

**“RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE KINGDOM”
(MATTHEW 5:17-20)**

CENTRAL TRUTH

- Based on the authority of the Word of God, righteousness qualifies a person for Heaven, but that righteousness must satisfy God.

TRUTH N^o. 1 (Vs. 5:17)

THE WORD OF GOD BECAME FLESH.

- Having Kingdom character doesn't set aside the Law. It is the living out of God's righteousness in this life. (See notes below)
- Jesus Christ is the completion of the Law and Prophets (OT).

TRUTH N^o. 2 (Vs. 5:18)

THE WORD OF GOD IS ETERNALLY TRUE.

- The Law and Prophets – the Word of God in Jesus' day continues to be true.
- If the Word of God could be adapted or changed to fit the whims of culture or men, then it would lose its authority.

TRUTH N^o. 3 (Vs. 5:19)

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE GUIDE FOR ALL GENERATIONS.

- The commandments are still binding because they serve to show us the guilt of all humanity (Romans 3:19-23).
- Not only are they binding but they are the code of conduct for all humanity and should be taught to every generation.

TRUTH N^o. 4 (Vs. 5:20)

THE WORD OF GOD DEMANDS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- Entrance into the Kingdom of God requires a righteousness that satisfies God.
- The standard for righteousness is established by God, not man and cannot be obtained by “checking your boxes.”

KINGDOM CITIZENS ARE: (FROM KINGDOM CHARACTER 1-3)

1. BANKRUPT SPIRITUALLY

- Recognition of our spiritual inadequacy and the depravity of the human soul that results in asking Jesus for salvation and depending upon Him for all things.

2. BROKENHEARTED BY SIN'S DAMAGE

- Grieved at sin's damage to the souls of others as well as our own soul.

3. BOWED BEFORE GOD'S AUTHORITY

- Compliant to the will of God and conforming to the Word of God.

4. CRAVING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Believers must be driven by a craving to be like Christ in their thoughts and actions.

5. COMPASSIONATE WITH OTHERS

- Mercy is more than just feeling bad over the sad estate of others. Mercy – Godly mercy is moved to action by that feeling.

6. CLEAN IN HEART BEFORE GOD

- Applied to the heart, purity refers to single-mindedness, undivided devotion, and spiritual integrity.

7. SEEKING GOD'S PEACE FOR ALL

- Having personal peace with God, Kingdom citizens seek to help others find that peace with God.

8. SUFFERING PERSECUTION FOR KINGDOM LIVING.

- Kingdom living runs contrary to popular culture because the world hates Jesus.

9. SERVING JOYFULLY.

- Rejoice because of great eternal reward and gladdened because we join a company of other faithful witnesses.

When Kingdom citizens live out who they are in Christ, they will be SALT and LIGHT in the community where God has placed them. They will influence their community for Christ when they:

1. Season their community with Christ by being the taste of Christ to those around them.
2. Share Christ with others and stimulate a desire to know Christ by their behavior among the community.
3. Scatter the darkness of their community by confronting sin and standing for Christ boldly in that community.
4. Seek to glorify God in all that they are and do.