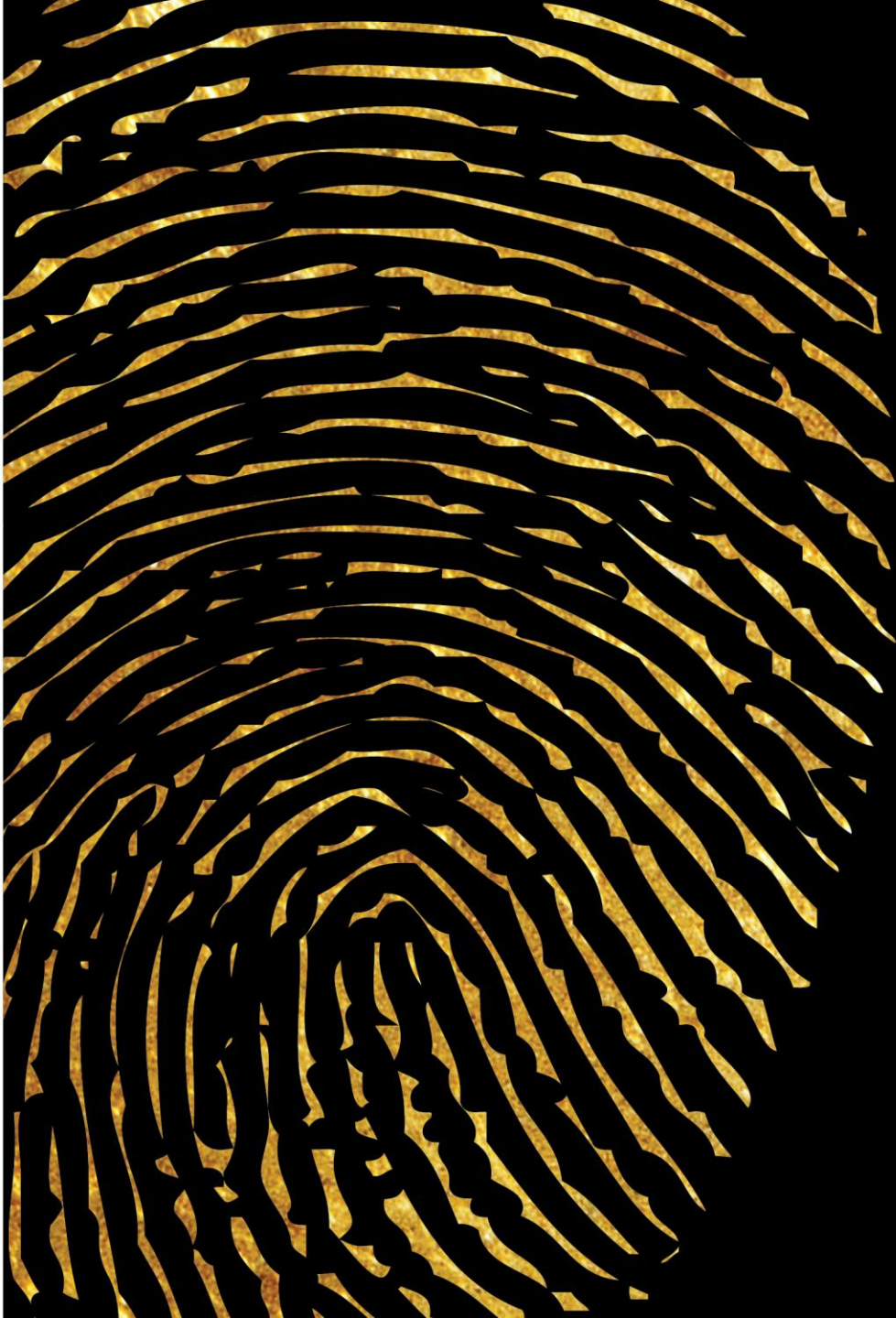


# A STRONG IDENTITY

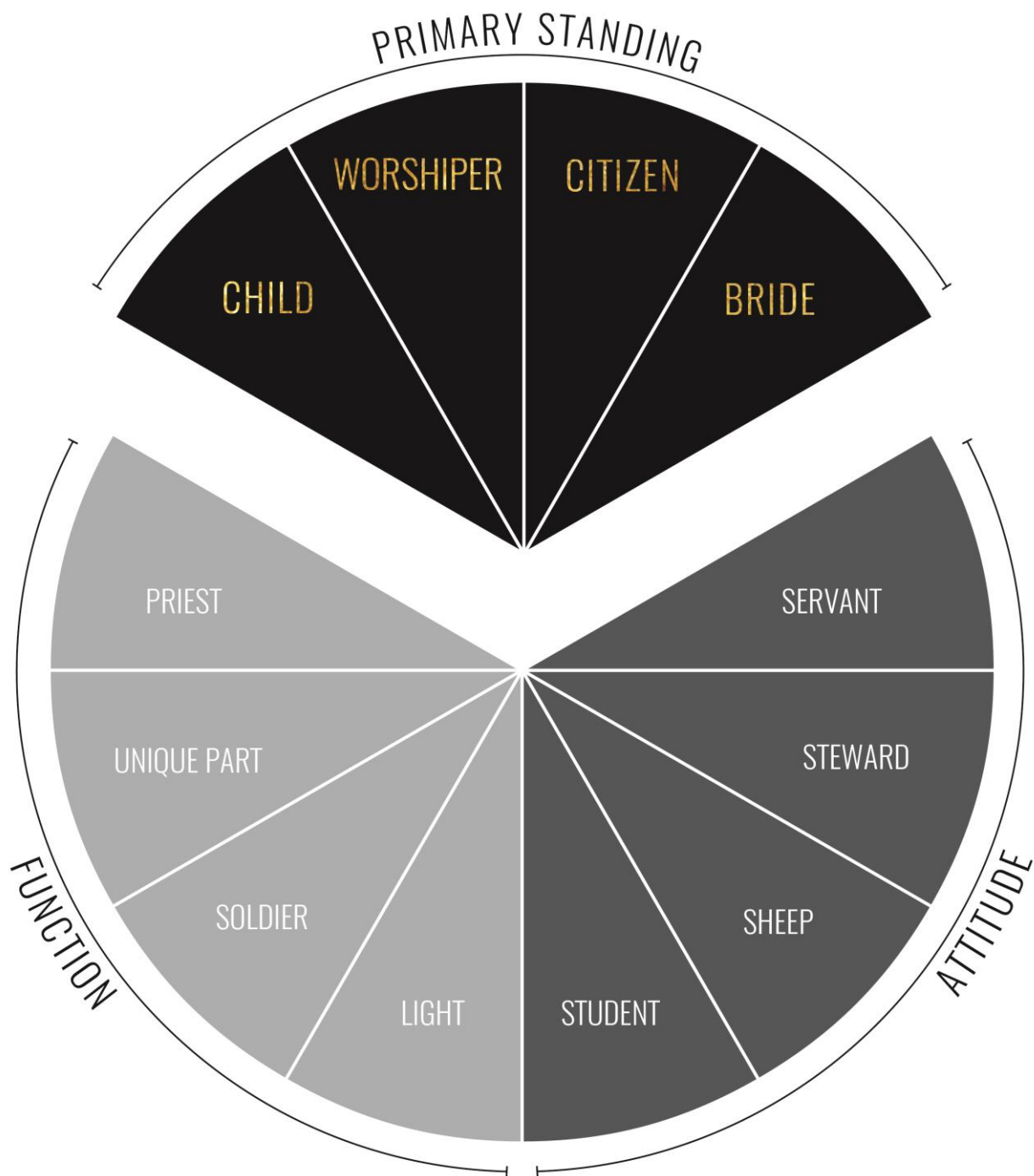
FOUR BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT YOUR PRIMARY STANDING



# A STRONG IDENTITY

FOUR BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT YOUR PRIMARY STANDING

Living as Citizens in  
the Kingdom of God



# 12 Identities of a Christian

## Goal for Today:

To learn to LIVE as a Citizen who stands up for our rights, live out of our rewards and therefore fulfill our responsibilities.



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

## Ephesians 2:11-20 (ESV)

11 “Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles...12 were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

## Ephesians 2:11-20 (ESV) cont.

of hostility...16 and might reconcile us both (Jews and Gentiles) to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility....18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone..."



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

## Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

“But our Citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

# Paul and the Roman Tribune

## Acts 22:22-29

<sup>22</sup> Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.” <sup>23</sup> And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, <sup>24</sup> the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**



## Acts 22:22-29 cont.

against him like this. <sup>25</sup> But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?” <sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” <sup>27</sup> So the tribune came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.” <sup>28</sup> The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

## Acts 22:22-29 cont.

am a citizen by birth.”<sup>29</sup> So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

# Teaching Overview

As a Citizen of the Kingdom of God, what are our:

- I. “Rights?”
- II. “Rewards?” and
- III. “Responsibilities?”



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

# ”Rights” of Citizens:

(not a “to-do” list but a “done” list):

1. Right to not be condemned. Condemnation is ILLEGAL for Citizens!! Rom. 8:1-2,31-39; Col. 2:13-14; Heb. 10:14-18 SC vs District Court.
  - i. Emancipation Proclamation
2. Right to be free from slavery. We are dead now to sin, it has no hold over us (Rom. 6:11-14, 16-18, 22).
  - i. Are we really slaves before meeting God? Yes 😊  
Eph. 2:1-3,12. See also,  
Rom. 6:6,16-17, Col. 1:13.



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

3. Right to appeal. We can approach God with confidence. Heb. 10:19-20: (“...since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”).



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

# Rewards (privileges) of Citizens:

1. Indwelling Spirit: (1 Cor. 3:16, Eph. 2:22, John 14:16-17)
2. Peace with God:  
(Rom. 5, Eph. 2:16 – “Killing the hostility”, Phil. 3:18)
3. No fear of Satan, world, others: Phil. 1:28  
(Roman citizens did not fear, “Greater is he...”)



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

# Responsibilities of Citizens

1. What their King did – Jesus as example: Behave worthy of the gospel = “Behave as citizens” (Phil 1:27):
2. Citizens must remember that they were once foreigners.
3. No “dual citizenship” – Phil. 3:19-20: reject this world’s values (“Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things”) and embrace



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**

# Responsibilities of Citizens

KOG values (“Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus”). Gal. 5: you cannot live in both worlds, you are always feeding one or the other.



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**



# Challenge

1. Are you a Citizen living like a foreigner?
  - i. Are you “standing up for your rights” or are you getting pushed around?
2. Are you a foreigner living like a Citizen?
3. Do you want to become a Citizen?
  - i. Recognize you are a foreigner
  - ii. Recognize you are valued (i.e. God bought you so you can be born again as a citizen).
  - iii. Ask to be transferred into His Kingdom by the blood of Jesus. Deny yourself and follow your new King.



**A STRONG  
IDENTITY**