

## **CROWN FOUNDATIONS PART TWO**

### **1: Who Do We Think We Are?**

So, over years of marriage Rosie and I have realised we don't have quite the same taste in TV - she's quite into what I'd describe reality documentaries... I'm not sure if that's a genre I've just made up, but let's go with it. So, things like *One born every minute* - a show shot in a maternity unit of a Leeds hospital - I tell you, the amount of times I've walked in at the crucial moment and had to walk out...

Another one she loves is *Who do you think you are?* The show that researches family histories - often throwing up quirks and revelations, some shocking and some tragic along the way...

But, can I ask you, *who do you think you are? Do you really know?*

*In this series of short talks, we'll explain how CROWN is expressed more than just a tidy or conveniently arranged set of letters...*

But I want to start with a short video clip - if you're watching on-line you can find it linked in the description below, or by searching fleas in a jar on youtube.

[PLAY OLD PS2 FLEA VIDEO]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-Dn2KEjPuc>

So, fleas are amazing, tiny, up to 3mm long, but they can jump 33cm along, and 18cm high. That's like us jumping from one end of Wembley Stadium to the other, or as high as Big Ben.

But, put in a restrictive environment where they are limited and contained - this conditioning becomes permanent. They jump and jump and hit the lid, and gradually learn to stop - after 3 days remove the lid and you will find they will jump no higher than where the lid was - even when it is no longer there.

They still have the potential to jump great heights and distances but they no longer even attempt it.

Can the same be said of us? Have we lost sight of who we really are? Has disappointment, doubt, fear or failure conditioned us? Do we have this remarkable potential, yet somehow it doesn't even enter our thinking - we can't even imagine what might be possible for us, let alone try?

The contrast in Mark 10 between the children and the rich young ruler fascinates me - I'm sure it's no coincidence the stories follow. This young ruler has already had the lid of limitation placed on his life - his angst about protecting his wealth stops him living fully for the kingdom. But the children have no such limits - they come to Jesus with empty hands but open hearts, and he fills them with blessing.

Open Hearts, Empty Hands - that's a theme we'll return to...

The choice of CROWN as the acronym for our rhythm of life is no accident. I mean there are lots of 5 letter words we could have, I don't know, HELLO if to feel warm and friendly, or ALOHA if we were feeling a little cosmopolitan - or as some of our folk here joke - BROWN? Of course we could have been highly Christian, BLESS or BIBLE, or even JESUS! *surely the right answer.*

No, the reason we have chosen CROWN is absolutely intentional - because it makes a clear truth statement about who we really are. *Do you know who you are?*

If our rules and rhythms of life are not founded upon our true Christian identity they will be either distorted or limited.

We are not to be the fleas that can no longer jump. God designed us for greater things and we are to press into those....

So let me ask you a question?

**1. Like the lid on the jar do you recognise anything that has limited you in fulfilling your potential for God?**

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.

## CROWN FOUNDATIONS PART TWO

### 2: God's Image Bearers

So, we've just asked the question *who do you think you are?* Being clear about our identity is so important - everything flows from it - and all around we see people trying to find that identity in so many different and broken ways...

Yet we have the privilege of coming to God, and and being able to say, Abba, Father, Dad.

So, why CROWN you might ask? Well, we're children of the King, of course, a royal priesthood the Bible says - but the reality of who we are is even more profound.

Turn with me to Genesis - chapter 1 verse 26-27 and as we ponder these things, bear with me, as it may make your head hurt but your hear burn....

*v26 - 27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."*

Do you think writer wants us to get the point - three times it is emphasised, that we are made in God's image...

- Let us make man in our image
- So God created man in is image
- in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

That threefold emphasis is a biblical motif for certainty - Holy Holy Holy,

When something is emphasised three times like this in the scriptures, pay attention - it's significant - but what does that mean?

Made in God's image and after his likeness: Have you ever properly paused to take that in. Ever truly pondered what it means to be made in God's image?

You see - too often our reflections on Genesis 1-3 have been hijacked by questions of evolution or process but in allowing that we've rather missed the point. Let's take a fresh look at that these texts say

Verses 26 - 27, make it wonderfully clear that we are distinct from the rest of creation, we are spiritual creatures. Theologian Jurgen Moltmann writes: “[humanity is] the appearance of God’s splendour, and his glory on earth.” Biblical commentator David Atkinson says: “First and foremost it is about the particular relationship in which God places himself with human beings, a relationship in which we become God’s counterpart, his representative and his glory on the earth.”

Do you grasp the height of that. We had a capacity to bear glory - the creator of the vast array of the universe chose to manifest his glory in humanity. It was expected that the rest of creation would see glory - his likeness - in us...

We weren’t then a product of his best imagining, the pinnacle of his technological achievement - maybe like the latest car or computer may be the fruit of our own creativity. No - something of his likeness is set in us. We weren’t designed to just reflect his light - we were light - a display of the glory of the God of the universe in creation.

That was the height - the honour, the privilege, we were created to. No wonder we are beloved, precious to God...

So when we look around at what we’ve become - at the brokenness of the world, the ravages of sin - the complete horror, sorrow and tragedy of it all becomes apparent.

But what if that original design could be restored? Do we not believe that God of the Bible, doesn’t leave it there - he pursues us, he comes in Jesus, he confronts and deals with sin, once and for all, it is finished?

Does he not restore that original identity. *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV) 2 Co5:21*

Now, what is the hope of glory in the Bible? *Christ in you.*

So once again we are bearers of his presence to creation. We are new creations - filled with the Holy Spirit to display his glory...

It’s no wonder the whole of creation riven with the fault-line of sin now aches / longs for the revealing of the children of God.

I want to suggest to you that something of our original capacity and purpose is restored. The lid of limitation is off - as it were.

So let me ask you a question?

**1. In what ways does your life reflect the glory and presence of God he has set within you?**

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.

## CROWN FOUNDATIONS PART TWO

### 3: Born To Rule - Our Royal Authority.

So, we've heard how it is we were created in God's image - but Genesis tells us even more than that, as well as declaring our identity we also discover in these verses insights to our purpose.

Those verses again: V26-27 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them **have dominion** [rada] over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

v28 *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth **and subdue it**, and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

So I want to begin by asking you some questions:

- 1) Evil exists – we know in Genesis 3 Satan, symbolized by the serpent appears in the garden. So, if evil element is already present – is creation at this stage perfect or not?
- 2) Why do you think Adam & Eve and their descendants receive instruction to subdue the earth? Put another way, what are they to subdue?\*[By the way we like to substitute the word steward because it's nicer – but that's not the original language]
- 3) Why does Eden have a boundary? What lies beyond it?
- 4) Why is it that God gives Adam & Eve no instruction about how to deal with the serpent?
- 5) What would the world look like if there had been no fall?

OK! I've just invited you into some of my wrestling with all of this. I think it would be about 2004 when I bought a book called Café Theology – it was a bit left field for me, the author was a theologian at St Stephen's House an Anglo Catholic vicar school in Oxford, and so having gone to Wycliffe Hall, I was on alert that this might be, well, a "bit dodgy," ironically the author went on to be principal of Wycliffe.

But Instead of my fears, it opened a whole new window into understanding the Scriptures which I have been getting to grips with ever since!

"And I think it's fair to say that along the way I've seen how the gift of other traditions can have great riches for us to learn from, you'll see some of those threads drawn together in CROWN..."

...BUT Returning to Cafe theology, how do we get to grips with those big questions? Let me help explain this with some theological babywear! As parenting advice it is rubbish - but as theology, it is fantastic!

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, and as the NIV conveys it, *so that they may rule...* Implication, ruling flows from the identity of who we are.

*We were made to rule as God would rule.*

Elsewhere that word, *rada* rule or dominion – is the language that would be given to Pharaoh – in his ruling over Egypt...

1 kings 4:24 again King Solomon had dominion - *rada*

In Psalm 8 – a meditation on creation, we read of humanity: *You made them rulers over the works of your hands you put everything under their feet:*

Now what is really interesting here is all of this is royal language, words that are otherwise reserved to describe Kings and Queens. In that book Café theology, Michael Lloyd put it like this - we are 'vice regents', princes and princesses.

Our identity came with a natural authority - what was true of Adam and Eve of one or two – should have been true of each one of us.

The original plan was God essentially saying to humanity: *Rule as if you were me...*

We see this lived out in Genesis 2 - In naming the creatures, Adam begins to define the reality in which he lives. He's co-labouring with God to demonstrate God's goodness over it all

This is highly significant, we need to take it in. Because in it, we begin to find some of the answers to the questions I began with. More than that, we will glimpse how utterly consistent the big story of the Bible is.

Being dad to two girls, I've had to endure, sorry enjoy princess films and stories, and one recurring theme is the ordinary girl who turns out to be a princess... Often they knew they were different - but didn't know why... How much more for us - let's pause for a moment and ponder this first revelation.

You are royalty.

You have royal authority.

So let me ask you a question?

**1. What is your immediate response to this truth of your royal identity?**

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below...  
and we'll continue in a moment.



## CROWN FOUNDATIONS PART TWO

### 4: Our Authority Surrendered

So, we've learnt that humanity bears a royal identity - and as Genesis continues we see more of what that means -

*v28 in chapter 1: And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth **and subdue it**, and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Be fruitful! – isn't it interesting that God commands and blesses humanity with fruitfulness?

He gives as a gift his blessing of increase which the false religions would later strive beg for with their various idolatrous practices....

I don't know if you spotted it - we have that word again – rule, have **dominion**, and then **subdue**... *Did that jar in any way? We are to subdue creation?*

*It clearly jars to some - we often tone it down don't we to 'stewardship of creation' - but that's not what these verses say.*

*In an age when we hear again and again about abuses of power we might feel pretty uncomfortable about all of this - subduing has negative connotations...*

But let me suggest this to you: could it be a good thing if someone good is doing the subduing? Wouldn't it be a good thing, if what was subdued was anything that might cut across or impede human flourishing?

We were designed to rule like God. That's part of expressing his likeness. But God's way is much different than the view of ruling today - his is a rule of protection and empowerment. Rather than seeking power and glory ruthlessly or selfishly, Adam and Eve were created to rule in generosity and kindness, not self-serving, but for the higher good of others. Doesn't this then make sense when the Lord Jesus describes leadership as what? servanthood?

Our original design was to create culture flowing from the worship of God for human flourishing.

This begins to make sense of some of our other questions. We know evil already existed. Jesus himself said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven,” (Luke 10:18) and Revelation 12:4 shows there has already been a “Fall” in the spiritual realm. Michael Lloyd, referring the work of CS Lewis and other eminent theologians, notes that this angelic rebellion distorts the way that the “good” material creation develops, that evil is present.

This begins to explain the boundary of Eden. The implication is clear - outside the garden there was not the same order that existed inside. Their FIRST responsibility was to tend the garden. Their ULTIMATE responsibility was to bring that same order to the rest of the planet.

Michael Lloyd uses the Blue Peter analogy – “here’s one I made earlier.” Eden is the model that is to stretch to the ends of the earth – take dominion and subdue creation....

It also explains the absence of warning against evil. Adam & Eve had all they needed to complete their task and subdue the whole of the creation, extending the boundaries of Eden across the whole globe. Satan had no authority to stop them...

These first people bore the presence and goodness of God to the world - their rule flowed from their perfect relationship with him... They had a privileged intimacy with God - walking with him in the cool of the day.

Satan could do nothing to stop them head on. But he’s sneaky, and comes at it another way with lies and deception. In the fall, this perfect relationship with God is broken, authority is surrendered, the image of God is marred and the impact of evil fully invades the created order.

We’ll come to see how the gospel restores this next time.

So let me close by asking you a question?

**1. How does this expand your vision of who are are, and what was lost at the fall of creation?**

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we’ll continue in a moment.

## **CROWN FOUNDATIONS PART TWO**

### **5: Royal Authority Restored.**

So our created identity is one of royalty - we received God's blessing to rule fruitfully and then in the catastrophe of the fall it all goes wrong, and both we and creation are horrendously corrupted.

I think the more we understand that: who we were truly made to be, the more we are rightly appalled by everything that has been lost. The FALL is a bitter wrenching of the universe, but its reality should also give us hope –

The intention for humanity – was to rule in a world without evil

Which begs the question we asked earlier? What would the world have looked like if there had been no fall? How might we begin to answer that?

I think we see the answer in Jesus himself - in how he lives, what he does and the community he begins to shape and form.

With his Kingly authority he appears, announces the kingdom of God and immediately begins to push back the darkness - demons are rebuked and cast out, diseases healed the dominion of light and goodness advances...

Let's explore that further. We know in various passages of Scripture Satan is described as the "ruler of this world" - that's interesting, because who was created to rule? Us - yes, so how come he's in charge now?

It's interesting that Adam and Eve were not given warning about Satan, or instruction about how to do battle with him, about what we might call Spiritual Warfare. Why? Well it is clear that evil one had no power or authority to exercise over them, any ground he might take would have to be given up or surrendered...no wonder he raged

It is only at the eating of the fruit - rebelling against God, that Adam's position of rule is lost... Satan didn't steal it - Adam gave it away.

This makes sense of Luke 4:6, as Satan in the wilderness says to Jesus as he shows him the kingdoms of the world:, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. If you, then, worship me, it will all be yours."

It has been delivered to me, or, as the NASB translates, handed over to me...

The authority that was ours by right and identity has been stolen. But Jesus comes to restore what was lost but he didn't do it by bowing down to Satan.  
1 John 3:8 *For this reason Christ was revealed, to destroy all the works of the evil one...*

Instead he demonstrates dominion rule by pushing back the darkness – with the good news of the Kingdom of God. What's the kingdom? The King's domain, where he has rule or what, *Dominion*?

Now where do we see Jesus' ultimate victory? [The Cross]

Yes - it is in his death and resurrection he overcame the hostile powers that held humanity in subjection.

This aspect of the cross or atonement is often referred to as Christus Victor—namely that Christ was victorious on the cross and his triumph has cosmological implications. "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him" (Col. 2:15).

It shows that his death the atonement isn't merely about me and my salvation - though it is absolutely about that - it is about the redemption of the cosmos from the evil that has subjected it to bondage.

So in the Great Commission – the risen Jesus' following his victory on the cross declares this... Matthew 24: "All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to me, therefore go."

Now, basic maths, if Jesus has all authority then how much does the devil have? Answer - None.

Now we have a new commission, to make disciples, those who do the works of Jesus and extend his kingdom... We're to extend the King's domain - the area of his rule, and he gives us his authority to do it....

Do you see where this takes us?  
We're back to the original design.

We have a mandate that advances light over darkness, brings order out of disorder and chaos... Through the cross - Jesus has restored us to the original assignment of ruling as people made in his image, bearing his glory and presence into the world. We work for the fullness of human flourishing around the worship and enjoyment of God.

We can do this with confidence because, we know that the resurrection of Jesus is the first fruits of a unstoppable Kingdom that will see the renewal of all things.

The church is not a powerless body hanging in there until Jesus comes back - we're preparing the ground. We bring foretastes of his victory into the present until it is fully realised. That's who we are - it's the task, the honour that we get to live up to.

If this excites you, in theological terms, then books like *surprised by Hope* by Tom Wright will give more depth. It always strikes me how similar his thinking is to that of Bill Johnson, from Bethel Church, California. He puts it like this, *"In the original purpose of God, humankind was to rule over creation. But then sin entered our domain, refining our task to that which affects eternity. Because of sin, creation has been infected by darkness - disease, sickness, poverty, natural disasters, demonic influence etc. While our rule is still over creation, it has become focused on exposing and undoing the works of the devil. That is the ministry of Jesus that we inherited in his commission."*

Do you begin to see why we've chosen CROWN as the framework? But please don't mistake this for a call for Human power and force. There are some who take this idea of dominion as a mandate to make sure Christians position themselves in places of power... But what was Jesus' method:

- servanthood,
- He was subversive, he call to us is to be salt and light.

Remember we come with empty hands, but open hearts, and we get to serve with what God fills us with. We can only release the benefit of God's rule flowing through us to the degree that his rule is over us.

So we're being called to a place of strength - but it's a place of intimacy. We must rediscover our place in the Garden, walking with God in the cool of the day and lead as he leads us. It is the only way we can rule well. It is from that place, restored to our original design, that we exercise authority to subdue the works of the evil one.

So let me close by asking you a question?

**1. How might the truth of your authority change how you approach the Christian life?**

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.

## **CROWN FOUNDATIONS PART TWO**

### **6: Rhythms That Help Us Reign**

We've been learning how we are made in God's image, that we were created with royal authority to rule over creation for good as God would rule - and how that authority was lost at the fall. Yet we've seen how Jesus comes and triumphs over sin and death and calls us again to work of extending his rule...

These images of rule and authority are why we choose CROWN as the image and shape for our rhythm of life... It is no accident, it is a statement. CROWN reminds us of who we are and whose we are... So the rhythms we build are not to be timid or half-hearted, they are to reflect our true identity and they should impact us and the world...

As step by step our rhythms build up - as we go deeper in God- they should begin to help us reign in life. What do I mean by that?

In Romans 5:17, St Paul contrasts the impact of sin, with the impact of knowing Jesus: *For if, by the trespass of the one man [Adam], death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*

Imagine then a church going deeper in patterns that enables its people to reign in life - a community where the victory of God is increasingly manifest - through which the darkness is pushed back by advancing the light of King Jesus. What a witness to the world - and what potential for the kingdom.

Victory that manifests itself in COMMUNITY:

*Where we grow in our relationships with each other, sharing life and faith, where the lonely are set in families, growing in love, becoming one in heart and mind as we call out to God together in prayer, gather to worship, devoted to the teaching, glorifying God together and building one another up.*

Victory that manifests itself in RE-CREATION:

*Where our patterns mean we are not dictated to by the pressures of the world but instead we set the pace with rhythms of rest in which God re-creates us. Where we are empowered to reject the incessant demands of modern life, and start to model something better. Becoming a refreshed and a refreshing people.*

Victory that manifests itself in OFFERING

*Becoming a church able to see where God is working as he renews the whole of creation and rises to join him.*

*A people that come with open hearts and empty hands for God to fill. A community that calls the treasure out of one another, discerning and using everyone's gifts to bring glimpses of heaven into the present.*

*Victory that roots itself in the WORD*

*A church with depth - sitting at Jesus' feet in worship, hearing his word to us from the Bible. A people that seek to set time aside to draw close to the King. A church that walks in the intimacy for which we were made - abiding in Jesus, and enjoying fellowship with Father God in the cool of the day. A church that doesn't strive - but is filled and overflowing with life flowing from from the throne of grace.*

*Victory that brings life into our NETWORKS*

*A church filled with passion and compassion to take the good news to a hurting world. A bold people prepared to move in kindness, hospitality, invitation and conversation whilst open to the Holy Spirit's leading and equipped to seek and reach those hungry for God. A church where people find faith with deep conviction and with the Holy Spirit.*

As a rule of life CROWN is an invitation into a pattern of discipleship that helps us pursue our growth in faith, moving from unbelief to belief in every area of life...

But it is a rhythm that flows from our true identity. That reality we receive completely as a gift - it's what God has done and it's a position of favour... royal favour.

This is no quick fix, it's a slow path in many ways, but it means the patterns we build are sustained and bring life to us. They become natural, like cleaning our teeth... I now ache, if I've neglected my Word or prayer rhythm. My family love the rest we take together, and these patterns have helped me manage busyness and become more fruitful, so whilst rhythms are not quickly formed - they have a deeper and lasting impact.

As we set out to build the rhythm of life here at St Mike's one of our leaders had a vision - before them came a display of people of the church in a variety of contexts - wearing glorious CROWNS... They were not overly ornate - yet their shape spoke of dignity and authority. They were not heavy and burdensome, but light and flexible, they didn't weigh anyone down, nor were

they prone to fall off. They were being worn in classrooms, workplaces, people were climbing mountains etc

Think about it - how would you react if in your everyday someone walked in to a cafe you were in, or into your work, or said Hello to you in the street wearing a glorious CROWN. It would be a bit odd.

Are you for real? Who are they?

But I say to you - this is exactly what is happening in the Spiritual realm. The forces of darkness wake up and take note - the Spirits of the hungry stir and reach towards you with longing.

Choosing to accept by faith the reality of this royal CROWN moves us beyond church-going into an intentional hunger for discipleship.

So let me close by asking you a question?

**1. Which of these areas areas, Community, Re-Creation, Offering, Word or Networks do you most need to from rhythms in?**

Think about that, talk to those around you, or leave you comments below... and we'll continue in a moment.



## **CROWN FOUNDATIONS PART TWO**

### **7: Summing Up**

So, in this second series of talks we've been exploring why our rule of life is built around the acronym CROWN.

It's more than a convenient choice of letters, but it speaks of our identity and our purpose.

We were created in God's image - with a royal identity and authority to rule as he would, to rule over creation with love.

And whilst this was lost in the fall - Jesus restores that authority to those of us who are in him. Because he is in us, the presence and glory of God is once again borne in us to the whole of creation.

CROWN, then, is about shaping patterns that enable that rule to flow with increased power and measure in our lives.

So [this morning] as we embark on this journey I don't want us to work out what our rhythms should be - to come up with an action plan. Our first response has to just be to come and receive.

We come with empty hands but Open hearts...

To come and kneel before the throne and receive from him a fresh confirmation of your Royal identity in Christ...

This isn't about trying harder, or five extra things we have to do to be a good Christian! It's about positioning ourselves for grace in which we receive his power, not OURS & summary

The overlapping rhythms re-inforce and bring life to each other. Like the essential systems of the body - strength in one area impacts all the others in some way.

*In one of the pictures of prayer in Revelation - the Saints are crowned in glory, laying their crowns in adoration before the King who then confers them upon them afresh in a glorious cycle...*

*So come kneel and seek the anointing of his Spirit - Allow that original creation mandate of authority to be confirmed upon you afresh - you may like to picture the CROWN being placed upon you...*

*Kneel before the King - and then rise to rule...*

*Rule from that place of abiding in Jesus and the river of life that flows from his throne -*

*Rise to advance his kingdom with him, taking back the ground Satan has had the audacity to steal in peoples lives.*

*Rise as blessed royal child of the King - Romans 8:*

*14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba,[b] Father.' 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

*So rise in your royal identity, but then then kneel again - kneel in sheer gratitude for his goodness and mercy to you. That even though we don't deserve it - he blesses us with favour.*

*For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

*He will withhold no good thing - as we take this journey with him. It won't always be easy - but it is the greatest of privileges - and it is worth our all. He is worth our all?*

So, Christian, you were created in God's image to display his glory and splendour on earth.

You were created to rule over creation, bringing the order and blessing of the Kingdom of God so people can truly flourish.

You were created to bear his presence to creation - and in Jesus you do exactly that.

That's what you are here for. From the very beginning It was always that...

*There will be a chance for those of you here to receive prayer now, but let's close this time with prayer:*

***Father, the lid is off, we repent of the limits we have placed upon ourselves with a wrong understanding of our identity and purpose. Renew us, and lead us by your Spirit to form the patterns under CROWN that lead us deeper into you, that we may fulfil our purpose to extend your Kingdom and display your glory to our broken world. Amen.***

Next time, we'll look at some of the pitfalls in forming a rule of life, and we can remain God focused and God centred.

So do talk to those around you, leave you comments below... and we'll be back next time.