



# CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Living in the Kingdom of God
Topic	Do you know who you are?
Speaker	Dr Chester Kylstra
Date	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> July

## Message Summary

### Spiritual Objective: Knowing your God-Given Identity

Though we may have many earthly identities in terms of our relationships with others, the work that we do, how we see ourselves or even how we want others to see us, the speaker reminds us that our Heavenly Father has a specific identity for each and all of us. Our response to God, to what we do with our time here on earth, should thus, flow from this God-given Identity.

### Identity, Inheritance, Responsibility

#### 1. Identity – Our Identity is That of a Firstborn Son of God.

Christians know that the Bible says that we need to be born again. This is a very significant change in our status and in our identities. Before we acknowledged our Heavenly Father, we were spiritual orphans. But when we received Christ, our status radically changed. Now, we are raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly realms (Eph 2:6). Now, we have been given the power to become the sons of God (John 1:12).

Still, we are more than sons! Paul reminds us that now we have come to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven (Heb 12:22-23), and we know that God has always claimed all firstborns as His own (Num 8:16-18). So we are a people belonging to God, a royal priesthood, a holy nation that God has chosen as His own (1 Pet 2:9).

#### 2. Inheritance – Our Inheritance is the Double Portion.

As we share in Christ's sufferings so that we may share in His glory, we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, having the right to cry out to our Heavenly Father for all of our needs (Rom 8:15-17).

However, the inheritance of the firstborn is more than that, as the firstborn is to be acknowledged with a double share of all that the father has (Deut 21:17).

#### 3. Responsibility – We Have a Responsibility to the Family.

The inheritance and rights of a firstborn also comes with responsibilities. Just as Joseph provided for his father, his brothers and their households, the firstborn has a responsibility to provide for the rest of his family whenever they are in need. Just as the elder son participates fully in the work of his father's household, we as firstborns are also called to participate fully in the work of our Heavenly Father – to do the good works that God has prepared for us beforehand that we should walk in them (Eph 2:10), to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and keep ourselves unspotted from the world (James 1:27).



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## Questions

1) What responsibilities do you feel you have as a child of your earthly parents? How might these responsibilities look like if we think about our heavenly Father?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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2) What are some of the 'double portion of the inheritance' that you feel God has blessed you with? How have you used these to serve our community and our spiritual family?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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3) What are some of the good works that you believe your Heavenly Father has prepared beforehand for you to do? How might you go about taking the next step to do these good works?

(Fill In Answer Here)

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