

**False expectations (of others, ourselves, and God) erode trust!
Satan wants to give us hope in anything and everything but Christ.**

Mark 2:18-22

Our expectations must be aligned with what God has done in Christ.

Mark 2

“¹⁸ And John’s disciples and the Pharisees were **fasting**; and they came and said to Him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees **fast**, but Your disciples do not **fast**?””

- ✓ **Fasting was a sign of mourning the absence of God among His people, Israel (Roman captivity & unfaithfulness).**
- ✓ **Spiritual piety called for fasting at this time. Jesus and his people seemed out of touch with the culture.**
- ✓ **The inquiry may have been an attempt to make Jesus look politically incorrect or at least insensitive.**

Mark 2

“¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, “While the **bridegroom** is with them, the attendants of the **bridegroom** do not fast, do they? So long as they have the **bridegroom** with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ But the days will come when the **bridegroom** is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.”

- ✓ **Jesus and the Apostles often used marriage customs as a model of spiritual truths. Eph.5,**
- ✓ **By equating himself with the bridegroom he is suggesting that he is more than God’s prophet.**
- ✓ **Jesus indicates that his earthly ministry is a new beginning to God’s redemptive drama that will be interrupted briefly by his death (and then resumed at Pentecost).**

Mark 2

“²¹ No one sews a patch of **un-shrunk cloth on an old garment**; otherwise the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results. ²² And no one puts **new wine into old wineskins**; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

- ✓ **Old / new garments and wineskins have to do with timing and compatibility.**
- ✓ **Incompatibility can be destructive.**
- ✓ **Mark (Jesus) wants us to see this principle in relationship to what God was (is) doing in history through Christ.**

Galatians 4

“¹ Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. ³ So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. ⁴ **But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. ⁸ However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. ⁹ **But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.”****

Take your cues from the context of what God is doing in Christ.

The New Covenant

- ✓ **Why we read the Old Testament & Gospels in light of the Epistles.**
- ✓ **How we understand Law & Grace**

The baptism / indwelling of the Spirit

- ✓ **We are sons & heirs not hired slaves.**
- ✓ **Christ’s Spirit is installed IN us.**

Our position in Christ - new holiness

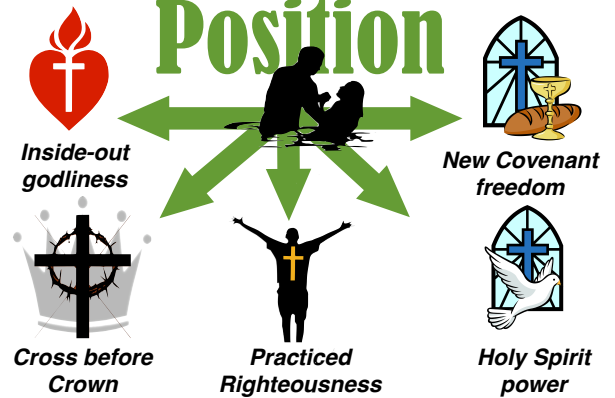
Official position dictates practice

Position



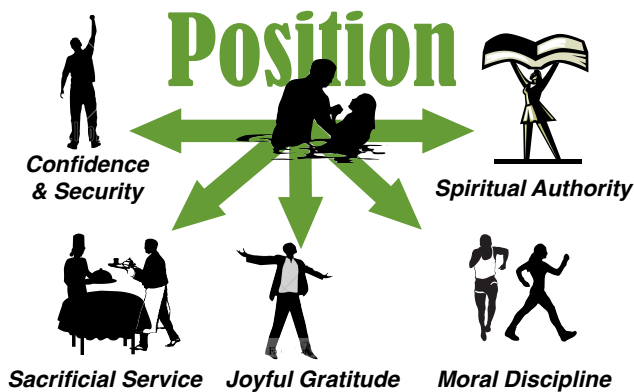
Our position in Christ inspires

Position



Be true to your NEW self in Christ

Position



Let your position in Christ dictate your practice in life.

1 John 4:19

“We love because he first loved us.”

Ephesians 4:1

“Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.”

Galatians 5:25

“If we live by the Spirit let us also walk by the Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 15:19

“If we have hoped in Christ **in this life only**, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1 Peter 2:21

“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also **suffered** for you, leaving you an **example** for you to **follow** in His steps.”

Example #1

of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.

Our expectations should reflect our NEW relationship with God through Christ.

We carry a cross to a banquet.

Some possible examples

- ✓ Expecting to **wear a crown now**.
- ✓ Expecting to **escape difficulty** rather than develop or demonstrate godliness through it.
- ✓ Expecting to be **under the law and powerless**.
- ✓ Expecting to **reform** this world.
- ✓ Expecting **Old Covenant texts** to apply to us directly.
- ✓ Expecting **OUR practiced holiness** to be the basis of our relationship with God.