

5. Corinthians: Identity

For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? 1 Corinthians 3.3

You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment.... Matthew 5.21-22

The law was purposed to restrain certain behaviors while encouraging others. But the deeper purpose of the law was to nurture _____ within the believing community, a trust grounded in God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Daily life in Jesus' day was unimaginable without _____ vows which were strengthened by adding words like by heaven or earth, sort of like verifying a document by a notary public today.

Jesus, the Word of God, reveals Who God is! In the same way, our _____ reveal who we are! As Jesus' students, when we speak our words are to reveal the true intentions of our hearts. There is to be no duplicity in speech with an apprentice of Jesus.

My _____ is to be grounded in the Spirit of Truth, so that when I speak people will trust what I say,

The Bible also teaches that those in the Spirit, that is, those who name the Name of Jesus can also be "_____", which some Bibles translate as "carnal."

What are the characteristic of _____? Babies are self-centered! Babies "are unduly affected by its senses."

Beyond the issue of being "infants in Christ," there is the impact that _____ can have on a believer's ability to mature and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

What's the _____ to self-centeredness, to living by feelings, to getting past traumas from the past? Christ on the Cross!

...no one is left out of the Kingdom of God. _____ are invited, all have a place; all can repent...

_____ is all about identity! Who am I? That's the question we are called to ask ourselves as students of Jesus.

I have all I need in God's Word and Spirit to _____ as a man in Christ over self-centeredness, to triumph over "the mere sensations of...the lower self," and to triumph over life's trauma. When the Word and Spirit are our dominant formative forces, then the messenger becomes the Message!