

The Genuinely Born Again Are Born Of The Spirit

Abide #8
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They abide in Jesus and fellowship in homes

To Whom Do You Give The Right Hand Of Fellowship?

"I AM where two or three are gathered in My Name."



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

If you're *genuinely* born again and yearn to be part of a home fellowship that serves our Father's purposes, then it's essential that you discern through the Holy Spirit who is *genuine* born again. First, do you allow anyone in who calls himself a Christian? Our Father never intended for the extended spiritual family of a home fellowship in Christ to be a free-for-all. Why? Because the home fellowships the Spirit brings together are a mutually supportive fighting unit in the battle against Satan for the souls of mankind. You exist as a fellowship family for Father's purposes, not for your comfort!

Authentic home fellowships are anchored in the **communal righteousness** which **repentance** produces. And as our Lord's redemptive ambassadors to the world, it's by the indwelling Holy Spirit that you are unified and guided. Nominal Christians in your fellowship (people who aren't indwelt by the Holy Spirit) will hinder you from communally fulfilling Father's purposes. Let us explain.

👹 Satan would love for his captives—nominal Christians who tolerate unconfessed sin—to infiltrate the fellowship of the *genuine* (2Timothy 2:26). Since he ***"disguises himself as an angel of light"*** (2Corinthians 11:14), he can readily conceal himself in the nominal. Around 62% of adults in the U.S. identify as being Christian. But 67% of these don't believe the devil even exists, so Christendom is vulnerable to demonic infiltration. For discussion sake we're going to put "Christians" into three broad categories so the *genuine* can discern who they fellowship with:

- 1). The *genuinely* born again understand their lifelong relational responsibility to our heavenly Father in fulfilling His will: His grace with purpose for those who belong to Jesus as their Lord.
- 2). People who've been declared "born again" by religious leaders but aren't indwelt by the Holy Spirit remain "Christian" in name only – nominal Christians.
- 3). And there are people who as infants were received as "Christian" through a religious rite.

Father's New Covenant Prescribes A Way Of Life

The <i>Genuine's</i> New Covenant Life	Christian Life Devoid Of The New Covenant	
Life after conversion as per God's Word: After conversion you grow in understanding the depth of your relational responsibility when you enter into the New Covenant. This <u>way of life</u> in being about Father's purposes is entirely different than nominal Christianity. Your loving intimacy with Father spurs you to fulfill His will, to seek to become more like Lord Jesus, and to trust in the Spirit's guidance and spiritual power. Sharing your Lord's deep concern for the lost around you among your relatives, neighbors, co-workers, you're keenly aware of God's presence within you in the person of the Holy Spirit.	Life after "conversion" as per man's theology: Being considered a "Christian" as an infant or being called "born again" as an adult <u>but</u> without understanding the New Covenant results in being ensnared in one of the many divisions of nominal Christianity (Jude 19). The nominal life is as devoted to the same worldly values as unbelievers. Bible teaching <u>without application</u> lets you live as a "good Christian" by attending religious services or Bible studies without putting God's Word into practice. In not intimately relating to our Lord Jesus or our heavenly Father by doing His will, the Holy Spirit has no role in your life.	
	Conversion: someone says you're "born again"	Conversion: considered "Christian" as an infant

Conversion: *Genuinely* born again

Not dependent on the detrimental influence of various theologies, the *genuine* understand from Scripture that their lives must revolve around Father's purpose for them as Christ's own. Among those who were converted as adults, this life purpose of loving and obedient service to their Lord depends on whether they embraced the true Gospel and received the indwelling Holy Spirit as a new creation in Him (2Corinthians 5:17). Those without the Holy Spirit within them are incapable of fulfilling Father's purposes. No amount of self-effort can avail! And those infants who were considered "Christian" through a rite or ceremony have grown up to fill the pews of nominal Christianity, especially in liberal congregations. The danger for the home fellowship of the *genuine* is that the nominal are readily inclined to integrate into the fellowship family those who identify themselves as "Christian" no matter what lifestyle or belief system they follow. You can be sure that this "open door policy" for people without the Holy Spirit will create tension when it comes to living repentantly and upholding communal righteousness.

???A question that you need to answer from Scripture: Should the all-important "*right hand of fellowship*" (Galatians 2:9) be given to those who identify themselves as "Christian" but aren't *genuinely* born again? When including people into the home fellowship family of the *genuine*, you must discern **if** they really belong to our Lord Jesus before they can enter. Get together with them as often as need be outside the fellowship gathering for loving and frank discussion of where they stand with Christ. You and others from your fellowship family may be our Father's instruments to lead them into being *genuinely* born again in our Lord Jesus and thereby be welcomed into biblical fellowship as an authentic new brother or sister!

"Here is the endurance of the saints, those who are keeping the commandments of God and their trust in Jesus" (Revelation 14:12; also 1John 2:4).

Keep in mind that "saint" describes the *genuine*, those who by God's grace and their obedient trust in Jesus have separated themselves from the world's values and been set apart for Father's purposes. Our Lord Jesus told you how you could recognize another saint in Him: ***"By their fruits you will know them"*** (Matthew 7:20; also 3:8). Lasting spiritual fruit for the *genuine* encompasses these biblical attributes:

- ◆ your child-like obedient trust as you fulfill our Father's purposes to His glory,
- ◆ you loving our Lord Jesus in His rule of your life as you serve as His redemptive ambassador,
- ◆ you cooperating with the Holy Spirit as He produces Christ-like character in you, and you experiencing divine encounters and interventions according to Father's will for you,
- ◆ your ongoing repentant living out of loving gratitude for Father's grace to you as Christ's own.

In particular, these attributes describe the *genuinely* born again who have taken hold of and enacted the way of life that is prescribed for those who embrace the New Covenant. Even people who are *genuinely* born again may need some reprogramming in order to embrace the New Covenant way of life which is pleasing to our Father (1Thessalonians 4:1; 2Timothy 2:4). Your fellowship family must have a mutual understanding of the New Covenant **if** you're to experience together the ongoing way of life which the New Covenant entails.

Covenants Reflect God's Great Love For Mankind

*"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His **covenant of love** to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments"* (Deuteronomy 7:9; Nehemiah 1:5; Daniel 9:4).

Love is at the very heart of abiding in the New Covenant, just as love was central in the Mo-

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saic covenant. God revealed Himself as “*showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments*” (Exodus 20:6; John 14:21,23). Our right response to such amazing love is this: “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might*” (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37). As we’ve noted before, the Hebrew word that expresses your heart devotion to God is *ahav* [uh-HAHV], a yearning to cling to Him with all that’s within you. Hebrew letters have meaning, and those that comprise *ahav* mean “**a window into the Father’s heart**.” It’s the Spirit of Jesus in us Who enables us to experience this depth of love as we call Father our **Abba, “Dad”!** (Romans 8:15). Isn’t this the richness of spiritual intimacy that we who are *genuine* truly long for?

👍 It is indispensable it is for your home fellowship family to understand your love-motivated relational responsibilities to your Father that are conveyed in the commands in the Newer Testament. Just as the commands in the Mosaic covenant were for all the Israelites to make their way of life, so too the commands in the Newer Testament are given in the plural for the *genuine* to collectively apply.

“These are the terms of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make...” (Deuteronomy 29:1).



Here's a bit of historic detail about covenants which may not be familiar to you but was well known over the centuries in which the Bible was written. The Older Testament reveals that God’s covenants specify how His people are to relate to Him, and the way of life that’s required of those who embrace the covenant. The “*terms of the covenant*” which God set forth are not like “creedal statements” which you just need to agree with by your intellect. The terms of the covenant which God establishes define the way you are to live that pleases Him. The covenant agreement format was widely recognized internationally as a “**suzerain/vassal pact**”. In order to establish a covenant, the greater person, known as the suzerain—our heavenly Father in this case—initiates and specifies the particular terms of the covenant He is making with the lesser person (we His people).

The covenant stipulations comprise the suzerain's detailed commands regarding the lesser person's behavior and responsibilities. One of the non-negotiable demands of this pact is always the undivided and exclusive faithfulness of the vassal to the suzerain. The Mosaic covenant which was established between God and the Hebrews involved both the specific commands as well as the consequences of their obedience and disobedience.

(To better understand covenants, please read: [Topic 2, The Suzerain-Vassal Basis to God’s Covenants](#), in our article *Preparing Home Fellowship Families for the Dark Days of Chastisement*.)

Remember, It’s The Seal That Identifies The *Genuine*

If you want to understand how our Lord Jesus recognizes those who really belong to Him in the New Covenant, we need to revisit the covenants in the Older Testament. When a covenant is ratified and consummated, it is sealed with a noticeable indicator. With Noah, God placed the *rainbow* in the heavens. As a sign of His covenant with Abraham, men had to be *circumcised* (see Romans 4:11). In the conversion of the *genuine* in our Lord Jesus, we receive the *Holy Spirit*:



“*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having trusted, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who is an earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory*” (Ephesians 1:13,14).

The activity of the Holy Spirit within the *genuine* is no less evidence than the physical evidence of a rainbow or circumcision. It's only with His presence in each of the *genuine* that a home fellowship of the saints demonstrates Spirit-guided and empowered mutual cooperation in fulfilling your Father's purposes. It requires your fellowship family's intentional discussion in order to help each other fulfill Father's purposes for you all collectively: *"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's manifold grace"* (see 1Peter 4:10,11; Romans 12:4-8).

(Humanism's domination of both society and nominal Christianity with its emphasis on "my happiness first" is absolutely contrary to the unified cooperation that the Spirit produces.)

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother" (see Matthew 18:15; see also vv.16,17).

Our Lord Jesus commands the *genuine* to confront sin within themselves and among one another. That's because tolerated sin is such a stumbling block, obstructing:

- you growing into the character qualities of our Lord Jesus,
- every attempt you make as you seek to serve under His rule,
- any desire you have to repent when you do sin.

A primary area for mutual cooperation in your home fellowship is confronting unconfessed **sin** in each other in order to maintain communal righteousness. Your goal is for each person to stay repentant and be fully available for the Spirit to use. The communally righteous really are their brother's and sister's keeper out of love for their Lord and for each other (Genesis 4:9). Mutually confronting sin in your home fellowship so that each person stands forgiven and cleansed is one way our Lord Jesus uses to become like Him. As you collectively receive His grace and surrender to the Holy Spirit's transformation of each of you, you find Him faithfully chipping away at the parts of your life that don't look like our Lord Jesus.



The process is similar to sculpting the image of a person from stone. The sculptor chisels away at everything that doesn't look like the person he is creating. In the same way the Spirit of our Lord wants to do the same with each of the *genuine*. With the mutual support of the home fellowship family, the Holy Spirit's goal is to take away the imperfections in each of you that do not reveal Jesus Christ.

This is where the mutual support of ***Intimate Friendship & Fellowship*** is so necessary. This is the deepest relationship that followers of Jesus can have with each other, the kind that's based on mutual commitment to each other's Christ-like character development out of love for Him and for one another. In these relationships you have the freedom and responsibility to correct each other, and in doing so, helping each other to become more like your Lord.

You may find these articles to be helpful for your fellowship family to discuss.

- ***The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation***
- ***Our Heavenly Father's Two Paramount Covenants – Interwoven And Made Possible By The True Gospel***
- ***Mutual Bonding: "Put on Love, Which Binds Them All Together in Perfect Unity"*** (Colossians 3:14)
- ***Biblical Covenants*** (Part 1); ***Biblical Covenants*** (Part 2)

We hope that as you discuss and put into action the biblical truths in these resources, you'll better understand the way of life that's directed in the New Covenant. Without the New Covenant foundation, most "conversions" are entwined by devotion to a particular creed, denomination, and/or congregation. As prevalent as this is throughout Christendom, it was never our Father's intent for the *genuinely* born again.