

# **THE BREAKTHROUGH MINDSET PRT 5 – DOING AWAY WITH MAN-MADE UPRIGHTNESS**

*Philippians 3:8b-10*

*For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.*

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us going through a series teaching titled **THE BREAKTHROUGH MINDSET 5**.

We have been talking about the mindset that every believer should adopt in order to experience kingdom breakthroughs.

For the sake of continuity, let me remind you of the definition of a mindset:

Your mindset is a set of beliefs that shape how you make sense of the world and yourself. It influences how you think, feel, and behave in any given situation.

Let's relook at the make-up of this breakthrough mindset we have covered so far:

- 1. Mindset 1 - Make Christ your chief joy**
- 2. Mindset 2 – Rightfully position your confidence**
- 3. Mindset 3 – Value realignment**

- Last time we looked at how Paul was encouraging the church at Philippi to re-valuate their value system, in line with their new life in Christ.
- Paul goes on to lay yet another powerful mindset and this is what he says:

*Philippians 3:9 I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.*

- 4. Mindset 4 – Doing away with manmade uprightness**

- The mindset of manmade righteousness has been a major stumbling block for many well-meaning Christians.
- Sometimes we live by manmade righteousness because we never confronted the issues by looking intently in the word and life of Jesus.
- We get attached to a way of doing our Christianity because grandma used to do it that way, my mom used to do it that way and therefore that is the only way to do it.
- As a result, we have redefined righteousness in a way that has made our complicated.

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- Paul then deals with this matter and he tells the church at Philippi of how he lived his life in line with a certain standard but when he encountered the Jesus of the Bible, he realized that there was a better and more superior way of attaining right standing with God.
- In his “before Christ” days, Paul was fixated with the living strictly by the law in order to be in the right standing with the Lord.
- Just like all the religious leaders of that time, in trying to live by the law, Paul ended up redefining his own righteousness.
- It is impossible to attain salvation through manmade righteousness.
- Just like Paul, many believers have defined their own form of righteousness. In so doing, they have created tripping hazards for themselves and for the people around them.
- In order to experience kingdom breakthroughs, it is therefore important that each of us re-evaluate his/her mindset regarding being righteous before God.
  
- Paul rightly identified his issue; he said he was no longer going to rely or to count on his own righteousness, which was obtained by strictly living according to the law.
- He calls it “his own” because it was performed by him and worked out by his own strength.
- Self-made righteousness takes human performance and strength to attain, whereas God’s righteousness takes faith in Jesus to attain.
- Paul’s righteousness was different from that of Christ, because it had to do with Paul’s performance – in other words anyone who was not living by the law fell short of righteousness.
  
- When Paul got the revelation about what Jesus did for him, he realized he could not do what Jesus did for me. He realized it futile to try and die for his own holiness, all he needed to do was to believe in the one who had already it for him.
- At the center of manmade uprightness is the spirit of religion
  - It views God as difficult to approach, who expects us to work hard to be in His presence
  - It is energized by outward appearances (association)
  - It governs life with traditions and formulas
  - It has a self-righteous mentality and judgmental towards anyone who does not comply
  - It is stuck in its ways, even in the presence of revelation of truth.

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- This is what caused Jesus to be at logger heads with the religious leaders. Listen to what Jesus said about man-made righteousness:

*Matthew 15:1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, 2 “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They do not wash their hands before they eat.” 3 But He answered and said to them, Why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*

- Man made righteousness misses the heart of God by focusing on traditions of man.

*Matthew 9:10 And it happened as Jesus reclined in the house, behold, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw, they said to His disciples, Why does your master eat with tax-collectors and sinners? 12 But when Jesus heard, He said to them, The ones who are whole do not need a physician, but the ones who are sick..*

- Manmade righteousness disregards the law of love for the sake of adhering to a tradition.
- You need to relook at a conviction or mindset that violates the law of love.
- These Pharisees judged Jesus because He was among the scam and the dirty people of the time.
- If we are disciples of Jesus, we ought to live like He lived. Jesus was called a friend of sinners.
- It is only when we become like Jesus that we are able to become the true light of the world and the salt of the earth.
- Many people fail to meet the standard we set for them when they come in the house of God.
- This is one of the reasons why the church is not advancing the way it should because we have become gate keeper who are interested in keeping the holy huddle going.
- The church needs to deal with the big brother mentality – when the prodigal son came back home, the father was ready to receive him but big brother was having none of it.
- Have you ever wondered why genuine and God loving leaders split a church up – most of the time it is because of manmade righteousness.
- This one thinks my view is more spiritual than yours – there are certain things that should not even separate friends, teams and churches.
- You will overcome the manmade righteousness by doing away with anything that violates the law of liberty found in Jesus.

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- Paul deals with matters I would call in between issues, grey areas that you cannot clearly support scripturally. In dealing with those, Paul says he will become all things to all men so that he might win some for Christ.

*1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak I became as the weak, so that I might gain the weak. I am made all things to all men, so that I might by all means save some. 23 And this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I might be partaker of it with you.*

- Paul is not saying he will sin in order to win a sinner but he says when it comes to amoral issues, he will relax his boundaries so that he can show someone the love of God.
- We consider something amoral if it lies outside the realm of right and wrong. For example, color is amoral, English language is amoral etc.
- Unfortunately, there are people who attached morality to amoral things – this was the way of life for the Pharisees. The attached value, to traditions, resulting in disqualifying people from accessing the places of worship.
- This is the case for most false Christian denominations – they attach morality to amoral deeds (Legalistic rules about hairstyles, clothing fabric, shoe styles, or jewelry)
- When you are in Christ, you will only experience complete liberty by resting in the righteousness that He purchased for you.

*Philippians 3:9...rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith*

- This righteousness is from God and is of God – God is the author of this uprightness.
- The Bible calls it “imputed on us” - Christ is perfect and His perfection was passed on to us like a garment that is thrown over your shoulders.
- This uprightness is accessed by having faith in Jesus, the source of it all.
- The righteousness of Jesus is perfect and complete and does not need your performance to make it more complete.