

3.2.B(14a).Unity: Living Together in Household of Faith. Mark 3:22-30

Read Mark 3:22-30

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.”²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is

divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. Mark 3:22-27.

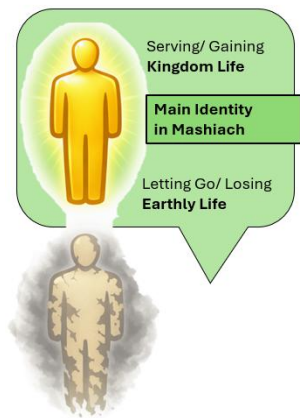
Background:

Unity in the Body of Mashiach:

⁷ If you **abide** in me, and **my words abide in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7

And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you **persecuting me**?" Acts 9:4

Remember that as a disciple of Jesus Mashiach, you are no longer a *mere human being*. You are no longer live as ensnared in this material, limited, corporeal existence in the body. For, if you live as if this *earthly world* is the entirety of your reality, you will be blind and cut off from the rich life of the Kingdom of God that is *yours by birthright*. For, “blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God” (Matthew 5:3). The Kingdom reality of heaven’s realm is not a future inheritance, a hope of a better someday. No, the Kingdom is *yours* now. But you must choose to count the Kingdom reality, though



unseen, a more pressing reality by *faith* than what you see.

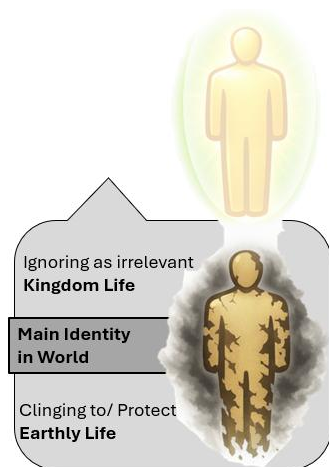
This Kingdom Reality defines how you see yourself in this world. By default, we grow up seeing ourselves as independent, Self-interested, and free agents who do what we please. But, in the Kingdom of God, you are no longer an isolated individual. You are called to ‘abide in Jesus’ (John 15:7). That is, you are not isolated but “in Jesus Mashiach”—you dwell in his presence, his power, his name, and his blessing.

Because of this spiritual connection, Jesus identifies with you, that you are a part of his life. What touches you touches him. Together as disciples, Jesus identifies with all of us together as his “body,” members together under his “headship” and shared life. From a limited, fleshly perspective, this language of abiding “in”

Mashiach is *figurative* language—for fleshly mind cannot conceive of anything but its own awareness. However, by faith, we realize that this spiritual belonging in Mashiach's "body" is a spiritual reality so that Mashiach considers you and me as part of him. So, when Saul attacked the members of the early church, Jesus Mashiach was pained to ask: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting **Me**?" he is stating a spiritual reality. Jesus actually experienced and shared in the pain of his people. This identification with his people as his "body" also serves a functional purpose.

Together as the Body of Mashiach, we function in unity to “nourish,” “grow,” (Colossians 2:19), and even serve by “holding fast to the Head.” Not only does Jesus Mashiach appoint us and authorize us to function in the Body, but he gives each a specific gift and role to use to do His will together with the others we are called to serve with.

So, to function in this way, you must sacrifice your former Self-important, Self-interested, and Self-ambitious ways—your name has been made alive in Mashiach, so live through him in his body (Galatians 2:20).



Peace of Mashiach rules

¹⁵ And let the **peace of Christ rule** in your **hearts**, to which indeed you were **called in one body**. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

And, binding all the members of Mashiach together and following Him as their Head, it is the “peace” of Mashiach that rules over all. Recall that God-Elohim’s original design for the “holy” realm to share in life with his people was a place of “rest” (Genesis 2:3), a place of Shabbat by which any enmity, any division or separation, any self-exalting fleshly striving was overruled by the “rest” established by God. Likewise, members find “rest” in the body and kingdom of Mashiach because his redemption establishes a hard-won “peace”—a shalom that reconciles the adversarial,

that replaces fleshly work with grace, and which covers all that is broken and sinful under its enveloping redemption. This shalom of Mashiach rules that its members can *rest* in the assurance that they are ever at peace with God, with one another, for His grace and forgiveness have covered all. Thus, disciples can live together in Mashiach in a unity that first characterized the family unity shared by Adam and Eve when the two became one flesh, *basar echad*.

Focus:

1. Unified Kingdom: Opposed to Satan's Kingdom.

3:22-23

2. Underlying House: supports Kingdom Unity.

3:24-25

3. Unstoppable Assault: Rescue captives of Satan's kingdom. 3:26-27.

Consider:

When you are reborn into God's spiritual family as a disciple of Jesus Mashiach, you are also born into a family at war. For, the Lord does not just redeem people into random spiritual families. You are reborn into the house of *the Son of God*, the royal family of God-*Elohim* himself. And, this royal house is engaged in a creation-spanning warfare against its rival Kingdom, the Kingdom of Darkness.

So, when the *scribes* comment on the power Jesus Mashiach displays to cast out demons, they rightly understand this this assault against the unclean spirits is an act of kingdom warfare, for only great power can dispossess entrenched

demonic oppressors. So, these scribes accuse Jesus of drawing on the *dark power* to cast out the *dark powers*, which Jesus uncovers as baseless.

But, these critics have a basic understanding of this spiritual conflict. So, let's start with God's promise of the coming Davidic Mashiach, raised up as David's Seed. In his promise to David of a Seed-*zera* raised up in the flesh, God culminates a string of promises of his *chosen Seed-Zera*-overcoming this *dark kingdom's ruler, the Serpent* (Genesis 3:15). By the time God meets with David to promise that his "Seed-Zera" will be raised up to sit on the throne, he reveals exactly how this Son of David, the Mashiach, will succeed in unseating the dark kingdom's power to liberate earth and its people.

- Redeem a people.

When God promises to



“raise up” Seed-*zera* for David, He is acting in his rightful capacity as David’s *kinsman-redeemer* to raise up his Seed a the kinsman-redeemer of his house. Thus, it is Mashiach’s right, as Kinsman-Redeemer, to save his people from their enslavement. This ancient right of redemption traces back to the “Seed of Woman’s” right to “crush” the Serpent’s head and power. So, the Davidic Mashiach must be “disciplined for iniquity” (2 Samuel 7:14) to fulfill his messianic mission to “atone for iniquity” and bring an “everlasting righteousness” (Daniel 9:24).

- **Build a House.**

But, this redemption has a purpose: to free people and depopulate the dark kingdom in order to build the House of *the Son of God*, the House of Elohim. It is this House, raised up from the line of Adam and also reborn by the Son of God, that was originally chosen as the “generations” of sons to inherit the “heavens” and the “earth” (Genesis 2:4) with their Firstborn Son, the Mashiach. Born into the “house of God” (2 Samuel 7:13) and the “house of David” (2 Samuel 7:11), these sons from all the nations are “sown” as “seed” into David’s house (Jeremiah 31:27) do not dispossess the *sons of David and Judah* but rather join God’s house from the “families of the earth” blessed by Abraham’s Seed (Gen. 22:17). They join the house as joining a commonwealth, ready to establish Mashiach’s Kingdom over all the earth. So, the

many peoples joining God's house are instrumental, as were the Elders of Judah, in establishing Mashiach's throne over the earth.

- **Establish a Throne.**

This great House of those alive and meant to rule over both *earth* and *the heavens* is a "great and powerful people" (Joel 2:2) and the "clouds of heaven" (Daniel 7:13) who accompany Lord Mashiach in establishing his rule over the entire earth, with his capital in Jerusalem. These heavenly house are the *hosts*, the armies of heaven, but before the Lord "brings down his warriors" (Joel 3:11) to the earth, this great hosts spreads the Gospel of Jesus Mashiach through the earth, binding Satan and freeing his captives for the Kingdom of God.

- **Rule a Kingdom forever.**

So, once the dark Kingdom has been robbed of its captives and the Kingdom of God built up, then the Lord Jesus Mashiach will place his brothers on thrones to rule with him as kings of the Earth, ruling an eternal kingdom forever (2 Samuel 7:16).

1. Unified Kingdom: Opposed to Satan's Kingdom.
3:22-23

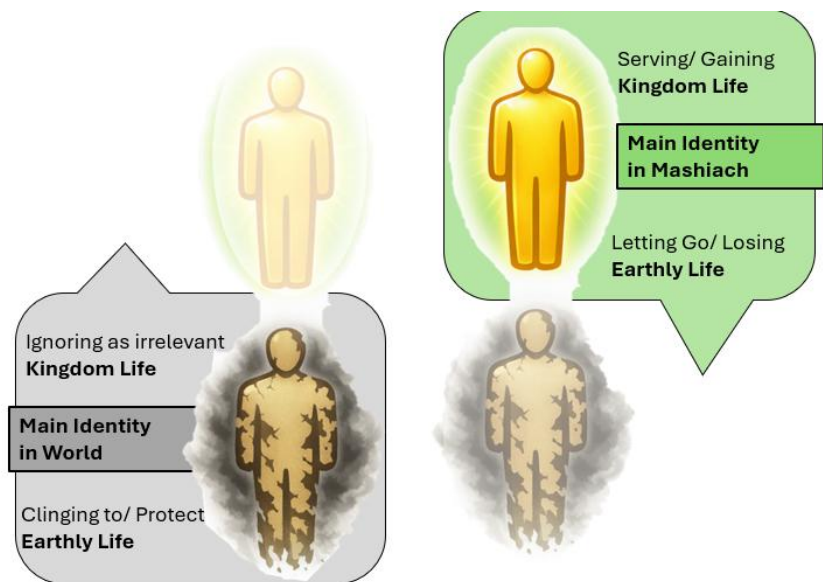
Clearly, the Kingdom of God and its power by the Holy Spirit is intent on "*casting out Satan*" in order to free his captives to sin and death that they may find new life in the Kingdom of God. For Satan to capitulate to the Kingdom of God willingly and to freely release its captives would, as Jesus says, signal its end. But, this Kingdom conflict will proceed to its bitter end, as the Lord Jesus uses increasing force to win a final victory against Satan and his dark kingdom.

But, as ludicrous is the idea of Satan opposing Satan, has the Kingdom of God indeed opposed itself? Again, we learn from the fleshly failings of the Kingdom's first incarnation, the Age of the seven churches.

As we talk about in the series on Job, the Gentile church was entrusted with the spiritual Kingdom of God. But, because its people were not tested as thoroughly as the Jews, the *fleshly and earthly ways of religion* eventually snuffed out the church's witness. Due to fleshly religion, the Kingdom was reduced to fleshly religions battling and competing against one another, leading to the Church's exhaustion and fall.

So, as you disciples of the next age seek to advance the Kingdom's rule, be sure that you crucify any trace of your former Judaism—no flesh can inherit the spiritual life of the Kingdom. Again,

be sure to crucify the fleshly life so that your identity is from the start rooted in Jesus Mashiach as your frame of reference.



2. Underlying House: supports Kingdom Unity. 3:24-25

Thus, it is the strength of the House and its family members that the Lord Mashiach employs to establish His rule. Because this royal Kingdom House consists of members *reborn* into the family of God, the strength of the house simply rests on each brother or sister disciple enthroning Jesus Mashiach as Lord in their hearts (Colossians 2:6-7), obeying His Word (Luke 6:46) so that their own Households are built upon the Rock of His Word.

3. Unstoppable Assault: Rescue captives of Satan's kingdom. 3:26-27.

No, Satan will not willingly concede, so it is the responsibility of the Lord's House to rob his captives to populate the ruling house of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, the Lord Jesus Mashiach commands us: "Go and disciple the nations,

baptizing (rebirthing) them into the family name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

Question:

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Further Discovery: