

# *The* INVITATION



STUDY GUIDE

K. LEE BROWN

*Discover Kingdom Identity and Purpose.*



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The Invitation: Discover Kingdom Identity and Purpose Study Guide

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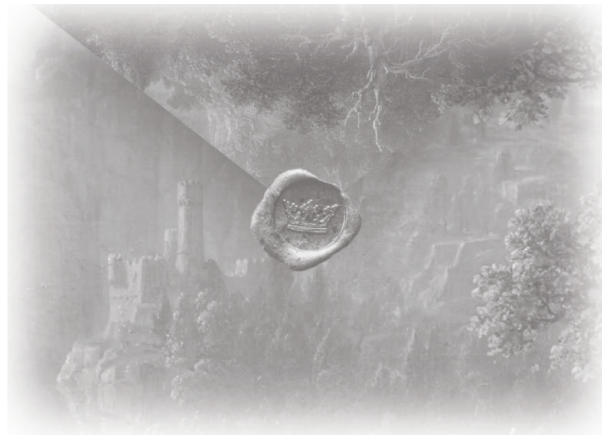


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## CHAPTER 1: WHAT IS AN IDENTITY?

### Discussion Questions:

1. According to B. R. Ambedkar, how does man's identity differ from a drop of water joining the ocean? How does the author connect this idea to our identity in Christ?
2. The author claims that despite a large Christian population, there is a lack of overwhelming impact. What does the author identify as the "real issue" preventing Christians from living an abundant life?
3. The text introduces the concept of a "Kingdom life of power." How does the author define this, and what examples are given to illustrate it? How does this definition differ from what some might typically associate with "power" in a spiritual context?
4. The author states that "without grasping the foundational teaching of one's identity... we will never experience the Kingdom life of power". Explain the analogy of the athlete used to support this point.
5. Compare and contrast the American Psychological Association's (APA) definition of identity with the author's definition.... Why does the author argue that identity is a "matter of reality, not a matter of the senses"?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Self-Reflection:** Take time this week to reflect on whether you've been more focused on "what God must want us to *do*" rather than "who God wants us to *become*". Identify one area in your life where this shift in focus could bring greater clarity or peace.

**Defining Your Identity:** Consider the author's definition of identity: "The identity is the essence of a person that defines their authority, behavior/character, purpose, and rights. It is the reality from which a person is informed on their place, and function in a family or society". How might consciously adopting this definition change how you approach daily decisions or challenges?

**Intentionality for Christlikeness:** The author emphasizes that becoming like Jesus "doesn't just happen by accident". What is one intentional step you can take this week to pursue Christlikeness in your daily life, beyond merely "believing" it?







## CHAPTER 2: WHAT WE WERE AND WHAT WE BECAME

### Discussion Questions:

1. The chapter clarifies what it means to be “in Christ” and “outside of Christ”. What are the “extreme implications” for one’s present life, not just the afterlife, based on whether one is in or out of this covenant relationship?
2. What was God’s original intention for humankind at creation, particularly concerning their role and purpose? How has humanity, in the author’s view, fallen “a galaxy away” from this original intention, even in how we “subdue the earth”?
3. Explain the concept of the “whole soul” and what happened when Adam and Eve “died” after the fall, even if they didn’t die physically. How does this relate to being “born into iniquity” today?
4. Beyond being rulers, God desired humans to be “children”. What is the significance of a child being “a clone of their father,” and how does this relate to God’s image and “light”?
5. How did God design the expansion of His kingdom to work, and what critical detail did He intentionally include in this design related to maturity? What observations does the author offer as to *why* God chose this method?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Identifying Corrupt Tendencies:** The author lists default identities of corruption (slavery to flesh, children of Satan, residing in darkness). Identify one area where you still see your “old nature” or corrupt tendencies manifesting. How can understanding this as a “total loss” condition motivate your pursuit of restoration in Christ?

**Practicing Discipleship at Home:** The source emphasizes that “discipleship begins in our homes” and that parents are to “govern strictly the influences our children are exposed to”. If you are a parent or mentor, what specific influences (media, peers, etc.) might you need to re-evaluate or intentionally shape for those under your care?

**Embodying the Father’s Nature:** Since God’s character and nature are “anything consistent with righteousness and love” and we are to be His children displaying this “light”, choose one aspect of God’s character (e.g., patience, kindness, truthfulness) to intentionally embody this week in a specific situation.







## CHAPTER 3: BECOMING HIS INHERITANCE

### Discussion Questions:

1. The author shares a personal story of transformation that began with a “dream job” that turned into a “darkest and hardest season”. What did the author realize about his own motivations and the nature of his “ministry” during this time, particularly in light of Jesus’ warning to the church at Laodicea?
2. Explain what the author means by “crucifying Isaac” in his personal story. How does Abraham’s example of surrendering his vision relate to the author’s challenge to spiritual leaders?
3. The revelation that “Lee, you are my inheritance” became a turning point. How did this understanding shift the author’s prayer life and his approach to reading the Bible? How does it affect your perspective?
4. According to Dallas Willard, what is the “main thing God gets out of your life”? How does this relate to the idea that your life is your “primary ministry” and that God is more concerned with *who you become* than *what you do*?
5. What kind of “inheritance” is Christ returning for, according to Ephesians 5:25-27, and what vision produced enough joy in Him to endure the cross?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Examining Motives:** The author challenges whether we are Christians “for you or for Him”. Reflect on a recent “spiritual” effort or goal in your life. Was the primary motivation your own benefit, or was it a deep desire to become God’s inheritance and bring Him glory?

**Surrendering Your “Isaac”:** Is there something in your life (a dream, ambition, comfort, or even a ministry) that God might be asking you to “lay down” or surrender, not because it’s bad, but to test if you are more interested in *His* kingdom than your own? What might that “Isaac” be for you?

**Becoming What You Love:** A.W. Tozer is quoted: “we are becoming what we love”. Consider who or what you genuinely love. How does your daily life reflect this love in terms of who you are becoming?





## CHAPTER 4: THE INVITATION

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does the author suggest we base our value, and what does it mean that “the cross was the price, and you were the prize”?
2. Theologically, God’s transformational work is called “sanctification”. What does the author identify as God’s primary method for accomplishing this, and how does this contrast with common sales-pitch approaches to salvation?
3. The source uses three metaphors to describe our transformation process: clay, a sculpture/masterpiece, and gold. Choose one metaphor and explain what it reveals about God’s work in us and the role of trials or adversity.
4. The author recounts his experience of being “born again” later in life, despite being “saved” earlier. What distinction is being made here about merely being “saved” versus “walking in my identity as His inheritance”?
5. The chapter concludes by stating that “the power of the gospel isn’t in our knowing but rather in our being known”. What does it mean to be “known by God” in this context, and how does it relate to living an intimately loved life?

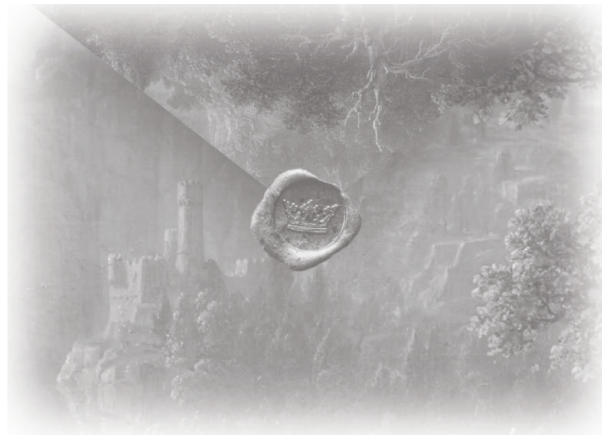
### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Embracing Suffering:** The author states that when one suffers, “the only thing that matters is who or what their god is”. Reflect on a current or past struggle. How did (or could) looking to God in that suffering allow it to be “taken and turned for good”?

**Reflecting His Image:** The goldsmith doesn’t stop refining until he sees his own reflection in the gold. What does it mean for you to allow God to continue purifying you “to the point of reflecting His face” in your daily life? What might this process look like in a specific area you are struggling in?

**Accepting the Invitation to Transformation:** The invitation is not to comfort but to meaning, purpose, new living, and unconditional love. Where do you feel the Spirit inviting you to a deeper transformation, even if it involves hardship? What is one practical step you can take to “accept the invitation” this week?





## CHAPTER 5: THE KINGDOM

### Discussion Questions:

1. The author argues that the Bible's "most important story" is primarily about a "supreme being (God) and His desire to create and expand a kingdom on the earth," rather than solely about Jesus "dying so we can go to heaven when we die". How does the Narnia analogy help illustrate this broader perspective of the gospel?
2. What does it mean to have a "pilgrim mindset" as a citizen of God's kingdom, and what is the enemy's primary aim to keep us from being effective in this identity?
3. The source outlines two ways to live as a pilgrim. Explain how allowing our heavenly citizenship to impact our earthly affairs, particularly concerning political matters, should free us from fear and enable us to "love those who oppose them and remain gentle and kind".
4. What does the author identify as the "three-chorded strand that makes up the culture of heaven"? Briefly define each component and how it should be expressed by citizens.
5. The author challenges the idea that "peace is not just the feeling or state of being one experiences when adversity is absent". How is "peace" defined in this context, and what example is given to illustrate it?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Subordinating Your Will:** Dallas Willard defines the Kingdom of God as "the range of God's effective will. It is where what He wants done is done". Identify one area of your life where your will or desires are not fully aligned with God's. What practical step can you take to subordinate your will to His in this area?

**Living the Kingdom Culture:** The culture of heaven is righteousness, peace, and joy. Choose one of these attributes to focus on intentionally embodying this week. How can you demonstrate "love expressed" (righteousness), choose peace in conflict, or be joyful amidst stress?

**Beyond Earthly Comforts:** The source states that "earthly comfort is not owed to us and should not govern our earthly affairs". How might a deeper understanding of your heavenly citizenship free you from anxieties related to present circumstances or societal shifts?







## CHAPTER 6: THE TRUE ECCLESIA

### Discussion Questions:

1. The author makes a “daring statement” that “the ecclesia is not a church” as we commonly think of it today. Explain the linguistic differences between ‘church’ and ‘ecclesia’, and why the author argues that ‘church’ arguably “does not fit in our Bibles where the word ecclesia is used”.
2. What was the “gospel Jesus preached,” according to the source, and how does this differ from the popular modern reduction of the gospel? What are two dangers of making “getting into heaven” our sole focus?
3. Describe the structure and purpose of the ecclesia in ancient Athens. How does Jesus’ claim to build His ecclesia relate to this ancient governmental system?
4. What does Jesus mean by giving His ecclesia “the keys of the kingdom of heaven” and the authority to “bind and loose”? How does this concept of spiritual authority challenge the gates of Hades in a literal, earthly sense?
5. How does Paul’s gospel, particularly in Galatians 3:28 and Ephesians 2:14, illustrate that *everyone* is invited to be citizens and direct relatives of the King, breaking down previous barriers?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Redefining “Church”:** If the ecclesia is a “regularly summoned legislative body” for ruling and reigning rather than primarily a religious gathering, how might this understanding shift your perspective on your role within your Christian community beyond Sunday services?

**Operating in Kingdom Authority:** The author suggests that our authority is first and foremost utilized in “our own light bearing” as ambassadors. Identify one specific area where you can intentionally “declare God’s truth, live as examples of Kingdom values, and bring about God’s will on earth as it is in heaven” this week.

**Self-Governance for Greater Authority:** The source states that “if one wishes to exercise authority over demons, they must first exercise authority over themselves”. What is a specific personal discipline (e.g., self-control over an unhealthy habit, managing anxiety) you can focus on mastering this week to grow in self-authority?





## CHAPTER 7: THREE DIMENSIONS OF CITIZENSHIP

### Discussion Questions:

1. Dallas Willard defines the Kingdom of God as “the range of God’s effective will. It is where what He wants done is done”. How does this definition challenge the idea that the Kingdom is merely a future place, and what does it imply about our personal “kingdoms”?
2. The source distinguishes between ‘will’ and ‘desire’. Explain this difference using the example provided, and why it’s important for understanding how to operate in God’s kingdom?
3. What is our “premier obligation” as children in the kingdom, and how does this connect to Jesus’ teaching to love God and neighbor? What does “love” mean in this context, beyond a mere feeling?
4. The author challenges the interpretation of God’s commands (like Micah 6:8) as mere “things to do”. How should these commands be interpreted instead, and what is the ultimate purpose of God laying them out?
5. What are the three “broad dimensions” of being a kingdom citizen outlined in this chapter? Explain how the “Dimension of Service” can transform a marriage by aligning with God’s nature.

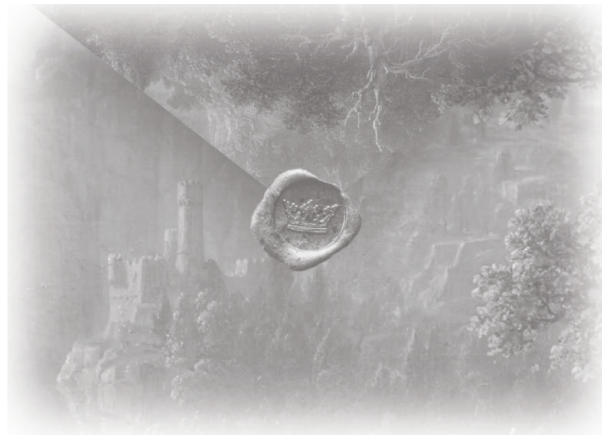
### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Practicing Righteousness:** If righteousness is “love expressed” and “the doing of what is right and good on behalf of another”, identify a specific situation this week where you can intentionally act in righteousness, even if it requires personal expense or goes against your immediate desire.

**Forgiveness as a Nature:** The author suggests that Jesus found it “much harder... to hold an offense against them” than to forgive His murderers. Reflect on someone you find difficult to forgive or against whom you hold an offense. What might it look like for you to become the “type of person who finds it harder to hold offense than to forgive”?

**Serving with Authority:** The text states that “when we serve in this manner, considering others as more important than ourselves, we use our authority to release light from our kingdom into the darkness”. How can you intentionally serve someone this week, in a way that demonstrates the values of God’s Kingdom and releases His “light” into their situation?





## CHAPTER 8: A VISION FOR BECOMING (DISCIPLES)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is the author's working mission statement for discipleship, and how does it emphasize internal transformation before external action?
2. The text states that "Grace is opposed to earning, not to effort". How does this distinction help resolve the potential conflict between salvation by grace and the intentional effort required for discipleship?
3. According to the author, what are the "two things" we are required to do in the transformation process, and how do "spiritual disciplines" play a role in this?
4. The text uses the analogy of an athlete's "game day" and "off-season" training to explain Christian maturity. How does this analogy highlight the importance of intentional preparation in becoming like Christ?
5. How does the author define the "effect" of discipleship, and what two primary ways does this effect manifest in a disciple's life?...

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Spiritual Discipline:** Identify one "game-day" moment (a situation of testing, adversity, or pressure) you recently faced. Reflect on how your "off-season" training (spiritual disciplines, intentional choices) prepared or did not prepare you for that moment, and what you might adjust in your plan moving forward.

**Christian Community:** The text emphasizes that "community" is God's solution to weariness in doing good. How can you more intentionally engage with your small group or other Christian community members to "spur one another on to love and good deeds" and share your "trials and victories, as well as your temptations and failures"?

**Living Like Jesus:** The author states that living like Jesus externally is an "effect" of discipleship, not the goal itself, and that inner transformation must happen first. Identify a specific external behavior you desire to change. What internal shift or spiritual discipline might God be inviting you to engage in to address the root of that behavior?







## CHAPTER 9: WHY A DISCIPLE?

### Discussion Questions:

1. The author notes a “growing chasm... between the expressed theology and doctrine of professing believers and the expressed character and nature of professing believers”. How does this chasm relate to the idea that many Christians are not truly disciples?
2. How does the text redefine “belief” from merely affirming facts to “rely upon and to live in accordance with one’s reliance”? Why is this distinction important for understanding the necessity of discipleship?
3. According to the source, what is the primary goal of a rabbi for their “talmidim” (disciples), and how does this apply to Jesus’s expectations for His followers?
4. What does the author identify as the “primary way we distinguish a disciple from someone who wears only the name,” and what is the underlying source of this distinction?
5. How does the text caution against judging others’ discipleship based solely on visible fruit, and where does it suggest true discipleship is first identified?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

Reflect on the statement, “Identity is not measured by self-identification but in how one lives and the features one possesses which stem from the fabric of their nature”. In what area of your life might your “self-identification” as a Christian not fully align with your “way of living”? What is one step you can take this week to bridge that gap?

The text challenges the idea that “discipleship is unnecessary” if salvation is by belief. Consider your own motivations for following Christ. Are they primarily focused on “what Jesus can do for me,” or are you also motivated by offering discipleship as a “gift of love” to Christ and the Father?

Identify one specific character trait or behavior that Paul lists as part of the “way of living” for a disciple (e.g., humility, kindness, patience, not complaining). Choose one to focus on this week and intentionally practice it, recognizing it as training to become more like Jesus internally.





## CHAPTER 10: CHILD: WHAT IS MY FATHER LIKE?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it crucial, according to the author, to lay aside our experiences with our earthly fathers when understanding God as our Father? How does our perception of God affect our actions, as illustrated by the parable of the talents?
2. The text outlines five key areas in which an earthly father impacts a child's identity. Choose two of these areas and explain how the identity of God as our King impacts His children in a parallel way.
3. What does the author identify as the greatest harm of not knowing the depths of one's identity as a child of the King? How does this connect to the idea of purpose?
4. The chapter lists three reasons a child of a king might leave the royal life. Which of these reasons is most applicable to the Christian experience of losing sight of their identity, and why?
5. What is the fundamental difference between our default status at birth and our potential status through God's solution?

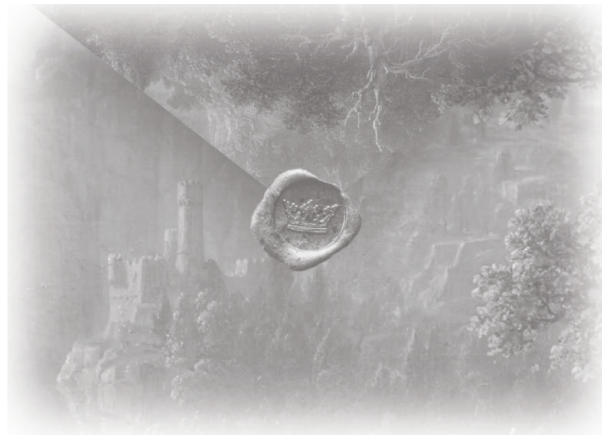
### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Your Will vs. God's Will:** The source states, "Our will, that is our intentions, must be subordinated to God's if we are to operate in His kingdom." Reflect on a recent situation where your personal "will" or "desire" (what you felt like doing) was contrary to what you believed God's "will" (His intentions/commands) would be. How did you respond, and what steps can you take to better align your intentions with God's?

**Identity as God's Child:** Consider one of the seven implications of being a "king's child" (e.g., royal status, public figure, sense of purpose). How might living more consciously from this specific aspect of your identity as God's child change your daily actions or perspective this week?

**Recurring Struggles:** The text mentions that "Every sin is indeed a choice we make to fulfill a desire or unmet need." Reflect on a recurring struggle with sin or an unmet desire in your life. How might understanding God as your Father, who provides security, protection, and provision, help you address this struggle or desire in a healthier, more kingdom-aligned way?





## CHAPTER 11: THE PROFOUND REVELATION OF ADOPTION

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does the author present adoption as God's solution to the problem created by the fall, specifically regarding the "relational disconnect"?
2. Compare and contrast Roman adoption, as illustrated by Octavian's story, with modern adoption. What was the primary purpose of adoption in ancient Rome, and how does this understanding deepen the meaning of our spiritual adoption?
3. The text states that "God chose us" and predestined us for adoption. How is this choice presented as "good news," and what does it reveal about God's desire for us?
4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our adoption, and how does the Spirit "testify" to our sonship?
5. The term "sons of God" is described as a legal term in Roman law. What does this imply about our status as adopted children in God's family, beyond just a familial connection?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

**Adoption:** The text emphasizes that our adoption "must be accepted, and we must choose to walk in it". In what area of your life might you be struggling to fully "walk in" the reality of your adopted status as a child of God, perhaps still living like a "slave" to old patterns or beliefs?

**God's Love:** The source mentions that "God's love for you is not like that of your earthly father's love; He is infinitely better". Identify one "misconception" you may hold about God's love (e.g., conditional, distant, disappointed). How can you intentionally seek to replace this lie with the truth of God's unchanging, extravagant love for you this week?

**Realities of Adoption:** Reflect on Octavian's transformation from an obscure figure to Caesar Augustus through adoption and the opportunities it provided. What new "pathway to leadership," "authority," or "governance" might God be inviting you into as a result of your adoption into His family, even if it feels "unrealistic" initially?







## CHAPTER 12: PRIVILEGES, OBLIGATIONS, AND INHERITANCES

### Discussion Questions:

1. The chapter identifies three major changes that come with adoption into God's family: privileges, obligations, and inheritances. Briefly define each category in the context of our identity in Christ.
2. What is the "first and most fundamental privilege" of life in God's family, and what aspects of our lives does it encompass? How does the author encourage us to "stay free"?
3. How does the concept of a father's love in this chapter challenge common misconceptions about God's love, and what is highlighted as the source of our "immense worth in Christ"?
4. What is identified as the "premier obligation" of children in the kingdom, and how does it relate to the biblical understanding of a "child of" someone?
5. Besides being "heirs of God" and "co-heirs with Christ" (which involves ruling and reigning), what other inheritances are mentioned for God's children? How do these inheritances relate to our actions on earth?

### Real-Life Challenges/Applications:

The text states we are "free" from that which has previously bound us, but this freedom "must be something you choose to walk in". Identify one area where you still feel "tied up" by a previous way of thinking, desire, or emotion. What is one specific choice you can make this week to actively walk in the freedom Christ has provided?

The concept of "obligations" is framed not as earning our keep, but as contributing to the family's sustaining and expansion, like family members at a holiday gathering. In what specific ways can you "imitate" the Father by "doing the works of the Father" in your daily life this week, specifically in areas of love, forgiveness, or selfless service?

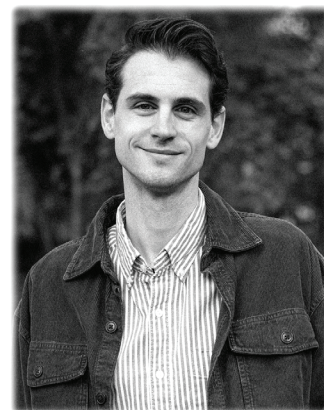
The chapter discusses our future inheritance, including glorification and rewards based on our stewardship. How does reflecting on these future realities motivate you to "make every aim to grow in and walk in your identity as children, disciples, citizens, and His inheritance" today?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**K. Lee Brown** is a pastor, counselor, and writer whose life's work centers on helping others live with a whole soul in a broken world. Through teaching biblical truth and guiding others into the way of Jesus, he invites readers to step into the transformative journey of becoming a new creation.

A devoted husband and father, Lee finds deep meaning in the life he shares with his wife and two children. His work spans poetry, nonfiction, and children's tales—each crafted with a heart to illuminate the beauty of living from the Kingdom of God here and now, and to foster emotional and spiritual health along the way.

You can access an abundance of Lee's free content via [www.KLBrown.org](http://www.KLBrown.org)



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