

NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST - 2

Disciple 1 | principle 20



b. New Authority

What does Jesus give to the disciples?

Luke 9:1-2

What commandment is given to the disciples?

Matt 28:18-20

What has God entrusted to us all?

2 Cor 5:18-20

Jesus gave the same authority He had when He was on earth to the disciples and to us. He came to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God. He has authority over satan and his demons, over sickness and death, over the whole of nature and all circumstances. The authority to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom is given to us. Now that we have been made righteous through Christ, God can work in power in us and through us.

c. New Responsibility

What is the church's task, our task?

Eph 3:10-12

What is the way in which Christ walked so that we may also walk?

Eph 5:1-2,8-9

What is the responsibility of man and woman?

Eph 5:22-28

In these texts we see that authority is coupled with responsibility. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were to care for and protect the garden with the authority given to them by God. The authority was not given to reign over one another but to serve one another.

One of our regional leaders teaches fencing at school. At one school a very loud group of children came in. The teacher said that her children could sometimes be like animals, were very unruly and not always kind. Our regional leader used his God-given authority to teach these children how to behave differently. He said that he believed that these children were kind, were very clever and had worked hard. Now it was time to do something fun. After 10 minutes a pupil came to ask if they were going to get a fencing lesson. The lesson went really well and the children wanted to help with the cleaning up.

Love One Another

In our marriage my wife and I recognized this struggle. I had always learned that the man was higher than the wife. The man was the head. That meant something along the lines of him always having something to say. In my eyes, the wife had to submit and listen. Fortunately God went to work in our marriage and how I look upon her has completely changed. Instead of laying down the law for her, I try to love her with my whole heart. Doing it this way, I noticed that I was more respected by her, much more than when I demanded it. We started to discover that authority has to do with caring and protecting, with loving and helping the other reach their destiny. I started to see that God had placed my wife next to me to rule together with me.

d. New Friendship

1 Pet 3:7-8 and Gal 3:28

Here we read that both man and woman share in God's grace and are one in Christ. In Christ there is no difference between man and woman. Peter emphasizes here how Christ in us gave grace. Let this grace therefore also work through your relationship with your partner and your relationships with your spiritual brothers and sisters, wherever you are.

Instead of thinking in terms of positions – who is the boss, who is best, who has the most knowledge and so on – we can accept one another as Christ has accepted us. Jesus sets the example of how in His servant-heartedness to others, His authority becomes visible. Let us also do that.

e. New Relationship with God

What was torn when Jesus died on the cross?

Matt 27:51

In the OT Jews went to the temple to worship God. This took place in a large building, known as the temple, which was comprised of three parts. The third part was called the Holy of Holies, which is where the ark of the covenant was kept. No one was ever allowed to enter there except the High Priest and only once a year. There was a thick, heavy curtain between this part and the rest of the temple where the sacrifices were made. This curtain was symbolic of the relationship between God and man. There was a clear barrier. When Jesus died the veil was torn. Through this, access to God the Father is possible again.

What are we called in Christ?

Eph 2:17-19



EXERCISE:

Write down for yourself the things for which you are responsible in your life. For example, you are a father and care for your wife and children, or you are mother and care for your husband and children. Or you run a business and have 20 people in your company. Maybe you are a teacher and have 25 children in your class. Or maybe you are a team leader for a group of people in a factory.

Write down which areas you use your authority as Jesus meant for you to do.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can stimulate, encourage or help those under your authority.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to show the **love** of God in your friendship circle. Take time in prayer to be quiet and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you about friends or family. He sometimes gives you thoughts on how you can show your love in a practical way.

Discuss with your mentor the areas for which you are responsible in your life. Discuss together how you can grow in these areas of responsibility. Talk together about what you think of authority. Do you find it difficult to listen or not at all? Do you find it difficult to serve others with the authority which has been given to you by God?

PRINCIPLE 20

In Jesus we get a new identity and authority. It is important to regularly renew our thinking so that we can live as heirs.



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