



## Ethical Maturity as Kingdom Discipleship

Dr. Keith Walker

Minister-at-Large Christian & Missionary Alliance, Canadian Mid West District

August 16th, 2015

### A. Ethical Maturity as Seeking the Kingdom of God, Time and God's Truth Applied

**Hebrews 5:11-6:1, 9-12** <sup>11</sup>We have much to say about this [Christ being the source of our eternal salvation and high priest], but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. <sup>12</sup>In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup>Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the **teaching about righteousness**. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the **mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil**.

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and **be taken forward to maturity** . . . <sup>9</sup>Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. <sup>10</sup>God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup>We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that **what you hope for may be fully realized**. <sup>12</sup>We do not want you to become lazy, but to **imitate** those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

### B. Stirred but Not Shaken: Earlier Message from Hebrews 12 (July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015)

We have described the Kingdom of God (of Heaven) as the **range of God's effective will**; where **what God wants done is done**. It is God and His everlasting reign. We are **called to yield to Him** as our King and our Anchor. We need to be **stirred to love Him** with our whole being and **to receive His Kingship in our lives**. In so doing we can not be shaken. The triune God is our covenant keeping, sanctifying, healing and redeeming God who has never lost a battle and His kingdom WILL NOT be shaken. In Him our **longings are fulfilled** and our **fears are quelled**: we are safe, secure, significant, and unshaken. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Romans 8:28, 38, 39)

**Hebrews 12: 28, 29:** Therefore, since we are receiving a **kingdom that cannot be shaken**, let us be thankful, and so **worship God acceptably** with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” **Romans 12:1, 2:** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 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. **Hebrews 13: 8:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

### C. What Does Kingdom Living Look Like (Relationships, Responsibilities, Reliance)

#### 1. *Ethics in Relation to Others (Heb 13:1-3)*

- **Sustained love** for insiders and outsiders (1, 2)
- **Sympathetic love** for those suffering (3)

#### 2. *Ethics in Relation to Ourselves (Heb 13:4-9)*

- **Sexual discipline** (4) - 1 Cor 6:18-20; 1 Cor 9:27; Mt 5:27-32
- **Satisfaction** (5, 6): content and confident, not covetous - Lk 12:15; 1 Tim 6:6-10
- **Solidarity with leaders** (7) and their positive example
- **Steadfast trust in Jesus** (8): in context of strange teaching and contrary culture
- **Shun strange teaching** (9) - Gal 1:6-9

#### 3. *Ethics in Relation to God (Heb 13:10-19)*

- **Separation unto God** (pursuit of holiness) and away from profane
- **Sacrifice of praise** (15, 16) in words and deeds
- **Submission to leaders, conscience, and ways of God** (18, 19)

#### 4. *The Dynamics of Kingdom Ethics (Heb 13:20, 21)*

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> **equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- **Our Source** – 13:8
- **Our Sufficiency** – 2 Cor 3:5; 9:8

**D. The Essence and Practical Application of Message:** In the Kingdom of God, a disciple’s ethical maturity is marked, over time, by a dynamic, vital and transforming friendship with Jesus Christ and a steadfast and disciplined reliance on the Holy Spirit; wherein the ever-growing Christian lives a wide-awake life in relation to others, to oneself and to God. The disciple seeks the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; ever praying: “Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.”