

Kingdom Identity #1

I. Identity Rooted in the Trinity, Kingdom, and Church.

1. United w/ Christ.

- a. We are in Christ (Eph. 1:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:12).
- b. Christ is in us (John 15:5; Gal. 2:20).
- c. We are like Christ (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 John 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:21).
- d. We are with Christ (Matt. 18:20; 28:20).

2. Filled w/ the Spirit.

- a. All followers of Jesus have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 12:13).
- b. All followers of Jesus can be empowered by the Spirit (Deut. 34:9; Acts 1:8).
- c. The Holy Spirit purifies followers of Jesus (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2).
- d. The Spirit reveals truth to us (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6; cf. Rom. 5:5).

3. Loved by the Father.

- a. God's primary motivation is *love* because that is his identity (John 3:16; 1 John 3:1; 1 John 4:8):

“Jesus speaks to the unique fellowship, or communion, that exists within the Holy Trinity, a communion where to know the one is to know the other two. What demarcates this extraordinary relationship, Father-Son-Spirit, is love.” (Gordon T. Smith, *Evangelical, Sacramental, and Pentecostal: Why the Church Should Be All Three*).

4. Connected to God's kingdom.

- a. We have transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Jesus (Col. 1:13).
- b. The kingdom of God is both *now* and *not yet*.
 - i. *Now*: inaugurated at Jesus' ministry (Mark 1:15; Matt. 12:28; Heb. 1:2; 6:5).
 - ii. *Not yet*: consummated at the end of the age (1 Cor. 15:24; cf. Ladd and Morphew).

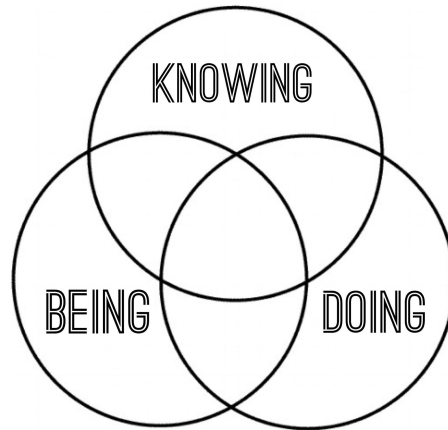
“The Kingdom is both future and present, it has been fulfilled in Christ's first coming and will be consummated in his second coming. To quote George Eldon Ladd, we live between the “already and the not yet,” between the cross' victory over sin and Satan and the coming age inaugurated by Christ's return.” - John Wimber

5. Part of God's family, the Church.

- a. Jesus is building his church (Matt. 16:18).
- b. All followers of Jesus are part of his Church (2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 12:23).
- c. The church is the community of God's kingdom (Howard Snyder) and has a certain level of authority (Matt. 16:19) and is considered the “pillar and foundation of truth (1 Tim. 3:15).
- d. The various metaphors used to describe the Church include “family” (1 Tim. 5:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:18), branches on a vine (John 15:5), a building (1 Cor. 3:9), a harvest (Matt. 13:1-30; John 4:35), a “temple” and “royal priesthood” (1 Pet. 2:4-8), and the “body of Christ” (1 Cor. 12:12-27).

II. Toward Discovering God's *Purpose* for Your Life.

A. Healthy Christian spirituality can be viewed through the lens of **knowing**, **being**, and **doing**:



B. **S.H.A.P.E.** -- a helpful tool and corresponding questions:

- **Spiritual gifts:** what are the gifts God has given you?
- **Heart:** what are you passionate about?
- **Abilities:** what are you naturally / supernaturally good at?
- **Personality:** who has God made you to be?
- **Experience:** where have you been?

III. Table Discussion Questions.

- What are the primary ways in which you connect with God's love and when have you recently experienced God's love in a transformative way?
- What are the primary ways that distract you from knowing and being secure in your identity in Christ?
- Out of the being-knowing-doing diagram, which one or two circles do you identify with most? How can you move towards incorporating more of the other circles into your life?
- Which person of the Trinity are you able to connect the most with and why?

IV. Next Week's Homework:

- Go to <http://www.redbluffvineyard.church/kingdom-identity/> and take the spiritual gifts test and bring your results next week (denomination is Assoc. of Vineyard Churches).