

# Everyone Needs Retraining to Live the Kingdom Life

There are people in the world who do things that are wrong or unlawful, and who are oblivious that they are doing anything improper. Take this news article for instance:

- “California parents accused of torturing their 13 children plead not guilty to abuse and false imprisonment”<sup>1</sup>

These parents kept their 13 children chained to their beds for months at a time and at their interview with police said they’d done nothing wrong. At their arraignment they pleaded not guilty to all charges. Unbelievable? No, not really. There are many people alive today who don’t have a conscience that tells them they are doing wrong.

My point? There are many Christians who are doing things and saying things which are wrong, but they don’t know they are acting unrighteously. They think that God would approve of their activities when they are out of alignment with God’s standards – take gossips<sup>2</sup> for instance. This accusation goes for all believers (including me) because there are things in our lives that are not right, but we are unaware of them.

How do we find out where we are ‘skeewiff’ in regard to the Kingdom?

One place is the Bible. Paul, for example, writes much about proper attitudes and behaviours in his letters. In fact most of the epistles are written to correct errors in thinking and behaviour. For example:

**Ephesians 4:21-32** (NKJV) – *if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor”<sup>3</sup>, for we are members of one another. “Be angry, and do not sin”<sup>4</sup>: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Titus 2:1-10** (NKJV) – *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility<sup>5</sup>, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you<sup>6</sup>. Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.*

Notice in these references that Paul is correcting worldly behaviour among believers. Also, that he requests that older men and women retrain the younger believers how they should live in the world.

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1 – [www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-19/california-parents-accused-torture-13-children-plead-not-guilty/9342282](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-19/california-parents-accused-torture-13-children-plead-not-guilty/9342282)

2 – 1 Timothy 5:13

3 – Zechariah 8:16

4 – Psalm 4:4

5 – NU-Text omits *incorruptibility*

6 – NU-Text and M-Text read *us*

Being a member of a local *ekklesia* or Kingdom Community is not just about being encouraged<sup>7</sup>, growing spiritually<sup>8</sup> and getting a ‘buzz’ from prophetic revelations that others give<sup>9</sup>. It’s also about being reprogrammed: From religion; from legalism; from culture; and from the world system. We all need reprogramming at one level or another.

Recently we heard of a Christian businessman who hired a person to work for his company. It was only casual work, but the businessman pressured the worker into buying a new utility vehicle so the businessman could use it for his business activities. The casual worker was already in financial difficulties, but he was persuaded by the businessman to buy the vehicle. A short time later the businessman terminated the casual work and left the struggling worker with a multi-year, fixed-term loan to pay back. The businessman is also a street preacher. Unbelievable, unrighteous behaviour from a Jesus-follower. Did he know he was unrighteous? I don’t know.

The other place that reprogramming goes on is in a Community where learning to live life in the Kingdom is an important priority. Teaching sessions that cover Kingdom life, focussing on righteous living, are a must as we clean ourselves up for our Beloved King. Also invaluable are: being mentored by an older, spiritually mature person; being spiritually fathered or mothers; having a spiritual life coach; or by being disciplined.



We all need reprogramming. Check out the NT epistles and see if this isn’t the case.

Laurence  
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7 – 1 Thessalonians 3:2

8 – Ephesians 4:11-13

9 – 1 Corinthians 14:31