flows through us—refreshing others, and us too!*