

Entitlements

What is an entitlement?

1. *A belief that we have a right to a certain; lifestyle/pattern of thought, foods, treats, possessions.*
2. *Legalistic aspect of a consumer culture.*
3. *A carefully constructed defence by our sinful nature to resist the transforming power of God's salvation.*

Sinful nature resists salvation.

It wants to protect itself from the new life of Christ.

3 key truths which shape our operating system.

- **Jesus** - He is Lord.
 - **Spirit** – We are born again of the Spirit.
 - **Father** – We are adopted children. We can trust Him to provide
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Jesus.

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other – Matt 6.24

Spirit.

Colossians 3v1-5 – [The Message]

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides.

Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, **absorbed with the things right in front of you.**

Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from *his* perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is **your real life**—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. *He* is your life.

When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you.

Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, **doing whatever you feel like** whenever you feel like it, and **grabbing whatever attracts your fancy**. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God.

The life of the sinful nature is a life of **grasping**.

The life of the Spirit is a life of **giving**.

The Father.

We are adopted as God's children.

See what kind of love the **Father** has **given** to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3.1

how much more will your **Father** who is in heaven **give** good things to those who ask him! Matt 7v11

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness 2 Peter 1.3

We move from individualistic living to grasp for ourselves, to living in our inheritance. – **trusting** God for His provision.

This is about **trust**.

God is most glorified in us When we are most satisfied in Him
- John Piper

Grasp with your heart.

- That you're not in charge anymore.
- That you live a completely different life.
- That you have a Dad who will provide all you need.

Entitlements which push God away (rebellion)

- I create no go zones – where God can't interfere.
- I'm entitled to God explaining 'why' certain things happen.
- I need time out from 'being spiritual'.
- I have a right to decide what I give to financially.
- Surely God doesn't mind if I

Entitlements which defend the cravings of the sinful nature

- What I do with my money, is my choice.
- I'm allowed to have (coffee / meals out / TV / shopping / wine / other treats) to feel good.
- I'm entitled to the lifestyle I lead, (I've earned it)
- I have the right to decide who I spend time with, (invite for meals / go out for coffee with / hang out with)
- I am entitled to have nice clothes, I need them for my job.
- Surely its ok to ... (drink alcohol / have treats / enjoy shopping / drive a nice car....)