

Born with Identity
Part 8: Soldiers, Not Cops, for God!
Slide Notations

So far... *Word and Spirit people! Servant and Slave people! Forgivers of people; others and self! Others: Love's toughest work, life's biggest challenge, Jesus greatest accomplishment! Ourselves: Will never be very Christ-like if we do not dismember self-condemnation! Keep ourselves from picking up another's offense – Set for righteous defense, we turn to God!*

*We acknowledge our inability to see the backstory... Picking up another's offense can lead to "unbeliever" damage to innocents! **Gen 34** Double damage to our loved ones! Hurt in an offense and then we untie them from the only One who can truly heal them – *from the core!* Hurt ourselves drinking bitter brew... lasting aftertaste/effects! *We don't let our compassion overrun God's completion!**

The next step in the discovery of our Born Identity deals with our commission/mission!

From the foundation of our "fort" church we have identified Life Church as an Army-Base Hospital Church!

A place where training and treatment happen simultaneously... where inductees and injured are prepared for deployment!

"I am sending you out as sheep among wolves..." Mt10.16

Not marching us into slaughter... Bringing us into a new day, new thought, new model!

Keeping the image... Sheep: following the Great Shepherd! I am the Good Shepherd and I know My sheep and My sheep know Me! **J10.14** My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me! **V27** *Local leadership concept: "Sheep with a bell!" Must develop your hearing, listen to and obey His voice! Otherwise not His sheep! **J10.26,27***

Keeping the image... Well fed! **J6** (Bread of Life) **Mt4.4, J6.63** (Word of God), exercised **1C9.25-27**, trained **R6.12,13**, and muscle maintained! **1Tim4.8** *Beat the drum over and over again! Get the Word in you/can't exist; you are what you eat; garbage in – garbage out! Must live the disciplined life! Hearts on things above, making no room to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, willing to pay the price!*

Luke 14.25-33 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

That is not the ranting of an insecure cult leader, trying to isolate His herd for His personal glory...

Luke 14.25-33 (again) The multitudes wanted to be with Him and He turned and said to them, if any man resorts to me and does not subordinate everyone and everything of this life, including life itself, *he does not have the power to be My disciple.* If he does not lift His cross and come after Me *he does not have the power to be My disciple...* whosoever does not bid farewell to all he has will *not have the power to be My disciple!"*

This is a loving God, calling us to know and count the cost of signing on and finishing well!

This is the Commander of the Army of God calling to people who will engage in the war for the souls of mankind!

“Here’s what it’s going to take to follow Me... to finish the build... to wage a successful warfare... you will have to lay all distractions aside! Are you hearing Me?”

Keeping the image... Well Equipped: full armor **E6.11ff** (truth, righteousness, peace, for a shield - faith, a new way of thinking, Sword/Spirit – Word!) non carnal weapons of warfare **2C10.4**, mind of Christ **1C2.16, Ph2.5, 1Pet4.1, Spirit/gifts 1C12.7ff**

Keeping the image... Well Focused: Not fighting *flesh/blood* but willing to lay down our lives for them... **E6.12 Mt20.28** going wherever they are found! **Mt28.19 J4.1-38**

2Timothy 2.3,4 As a good soldier of Jesus Christ, endure hardness. No man engaged in battle *entangles himself with the affairs of this life*; that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier.

Keeping, holding to, what we’ve been called to do gets difficult for many at this point of definition... Almost a natural inclination to misunderstand the difference between disciplines and legalism... effectiveness and elitism... soldiering and policing!

People think... Christianity is a “cop” religion... All laws: 10 COMMANDMENTS! Thousands of other rules! And you have to face the “Judge” for infractions! God does have rules... but they are for the “children” and lawless! Religion is for rule keepers – but Christianity is a lifestyle for life-savers!

Asides... Cops and soldiers are really different! Both wear uniforms, carry guns, protect & serve... but jobs/training different! Cops protect citizens/chase criminals! Soldiers defend nations/fight invaders! Cops have *authority* to uphold the law! Soldiers *authorized*/fight by mandate! Cops have a *job*/changes and a life/home! Soldiers have a *mission*/to complete... And a life/home interrupted for “tour”

People think... Life Church is a “cop” church... Infamous for our “rules and regulations!” Rules belong to unsaved/ “children!” Word standards for mature/selfless! It takes about 6 months to bleed out what we’re about! Position on sex, alcohol, divorce, pretty much breaks the deal for them... Want to feel good about myself/way am! Too rigid, too legalistic! *Leave!*

Our faith is not about feeling good but becoming Godly and knowing we are pleasing to the One who saved us!

If we were a law based church I would leave too... but as soldiers we know there are things God prescribes for us for practical, not legalistic, reasons!

Romans 13.11-14 *It is high time to awake because the end of salvation is nearer than when we began.* The day is at hand so let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk in light for all to see, not cutting loose but living sober, not in sexual misconduct and vices, not in competition w/others never content w/what we have, but dressed like the Lord – making no provision to fulfill the lusts of the flesh!

1Corinthians 6.12 Though all things are lawful unto me, all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, *but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

1Corinthians 9.24-27 Though I am unrestrained by men I have made myself a slave to them to gain as many as I can... all I do I do for the sake of the gospel... and to win the prize! Every man that strives is temperate in all things... I run with intention, and I fight to win, and I keep my body under control so that when I have preached to others I am not cast aside by them!

1Corinthians 10.23,24 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not contributory: all things are lawful for me, *but not all things add to the construction.* Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *wealth.*

1Peter 2.9-16 You are chosen family, a kingly order of priests, a consecrated tribe, a purchased possession *to show the virtues of Him* who has called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light! I beg you to abstain from the lusts at war with your souls, walk with integrity... live free, not using your liberty as a cloak of maliciousness, but as slaves of God!

We are an Army Base Hospital Church, if you're not a patient then you *must be* a Doctor *and* Soldier, and, there are things we do to make us the best we can be!