
St. Stephen
AME ZION CHURCH
7-WEEK VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY
KINGDOM MINDSET:
THINKING LIKE Heaven
WHILE LIVING ON Earth
Join Us!
EVERY WEDNESDAY | 7PM
zoom
LIVE
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Matthew 6:33 — “Seek ye first the kingdom of God...”

Kingdom Mindset

Kingdom Mindset: Thinking Like Heaven While Living on Earth

Inspired by the Biblical Kingdom Teachings of Dr. Myles Munroe

Syllabus

Week	Lesson	Scriptures
1	Rediscovering the Kingdom	Matthew 6:33,Matthew 4:17, Luke 4:43, Genesis 1:26–28, Psalm 8:4–6, Colossians 1:13, Luke 19:10, John 18:36
2	Kingdom Identity	Phil 3:20, Rom 8:14-17
3	Renewing the Mind	Romans 12:2
4	Kingdom Priorities	Matthew 6:33
5	Kingdom Character & Culture	Genesis 1:26–27,Romans 8:29, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:4–5, Matthew 5:16,John 13:35
6	Kingdom Purpose & Assignment	
7	Kingdom Power & Influence	

Study Resources

- The Holy Bible
- Books (Myles Munroe)
  - Rediscovering the Kingdom (Expanded Edition)
  - Understanding Your Place in God's Kingdom
  - Understanding The Kingdom, Preparing for Kingdom Experience and Expansion
  - Understanding Your Potential (Discovering the Hidden You)
- Youtube Resources

The Holy Spirit's Purpose, Power, And Person: Insights By Dr. Myles Munroe | MunroeGlobal.com

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Galatians 5:22-23
(King James Version)
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

(The Message Bible)
22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.

"The most convincing evidence that we belong to the Kingdom is not the gifts we display, but the character we demonstrate."

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

I. Kingdom Citizens Reflect the Character of the King
Genesis 1:26–27
Romans 8:29

II. The Holy Spirit Produces Kingdom Character
Galatians 5:22–23
John 15:4–5
Emphasize that fruit is **produced**, not manufactured. It grows as believers abide in Christ and yield to the Spirit.

III. Kingdom Character Is Our Greatest Witness
Matthew 5:16
John 13:35

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

I. Kingdom Citizens Reflect the Character of the King

Genesis 1:26–27
(King James Version)
26 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

(Living Bible)
26 *Then God said, "Let us make a man[a]—someone like ourselves, to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas."*
27 *So God made man like his Maker.*
Like God did God make man;
Man and maid did he make them.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Historical Context
Genesis 1 records God's orderly creation of the universe. Unlike the sun, moon, animals, or plants, humanity is uniquely created **in the image and likeness of God**. This sets people apart from the rest of creation and gives them a special role as God's representatives on earth.

Verse 26 Explained
"Let us make man"
The plural **"us"** has been understood in different ways. Many Christians see it as an early indication of the **Trinity**—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—working together in creation. Regardless, the emphasis is that humanity is the result of God's intentional design, not an accident.

"In our image"
Being made in God's image does **not** mean God has a human body. Scripture teaches that God is spirit (John 4:24). Instead, being made in God's image means humanity reflects certain aspects of God's nature, including the ability to:

- Think and reason
- Make moral choices
- Love and build relationships
- Create and steward
- Exercise responsibility
- Reflect His character

This image gives every human being inherent dignity and value.

"After our likeness"
"Likeness" emphasizes resemblance. While we are not divine, we are called to reflect God's holy character in the way we live.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

"Let Them Have Dominion“

This is the first assignment God gave humanity.

Dominion means:

- stewardship,
- responsible care,
- wise leadership under God's authority.

It does **not** mean exploitation or selfish control. Adam and Eve were to cultivate and care for creation as God's representatives.

A helpful distinction is:

Dominion is delegated authority, not independent authority.
God remains King; humanity serves as His stewards.

Verse 27 Explained

"So God created man in His own image"
Verse 27 repeats the phrase "in the image of God" to emphasize humanity's unique identity.
Every person bears God's image and therefore possesses worth and dignity.
"Male and female created He them"
Both men and women equally bear God's image and are entrusted with God's mission. Their equal value before God does not erase their distinctiveness but affirms that both participate in His purposes.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Connection to Kingdom Character

This passage is foundational because **before God gave humanity dominion, He gave humanity identity**.
The order matters:
Identity — We are made in God's image.
Character — We are called to reflect His nature.
Assignment — We are entrusted with stewardship.

When sin entered the world (Genesis 3), God's image in humanity was not erased, but it was distorted. Throughout Scripture, God works to restore people so they increasingly reflect His character.
This is why passages like Galatians 5:22–23 are so significant. The Fruit of the Spirit describes the kind of character that reflects the image of God in a redeemed life.

Connection to Galatians 5:22–23
The Fruit of the Spirit is evidence that God's work of restoration is taking place.

Genesis 1	**Galatians 5**
Created in God's image	Being transformed into Christ's likeness
Reflect God's nature	Display the Fruit of the Spirit
Given dominion	Live under the Spirit's leadership
Represent God on earth	Demonstrate Kingdom culture

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Connection to Dr. Myles Munroe's Kingdom Teaching

Dr. Myles Munroe frequently taught that **Genesis 1:26–28 reveals God's original purpose for humanity**. He emphasized that people were created:

- to bear God's image,
- to exercise stewardship under God's authority,
- and to represent Heaven's culture on earth.

His point was that the Kingdom is not merely about going to Heaven after death but about living as God's representatives now. While that framework is helpful, Genesis itself grounds this truth in humanity's creation and calling.

Ask Yourself…

- *If I am created in God's image, what should people see when they look at my life?*
- *Does my character reflect the character of my King?*
- *Am I exercising influence in ways that honor God?*
- *Is the Fruit of the Spirit becoming more evident in my daily relationships?*

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

I. Kingdom Citizens Reflect the Character of the King

- ✓ **Genesis 1:26–27**

- ✓ **Romans 8:29**

(King James Version)

29 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

(Living Bible)

29 *For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers.*

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Historical Background

Paul wrote the Book of Romans to believers in Rome around A.D. 57. In Romans 8, he encourages Christians who are experiencing suffering and uncertainty by reminding them that God's Spirit is at work in their lives.
Verses 28–30 form a connected thought:

- **Romans 8:28** – God works all things together for good.
- **Romans 8:29** – God's "good" is that believers become like Christ.
- **Romans 8:30** – God faithfully completes His saving work.

Many people quote Romans 8:28 but stop there. Verse 29 explains **what the "good" actually is**.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Romans 8:28-30

Breaking Down the Verse

"For whom He foreknew..."
Paul begins by emphasizing God's initiative.
"Foreknew" means God knew His people beforehand. It expresses God's loving, covenant relationship with His people. The emphasis is not merely that God knew facts about us, but that He knew us personally and lovingly before we responded to Him.

"He also predestined..."
The word "predestined" means **to determine beforehand**.
Paul is emphasizing God's purpose for believers.
Notice what believers are predestined **to**:
Not wealth.
Not comfort.
Not success.
Not earthly prominence.
But...

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Romans 8:28-30

Breaking Down the Verse

"...to be conformed to the image of His Son."
This is the heart of the verse.
The Greek word translated **"conformed"** means:

- shaped
- molded
- transformed
- made to resemble

God's ultimate purpose is to shape believers so that they increasingly reflect the character of Jesus.

This transformation is progressive.

It happens:

- through Scripture
- through the Holy Spirit
- through obedience
- through trials
- through daily discipleship

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Romans 8:28-30

What Is "the Image of His Son"?

This takes us back to **Genesis 1:26–27**.
Humanity was created in God's image.
Sin distorted that image.
Through Christ, God is restoring His image in His people.

Galatians 5:22–23 describes what that restored image looks like in daily life:

- love
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control

These are not merely good qualities—they reflect the character of Christ.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Romans 8:28-30

"That He Might Be the Firstborn Among Many Brothers"
"Firstborn" refers to Christ's position of honor and supremacy.
Paul is not saying Jesus was created.
Rather, Jesus is the preeminent Son, and believers are adopted into God's family through Him.
Christ is both our Savior and our pattern.

Connection to Kingdom Character & Culture
Romans 8:29 answers an important question:
Why is God changing us?

Because Kingdom citizens should resemble their King.
Kingdom culture is not merely about following rules.
It is about reflecting the King's character.
This is why Galatians 5 is so important.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the visible evidence that we are being conformed to Christ.

Comparison Table

Genesis 1:26–27	Romans 8:29	Galatians 5:22–23
Created in God's image	Being conformed to Christ's image	Fruit demonstrates Christ's character
Humanity reflects God	Believers resemble Christ	The Spirit produces Kingdom character
Original design	Ongoing transformation	Daily evidence of growth

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

II. The Holy Spirit Produces Kingdom Character

- Galatians 5:22–23
- John 15:4–5

Emphasize that fruit is **produced**, not manufactured. It grows as believers abide in Christ and yield to the Spirit.

John 15:4-5
(King James Version)
4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

(Living Bible)
4 Take care to live in me, and let me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me.
5 "Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from me you can't do a thing.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Historical Background

John 15 is part of Jesus' **Farewell Discourse** (John 13–17).
This conversation takes place on the night before His crucifixion after the Last Supper.
Jesus is preparing His disciples for life after His physical departure.

He knows they will ask:

- How do we continue His work?
- How do we remain faithful?
- Where will our strength come from?

Jesus answers all of those questions with one word:
Abide.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Verse 4 Explained

"Abide in Me“

The Greek word for **abide** (*menō*) means:

- remain
- continue
- stay connected
- dwell
- make your home

Jesus is describing an ongoing, daily relationship—not an occasional visit.

Abiding means living in continual dependence on Christ.

It is not simply attending church once a week.

It is walking with Jesus every day.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture



Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Verse 4 Explained

"As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself"
Jesus uses a vineyard illustration.

The branch has one responsibility:
Remain connected.

The branch does not struggle to manufacture grapes.

Fruit is produced naturally because life flows from the vine.

Likewise, Christians do not produce genuine spiritual fruit by willpower alone. As we remain connected to Christ, His life works within us, and the Holy Spirit produces fruit.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Verse 5 Explained

"I am the vine"
In the Old Testament, Israel was often described as God's vine or vineyard. Jesus now identifies Himself as **the true vine**. Life, nourishment, and spiritual vitality come through Him.

"You are the branches"
Branches have no independent source of life.
Everything they need comes from the vine.

The same is true for believers.

Our wisdom...
Our strength...
Our love...
Our patience...
Our joy...

All flow from Christ.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

"He that abides in Me... brings forth much fruit"

Notice Jesus doesn't say:
"Try harder."

He says:
"Stay connected."

Fruit is the natural result of abiding.

This connects directly to **Galatians 5:22–23**.
The Fruit of the Spirit is not something we manufacture.
It is evidence of Christ's life flowing through us.

"Without Me You Can Do Nothing"
Jesus is not saying we cannot accomplish ordinary tasks.
Rather, He teaches that we cannot accomplish anything of lasting spiritual value apart from Him.

Without Christ:

- We cannot produce genuine spiritual fruit.
- We cannot fulfill God's purposes in our own strength.
- We cannot become more like Jesus through self-effort alone.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Connection to Galatians 5:22–23

Paul says:
"The fruit of the Spirit is..."
Jesus explains where that fruit comes from.

John 15	Galatians 5
Abide in Christ	Walk by the Spirit
Christ supplies life	The Spirit produces fruit
Stay connected	Yield daily
Fruit grows naturally	Character develops over time

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Practical Applications

1. Spend Daily Time with Christ
Abiding involves:

- Prayer
- Reading Scripture
- Worship
- Obedience
- Listening to God

2. Depend on the Holy Spirit
Instead of saying,
"I'll try harder..."
pray,
"Holy Spirit, produce Your fruit in me."

3. Stay Connected During Difficult Seasons
Branches remain attached during:

- storms
- drought
- pruning
- changing seasons

Likewise, believers are called to remain faithful during both joy and suffering.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

III. Kingdom Character Is Our Greatest Witness

Matthew 5:16
(King James Version)
16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*
(Living Bible)
15-16 *Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.*

John 13:35
(King James Version)
35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*
(Living Bible)
35 *Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Matthew 5:16 Meaning

"Let Your Light Shine“

Matthew 5:16 (KJV)
"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Historical Background
This verse is part of the **Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew 5–7), where Jesus teaches what life in God's Kingdom looks like.
Immediately before verse 16, Jesus tells His disciples:
"You are the salt of the earth" (v.13)
"You are the light of the world" (v.14)
Notice He doesn't say **"Become"** salt and light.
He says **"You are."**
Kingdom identity naturally leads to Kingdom influence.

Verse Explained
"Let your light shine..."
Light reveals.
Light guides.
Light removes darkness.
Jesus teaches that believers should live in such a way that people see God's work through them.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Matthew 5:16 Meaning

"That they may see your good works..."
Jesus is not encouraging self-promotion.
He is encouraging visible obedience.
Our actions should reflect:

- love
- kindness
- honesty
- compassion
- humility
- generosity

Notice this complements Galatians 5.
The Fruit of the Spirit becomes visible through our good works.

"...and glorify your Father"
The purpose is not:
"Look how wonderful I am."
The purpose is:
"Look how wonderful God is."
Kingdom character points people to the King.

Kingdom Principle
Kingdom citizens illuminate the world by reflecting God's character.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

John 13:35 Meaning
"Love Is the Mark of a Disciple"
John 13:35 (KJV)
"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Historical Background
Jesus speaks these words during the Last Supper.
He has just:
washed the disciples' feet,
demonstrated servant leadership,
commanded them to love one another.
Soon He will go to the cross.
One of His final teachings concerns love.

Verse Explained
"By this shall all men know..."
Jesus does not say people will recognize His disciples by:
their knowledge,
their titles,
their miracles,
their church attendance.
Instead...
The distinguishing mark is love.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

"...if ye have love one to another."
The Greek word used here is **agapē**.
This is sacrificial love.
It is:

- patient
- forgiving
- humble
- selfless
- unconditional

It seeks another person's good rather than personal advantage.

Kingdom Principle
Love is the identifying characteristic of Kingdom citizens.
This connects directly to the first Fruit of the Spirit:
"The fruit of the Spirit is **love**..."
Everything else grows from love.

Dr. Myles Munroe Connection
Dr. Myles Munroe frequently taught that **a kingdom is recognized by the culture of its citizens**.
While that idea is a helpful Kingdom framework, these Scriptures show *how* that culture is displayed:
Matthew 5:16 — Kingdom culture shines through righteous living that brings glory to God.
John 13:35 — Kingdom culture is recognized by Christlike love.
Together they teach that **our witness is not only in what we say but in who we become.**

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

Putting these Scriptures Together

Scripture	Main Teaching	Kingdom Lesson
Genesis 1:26–27	Created in God's image	Identity
Romans 8:29	Conformed to Christ's image	Transformation
John 15:4–5	Abide in Christ	Source of Character
Galatians 5:22–23	Fruit of the Spirit	Kingdom Character
Matthew 5:16	Let your light shine	Kingdom Influence
John 13:35	Love one another	Kingdom Witness

Notice the progression:

1. **God creates us** in His image.
2. **Christ restores us** to reflect His image.
3. **The Holy Spirit transforms us** from the inside out.
4. **The world sees** that transformation through our character and conduct.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture (Recap)

Week 5 – Kingdom Character & Culture explores how the character of God's Kingdom is reflected in the lives of its citizens. Created in God's image (Genesis 1:26–27) and being transformed into the likeness of Christ (Romans 8:29), believers are called to cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) by abiding in Christ (John 15:4–5). As our relationship with Jesus deepens, His character becomes evident through our love, integrity, humility, and compassion, allowing our light to shine before others (Matthew 5:16) and demonstrating that we are truly His disciples by the way we love one another (John 13:35). Kingdom character is not achieved through human effort but is the work of the Holy Spirit, producing lives that reflect the heart of the King and influence the world for His glory.

Week 5 — Kingdom Character and Culture

"God's highest purpose is not simply to make us successful—it is to make us like His Son."

Ask Yourself…

- *If I am created in God's image, what should people see when they look at my life?*
- *Does my character reflect the character of my King?*
- *Am I exercising influence in ways that honor God?*
- *Is the Fruit of the Spirit becoming more evident in my daily relationships?*

Final Prayer

May the Lord continue to transform you into the image of Christ, fill you with the Fruit of His Spirit, and empower you to live as faithful citizens of His Kingdom. As you abide in Him, may your life shine brightly for His glory and be a witness of His love wherever He sends you. Go in the grace, peace, and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.