

# BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE MODERN ERA

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## 1. A PEOPLE CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS

<sup>1</sup>PETER 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

**In Christ** we have become:

A chosen people

A royal priesthood

A holy nation

A people belonging to God

Called out of darkness into His wonderful light

To declare the praises of Him

### **Men love darkness instead of light**

<sup>John 3:19-20</sup> "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

### **Men must turn from darkness to light**

<sup>ACTS 26:15-18,</sup> "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup> 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

### **Following Jesus means not walking in darkness**

<sup>JOHN 8:12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

### **Live as children of light**

<sup>EPHESIANS 5:8-14</sup> "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather

expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

### **Brought out of darkness**

PSALM 107:14 "He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains."

## **2. ACCEPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY**

EPHESIANS 2:19 "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household."

No longer foreigners

Fellow citizens

God's people

Members of God's family - adopted

### **How do we become God's children? BELIEVE AND RECEIVE**

John 1:12, "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

### **Live as members of God's Household**

1 Timothy 3:15, "You will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

### **Live as God's children**

MATTHEW 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

ROMANS 8:16 "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

LUKE 6:35 "But **love your enemies**, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> **Be merciful**, just as your Father is merciful."

GALATIANS 3:26 "You are all sons of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus,"

PHILIPPIANS 2:15 "so that you may become **blameless and pure**, children of God **without fault** in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you **shine like stars** in the universe"

1JOHN 3:1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him"

<sup>1</sup> JOHN 5:2 “This is how we know that we love the children of God: **by loving God and carrying out His commands.** <sup>3</sup> This is love for God: to **obey His commands.** And His commands are not burdensome”

### **3. BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING**

MALACHI 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, `How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

#### **WHOLE TITHE = 10% OF OUR INCOME BELONGS TO GOD.**

To give less than 10% means we are robbing God and causes us to live under a curse

10% must be brought to the storehouse, the house of God or the church.

This is used for the needs of the church workers

This is a condition in order to be blessed by God in a marvelous way.

God is challenging us to TEST Him in this program

God is giving us an opportunity and choice in this program – like a CONTRACT. 10%

BELONGS TO HIM AND 90% WE ARE FREE TO USE FOR PERSONAL NEEDS.

#### **The one who gives little will receive little**

<sup>2</sup> CORINTHIANS 9:6 “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

#### **Sow for yourselves Righteousness**

HOSEA 10:12 “Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.”

#### **God cares for His children**

MATTHEW 6:26 “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

#### **Sow to please the Spirit**

GALATIANS 6:8 “The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life’

#### **Don't be weary in doing good.**

GALATIANS 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

### **4. BE BOLD TO BE DIFFERENT**

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

The way of the world is to compromise  
God's Way is to be bold to be different.  
How are we to be different?  
Have no affiliation with those who do not believe.  
Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.  
Touch nothing that is unclean  
God will receive us as His children.

Yoked together with unbelievers means having a legal relationship such as marriage, or legal attachments in business or partnership.

This does not mean working for some one who is not a believer or work for the government or go shopping and study in a school where the director is not a Christian.

### **Be Holy for I am Holy**

1 PETER 1:13 "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

### **Our goal in life is HOLINESS**

HEBREWS 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

### **Holy and Blameless**

EPHESIANS 1:4 "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

### **You must live Holy and Godly lives**

2 PETER 3:9-14 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of

righteousness. <sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”

## 5. Born again through the living and enduring Word of God.

1 PETER 1:23-25 “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.”

The Lord Jesus explaining to Nicodemus in John 3 “**YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN**”

Our situation as born again believers is explained in 1 John 3:1-10

“ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God!** And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.<sup>4</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> **No one who lives in him keeps on sinning.** No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. <sup>9</sup> **No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.** <sup>10</sup> This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.”

Compare with 1 John 1:6-10 “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”

IS THERE A CONTRADICTION IN THE TEACHING OF 1 JOHN 1 AND 1 JOHN 3?

NO! 1 John 1 refers to us as human beings who are sinful and there is no good in us.

Romans 3:10, 23.

1 John 3 refers to our position in Christ and Christ in us. In Christ there is no sin. Jesus Christ in us is sinless, Holy and Pure. We receive Jesus Christ by faith and that means He is in us.

Philippians 1:21 “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”

We are holy and live without sin when we totally submit our bodies to the Lord Jesus Christ and BY FAITH, ALLOW HIM TO LIVE HIS SINLESS LIFE IN AND THROUGH US IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## **6 Patient and standing firm until the Lord's Coming. James 5:7-8**

JAMES 5:7 "Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."

### **WE WILL MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR**

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13 "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage each other with these words.

### **WE WILL ALL BE CHANGED**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51 "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

### **WE DO NOT KNOW THE DAY AND THE TIME**

MATTHEW 25:13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

### **HE WILL COME SUDDENLY**

MT 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

MATTHEW 24:37 "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

## **HE WILL COME IN GLORY AND IN POWER**

<sup>MT 25:31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' <sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' <sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' <sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'<sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.