

“BUILDING A KINGDOM LIFESTYLE”

Tie-In: The overall focus of Part I is why and how to meditate on the Word. Meditating on the Word is part of a lifestyle we are not used to, but in this session, we learn why we need to put in the effort to build the kingdom lifestyle that meditating on the word is part of.

Takeaway: In this session, we learn that a lifestyle is the pattern of customs and habits that we live out. We learn that our lifestyle defines our identity, our future, and the example we set for others. If we understand that we are citizens of God’s kingdom, then we should have a different kingdom lifestyle than the lifestyles of the world. The kingdom lifestyle has a purpose: it protects us and if we live by it, God will treat us like citizens of His kingdom.

1 WHY WE MUST BUILD A KINGDOM LIFESTYLE

PHILIPPIANS 3:17-20 (NIV)

“17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

- We are citizens of heaven, and it takes effort to build a kingdom lifestyle.
- A lifestyle refers to patterns of habit.
 - The customs and habits we live out.

1 LIFESTYLE IS IDENTITY

- Do not be angry with people if they label you based on your habits.
 - If they call you a “liar,” “short-tempered,” etc.

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- This should be an opportunity for introspection.
- Your identity comes from your habits.
- Your lifestyle is your identity. A lifestyle practiced by a group is called a culture.
- All groups of people have a culture, habitual norms, the way things are done.
- Churches have a culture too.
 - e.g. There are missionary churches, worship-focused churches, prayer-focused churches, etc.

2 LIFESTYLE IS FUTURE

- Your lifestyle affects your future.
 - e.g. Lifestyles of laziness, disorganizations, dishonesty, and alcoholism. These will negatively impact your future.

3 LIFESTYLE IS BLESSING

PROVERBS 10:6 (NIV)

“Blessings crown the head of the righteous, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.”

- If we want blessing, we must have a lifestyle that is righteous.

4 LIFESTYLE IS BEING AN EXAMPLE

- Your lifestyle becomes an example for others around you.
- Does “follow my example” sound arrogant to you?
 - It shouldn’t, because like it or not, we are already an example for others. We might as well live like examples.
- To build a lifestyle is to be conscious of the example you become for others.
- Make sure you are not ashamed of the example you set.
- Who is your example?
 - Paul says, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”
 - We cannot live as we would like anymore. Christ now lives in us.

ROMANS 12:2 (NIV)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

- You have two mutually exclusive choices:
 - Follow the lifestyle of the world.

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- Follow the lifestyle of the kingdom.
- God's kingdom has a different culture and lifestyle than the culture of the world.
- Our bodies are temples for the Holy Spirit. Do we understand this?

ROMANS 12:2 (NIV)

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”

- We must live as people of light.
 - Are we living as people of light?
 - Do we detest what is of darkness?

2 THE KINGDOM LIFESTYLE

1 GOD'S LIFESTYLE HAS A PURPOSE

- The lifestyle God wants us to have has a purpose. The boundaries God sets have a purpose, just like road markings have a purpose to keep us safe. The standards of living He wants us to live by have a purpose.
- Do we detest or give thanks for the boundaries God puts in place for us?

PHILIPPIANS 3:19-20 (NIV)

“19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ;”

- We have a citizenship in heaven.
- Like nationals extracted from times of trouble, because of our citizenship, Heaven will extract us from times of trouble.
- If we live like citizens of the Kingdom of God, then God will treat us like citizens.
- If we build a kingdom lifestyle, God will intervene for us.