



A Kingdom Influencer

Matthew 5:13

Why Is Our Gospel-Shaped Identity So Important?

John 1:12 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Two Main Reasons:

1. Directly impacts our **PURPOSE** in life
 - a. Everyone longs for their life to have purpose, but too often we seek that purpose in the wrong things.
 - b. The only way to fulfill the purpose deep in our soul is not with things, stuff, or people's opinions, but to **COMMIT OUR MIND AND HEART** to Jesus.

John 7:37-38 (ESV) On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'"

- c. Why do we allow **THINGS** to define us rather than God? The answer is simple but not easy.
 - Simple Answer = We believe the lies of the world more than we believe the promises of God.
 - Not Easy = We are immersed in a world that constantly sends the message that we are lacking in some way. Truth is we lack nothing in Christ. (**Colossians 2:9 - 10 ESV**)
2. Directly **IMPACTS** how we respond to life's circumstances
 - a. Your identity is independent from your current circumstance.
 - b. Examples: "When your circumstance says...", "God says..."
 - c. *John 1:12, Ephesians 3:12, Ephesians 1:5, Colossians 2:10, Matthew 5:13, Malachi 3:16, Matthew 5:9, 1 Corinthians 3:23, Ephesians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Corinthians 15:21*

We are the Salt of the Earth

Matthew 5: 13 (ESV) You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

1. Salt as a flavor **ENHANCER**.
 - a. Presence of salt doesn't add flavor; rather, it allows the natural flavor to break through
 - b. We enhance the world by our presence. The question is what does that presence look like? How do we leverage our presence to maximize our impact? Be a **KINGDOM INFLUENCER**.
2. What does it mean to be a kingdom influencer?
 - a. The **STRENGTH** of your influence is **DIRECTLY** proportional to the depth of your understanding of "How does God see you?"
 - Example: The deeper grasp you have on the truth that you are God's child, then the less you will care what others think about you. (**1 John 3:2 ESV**)
 - b. **EVERYBODY** has influence.
 - Influence is not position, wealth, fame, or authority but you have to decide to use it and use it wisely.
 - c. What I do with my influence in this **TEMPORARY** world matters in **ETERNITY**.
 - Kingdom Influencers build the Kingdom by building relationships. (**Matthew 28:18-20 ESV**)
 - d. You have to be **INTENTIONAL**.
 - Set goals on forming relationships instead of completing projects.
 - Be the invitation - move towards others instead of waiting for others to come to you.
 - e. Realize that **CRITICISM** is the price of influence
 - If you don't think this is true then think about what happened to Jesus as His influence grew.

• **Do I believe the promises of God more than the lies of the world?**

• **How do I use my influence?**

• **Do I form relationships to fill a perceived lack or as a result of overflowing love?**

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. — **C. S. Lewis, C. S. Lewis's Mere Christianity**