Understanding Kingdom Citizenship!

“People of Light”

*KJV* Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.

*KJV* Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

*KJV* 1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

The Kingdom of God is also referred to as “The Kingdom of Light” while those not yet born again are still under the power of darkness!

The word *power* here means “authority” and “darkness” means ignorance, misery and evil!

There was a time we were all under the authority of misery & evil!

*NIV* 2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Blindness is the result of darkness—Healing blindness was one of Jesus primary ministries.

*KJV* Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and *recovering of sight to the blind*, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Again blindness is always associated with ignorance, misery & evil.

So darkness or blindness produces ignorance and inability to perceive spiritual truths or the true riches of God’s Kingdom.

There are two fundamental reasons for spiritual blindness:

The *first reason* is (birth origin) Jesus tells Nicodemas in John 3 we must be *born from above* in order to receive and perceive spiritual or kingdom things.

The *second reason* is (ignoring the Truth) the apostle Paul says some are born again-from above but their minds or thinking is worldly!

*NAS* Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men,
according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. (ignoring the truth & believing the world)

- **Philosophy** is literally “the love of wisdom and knowledge”!

But not just any wisdom and knowledge but “worldly” wisdom and knowledge and more specifically knowledge people seek without God.

Remember “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” in the Garden of Eden? Satan offered Adam & Eve knowledge apart from God!

Remember also how fallen angels taught men science, metallurgy, witchcraft and technology etc.

*James 3:15* says this wisdom is earthly, sensual and demonic!

**Independence vs. interdependence**

Independence is the desire for self-sufficiency and self-governement, while interdependence is the idea of being mutually reliant on one another.

God is reliant on mankind to the degree His choses to use us to accomplish His will!

Since God is sovereign and all powerful He can accomplish His will through many means in many ways.

**One problem with growth, maturity and knowledge is the desire for independence.**

The more knowledge we gain the independence we seek; however God desires to teach us interdependence so we remain connected covenant people—this is how The Kingdom of God works.

- **Since we are citizens of two worlds—This world and the Kingdom of God we would be wise to gain the skills needed to succeed in both!**

In *Luke 16:8* Jesus says… *for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.*

What did Jesus mean?

Jesus is giving a parable about a dishonest steward or manager who was wasting his master’s goods.

His master calls him on the carpet and tells him to show the books and reveal what he’s done with his master’s money.
The manager knew if he got fired he had no other skills and didn’t want to do manual labor so he goes to all who owe his master money and cuts them a deal and gains all their favor.

Now let’s read the entire verse of Luke 16:8!

NIV Luke 16:8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

The manager was wise in how he has gained public favor for himself and for the master by making people think of his master as a gracious man!

If the master punishes the manager now, the master looks bad in the eyes of the people. The manager could be jailed, but he uses his knowledge of his master and wisely stakes everything on his master’s reputation as a generous man.

You may ask how could Jesus give this unjust manager praise?

The praise is not about the manager’s character (he was called "unjust") but about his skill and knowledge of his boss and ways of the world.

"Wisely" does not refer to character but to cleverness. What is praised is not the dishonesty but the resourcefulness, not the corruption but the celerity, not the fraud but the foresight.

The moral of the story is: Use possessions to serve people, because everything we have belongs to our master who loves all people.

In doing so we store up treasures in heaven and build relationships here on earth with people whose influence can improve our status in this world and God can use for His glory and the building of His kingdom.

NIV Luke 16:11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

Proverbs 19:4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.

Proverbs 14:20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.