

Basic Bible Truths - Message #11
**"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN'S POSITION
 AND CONDITION"**

Introduction:

1. In our present session we're going to see what the Bible teaches about the Christian's *Position and Condition*.

Another way to describe this subject is to call it the Christian's *STANDING* and *STATE*.

1. Now...there is a distinction made in the New Testament between the two.
 1. Turn to I Corinthians 1, and let's read Vss. 4-8.

4 *"I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,*
 5 *that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,*
 6 *even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,*
 7 *so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
 8 *who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

 2. Paul says, *"I thank my God always for you guys!"*
 3. Now...that sounds pretty good.
 4. Those verses sound like the Christians at Corinth were some pretty nice Christians.
 5. And Paul is thanking God for them!
 2. But...look at Vs. 11...
"...I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you."
 1. So...Paul says...*"I hear there's some fighting going on among you."*
 2. Now...look at 3:2-3...
 2 *"I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,*
 3 *for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"*
 3. Here...Paul adds that there is not only strife and fighting among them...but also *jealousy*!
 4. Notice...he says they are WALKING... like *"mere men"*.
 5. What does he mean by that?
 6. What he means by that is that they are ACTING like **unsaved men**.
 7. So...Paul isn't throwing any bouquets at these Corinthian Christians!
 3. But...he's not through yet.
 1. Look at 5:1.
"It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife."
 2. Paul says...*"There's a sin so bad among you Christians at Corinth...*

1. *That even unbelievers don't talk about it."*
2. Someone in the church in Corinth was sleeping with his stepmother!
3. And...in the next verse...he says that these Christians didn't even feel any guilt or shame about their sin!

1 Cor 5:2

"And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst."

4. But he's not done yet!
 1. Because in Chapter 6, Paul rebukes them for suing one another...
 2. And in chapter 11, he says they were even getting drunk at communion!
 4. Do you see a problem here?
 1. He starts out by saying some nice things about these believers.
 2. But then...he rebukes them for all the sin in their midst!
 3. How do we explain that?
 4. Well...we'll find the answer to the problem in a study of the Christian's POSITION and CONDITION!
2. **QUESTION:** What happens when a person places his/her faith in Jesus Christ?
1. Do you remember the session where we talked about the Last Adam?
 1. If so...you'll remember that we learned that there are only two families of humanity.
 2. There are only two streams of humanity.
 3. When we're born, we are born into Adam's family...the sinful human family.
 4. But...when we placed our faith in Christ...
 1. We were "born-again"...
 2. Into God's new family...
 3. Which is being created right now...
 4. Through Jesus Christ, the Last Adam!
 5. So...our POSITION has changed!
 6. We're no longer IN Adam...we are now IN Christ (*II Corinthians 5:17*).
 2. Remember Charles and Diana?
 1. Well...when Charles was born, he was born into the king's family.
 2. What did that make him? **A PRINCE!**
 3. Now...he hasn't always acted like a prince...but his "**standing**" or "**position**" is that of a prince!
 4. In fact...regardless of how he ACTS, nobody calls him "*Charlie*" or "*Chuck*".
 5. He's always called "*Prince Charles*"!
 6. The moment he was born...he assumed a certain position.
 3. Now...the same thing is true of the Christian.

1. Our "*position*" or "*standing*" is what God made you and me the moment we placed our faith in Jesus Christ and were born-again, spiritually!
 1. Our old **position** was that we were children of the evil one.
 1. We were sinners...
 2. We were spiritually lost...
 3. We were spiritually dead and without hope in this world.
 2. **But...now we have a new position!**
 3. Well...what exactly is our new "position" or "*standing*" in our relationship with God?
 4. To begin with, the Bible teaches us that our new position in Christ is far superior to that of any prince in this world! (*Even the prince of Dubai!*)
 5. Prince Charles is a pauper compared to the riches that we now have in our new position in Christ.
2. First of all...the Bible tells us that we are now the children of God!

John 1:12-13

12 *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, even to those who believe in His name,*

13 *who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

I Jn 3:2

*"Beloved, **now we are children of God**, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is."*

Gal 3:26

*"For you are all **sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus."*

1. So...our POSITION in Christ is that as Christians...we are **the children** or **the sons of God!**
2. Now...we don't always ACT like the children of God...but that doesn't change our POSITION.
3. We'll talk about our actions in a few minutes.
3. But...there's more in the Bible about our new POSITION or STANDING with God.
 1. We also have many wonderful benefits and privileges now.
 2. We have His love and His care and His provision for our every need in this life.
 3. And as His "children" ...we are also HEIRS to all that God has!
 4. **What's an "heir"?**
 5. And "*heir*" is person's son or relative... or someone that receives all that person had when he dies.
 6. And the Bible says that **every** Christian...
 1. Is a child or son of God...
 2. And as such...
 3. Is and HEIR to all God has...
 4. Even though God will never die!
 7. Here's what the Bible says about you...if you're a Christian:

Rom 8:16-17

16 *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*
 17 *and if children, **heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...**"*

1 Pet 1:3-4

3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

4 ***to obtain an inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you..."*

Eph 1:10-11

*"In Him also we have obtained **an inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will..."*

4. Now...it's natural to think of "**things**" when we think of what an "heir" receives.
 1. And it's true that God owns all things.
 2. The whole earth belongs to God...and the sun, moon, and stars!
 3. Now...we may not own even a little piece of the earth...
 1. But in reality it all belongs to us...
 2. Because we are **heirs** of God.
 5. But...there's something more important than what God HAS, and that's what God IS!
 1. We are heirs to His holiness and His love...
 1. And His gentleness...
 2. And His peace...
 3. And His goodness, etc.
 2. We are heirs to all the attributes of Christ listed in Galatians 5:22-23...
- 22 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*
 23 *gentleness, self-control..."*
3. So...as a Christian, your new "position" in Christ makes you a CHILD of God.
 4. And...an HEIR of God.
 5. But...there's more!

4. The Christian's POSITION is also that of a **KING and a PRIEST**.

1. Here's what the Bible says...

Rev 1:5-6

5 *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

6 *And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*

1 Pet 2:9

*"But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..."*

1. Now...we don't think of ourselves as "Kings"...do we?
2. But the Bible says you are a king.
3. And someday...the Scripture says... you will reign with Him.
4. And you will sit on His throne with Him.
2. Did you ever think of yourself as a "PRIEST"?
 1. In the OT, the priests were those who came into the temple...the place where God dwelt.
 2. They were the only ones allowed to do that.
 3. But...since Christ died...
 1. All those who put their faith in Him...
 2. Are allowed to be in His presence all the time.
 4. Hebrews 10:19-20 says...

19 *"Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence **to enter the holy place** by the blood of Jesus,*

20 *by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh..."*

3. You may remember that when Christ died, the veil in the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom.
 1. At that moment, the holy of holies was open for all to see.
 2. That meant that we don't need to stay outside any longer...but those who put their faith in Christ could come right into God's presence...at any time!

Eph 2:13

*"But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off **have been brought near** by the blood of Christ."*

3. So...the idea is that Christians are God's priests.
4. And we can come boldly to the throne of Grace whenever we choose.

Heb 4:16

"Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

Rev 5:10

*"And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and **priests** to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."*

I. But...there's more to our POSITION...because the Bible also says we are **PERFECT!**

1. We don't look perfect, feel perfect, or act perfect...but the Bible says we are in a PERFECT POSITION.
 1. **Why?** Because we are POSITIONED **In Christ** before the Father.
 2. Ephesians 2:4-6 says...
- 4 *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*
5 *even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*
6 *and raised us up **with Him**, and seated us **with Him** in the heavenly places, **in Christ Jesus**..."*

3. So...in God's eyes...our POSITION is **PERFECT!**
4. Because He has placed us "in Christ" and He always sees us "in Christ.!"
5. We are new creations (*II Corinthians 5:17*).
6. This is our eternal position, whether or not we're aware of it.
2. And...our POSITION also makes us the DWELLING PLACE of the Holy Spirit.
 1. I Corinthians 6:19...

*"Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God**, and that you are not your own?"*

2. The Holy Spirit is within every Christian and He will never leave us!
3. We often either, don't know that...or we act as though we belonged to ourselves.
4. But...the Bible says every Christian has been bought with a price and we don't belong to ourselves.
5. So...the Holy Spirit is another result of our POSITION.

*Now...that's only the tip of the iceberg...but those things are the product of the believer's POSITION.

5. But...if Christian's are all those things...then how come Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers about all the sins they were involved in?
 1. Well...don't forget the **whole title** of this session: is "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN'S POSITION or "*standing*"...**AND** CONDITION or "*state*".
 1. What's our "CONDITION"?...or "STATE"?
 2. Our condition is what we are in our Christian **WALK**.
 3. **AND OUR CONDITION OR "WALK" DOESN'T ALWAYS MATCH OUR POSITION, DOES IT?!**
 4. Our "condition" may be altogether different than the exalted "position" we have in the sight of God!
 5. And it's in our condition or "*walk*" that we develop into God's purpose for our lives.
 6. It's in our "*walk*" that we grow from infancy in Christ to maturity in Christ!
 7. Now...watch this...our POSITION always remains the same.
 8. But...our CONDITION is variable!
 9. Remember...Prince Charles may not always "act" like a prince...but he's still a prince!
 10. Christians may not always act like they are "sons of God"...
 1. Or... "princes"
 2. Or... "Heirs of God"
 3. Or... "Kings"
 4. Or... "Priests"
 5. Or... "Perfect"
 6. Or... "Dwelling places of the Holy Spirit."
 11. But they **ARE** all those things *because God says they are!*

2. Now get this...Our POSITION is *the way God look at us....*But our CONDITION is *the way we act!*
 1. Our **Position** is what God made us at the moment we believed.
 2. Our **Condition** is the way we live.
3. Now...most of the time in our lives...our CONDITION is not equal to our POSITION.
 1. But...God wants it to be.
 2. That's why He works in each and every believer...past, present and future.
 3. He wants to make us like the Lord Jesus Christ!

Rom 8:28-29

28 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to **His purpose.***

29 *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to become conformed to the image of His Son...**"*

4. God wants to bring our *Condition* into line with our *Position*.
5. And when He finishes His work in our lives...our *Position* and our *Condition* will be just alike!
6. We're going to see much more about that in our last session.

Basic Bible Truths - Lesson #11

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN'S POSITION & CONDITION"

1. The Christian's "*position*" & "*condition*" can also be called the Christian's _____ and _____ (p. 1)
2. In I Corinthians 1:11, Paul says that he had heard there was something going on between the Christians in Corinth. What was it? (p. 1)

3. What did Paul mean when he told the Corinthian Christians that they were walking like "*mere men*"? (p. 1) _____

4. What was the horrible sin he mentions in I Corinthians 5:1? (p. 2)

5. What sin were these believers committing at the Communion table? (p. 2)

6. What made Prince Charles a prince? (p. 2) _____

7. The Bible says that Christians are children of God. What makes us children of God? (p. 3) _____
8. The Bible says that Christians are "*heirs*". What is an "*heir*"? (p. 4)

9. What are the attributes of Christ that we have inherited? (p. 4)

10. As God's **PRIESTS**, what are Christians allowed to do? (p. 6) _____

11. What verse in the Bible tells us that we can come to the throne of grace any

time that we want to? (p. 6) *Please cite the verse and then write it in the space below.* _____

12. Why does God see us as "*perfect*"? (p. 6) _____

13. When Christians act like they belong to themselves...what verse of Scripture are they violating? (p. 6) _____

14. What is meant by the Christian's "**CONDITION**"? (p.7)_____

15. Does our "**POSITION**" always match our "**CONDITION**"?
()YES () NO

16. When will they match? (p. 8) _____

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