

A Solid Foundation



A course for grounding believers in the basics of
Christian Discipleship.
2002 Edition

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Lesson 1: How to Stay Converted

Introduction

- A. God wants every person to be converted to Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:9; Luke 19:10).
Once people are converted to Christ, he wants them to stay converted.
- B. In this lesson, we will review the conversion process and understand why you must remain faithful to your commitment.

I. Three Elements Involved in Conversion

- A. The Sinner
 - „ Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:8,10

- B. The Word of God
 - „ Hebrews 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

 - „ Acts 2:37; 7:54

- C. The Holy Spirit
 - „ John 16:7-11; Ephesians 6:17

It is through the Word of God that the Holy Spirit teaches us and convicts the world of sin and brings men to salvation.

II. There are Five Steps Involved in Conversion

- A. People must hear the word of God
 - „ Romans 10:12-17

- B. People must believe in Christ and His Resurrection
 - „ John 8:24; 3:16-18

- C. People must repent of sin
 - „ Acts 2:38; 10:30

 - „ Matthew 21:28-30; 2 Corinthians 7:10

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D. People must accept and confess Christ as their Lord

„ 1 Timothy 6:12; Romans 10:9-10

„ Is there a difference in accepting Jesus as your Savior, and accepting Him as your Lord *and* Savior? Explain

E. People must be baptized into Christ (Born again)

„ Ephesians 4:4-5; Romans 6:3-6, Galatians 3:26-29;

„ When a person is baptized *into* Christ, is he baptized into Christ's head, or into Christ's body (the church)? (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

III. It is essential to remain converted to Christ

A. Look at the following verses and write down some observations about those who have fallen away:

„ 2 Peter 2:20-22

„ Hebrews 6:4-6

B. As you can see, it is a very serious thing for a person who has once been enlightened (known the truth of God's word), tasted of the gift of the Holy Spirit, and been saved to turn his back on his salvation From reading the following verse, what would you say is the result of leaving Christ?

„ Hebrews 10:26-31

C. In reading the following verses, what can you do to stay faithful to your confidence in Christ?

„ Hebrews 10:19-22

„ Hebrews 10:23

„ Hebrews 10:24

„ Hebrews 10:25

„ 2 Peter 1:3-11

„ 2 Peter 3:14, 17-18

IV. Conclusion

A. In the next weeks and months, you will be exposed to many new and exciting concepts to help you grow in your relationship with God and your fellow disciples.

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Satan will be doing everything in his power to discourage you and to get your focus off of Christ. Remember to seek first the kingdom and the righteousness of God. (Matthew 6:33).

- B. Begin to read the Gospel of John a few chapters at a time. Read one chapter in Proverbs daily, and one short chapter in Psalms along with John. Begin to spend 10 minutes praying to God and asking His blessings and help in your new life in Christ.

Lesson 2: Assurance of Your Salvation

Introduction

Those who have been buried with Christ in baptism have had their sins removed and can have assurance of their salvation. Assurance means "to be sure of". In this lesson we will study:

1. Promise of eternal life
2. Promise of sonship
3. Promise of forgiven sins
4. Need to believe facts not just feelings
5. Experiencing joy and peace because of your salvation
6. Assurance from a changed life.

I. Promise of Eternal Life

- A. Why did God send Jesus to earth for us? (John 3:16)
- B. Read 1 John 5:13. According to this verse, can we **know** for certain that we have eternal life?

II. Promise of Sonship

- A. Read John 1:11-12. What do we have to do in order to become children (sons) of God according to this verse?
- B. Explain how you can know you are a son of God according to Galatians 3:26-29.
- C. Read Colossians 2:12. Is baptism the act of faith that removes the sins that once separated us from the Father?

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- D. Read Ephesians 1:3-6. From these verses, why did God set in motion a plan from before the creation of the world?
- E. Did that plan include an intentional decision by God to adopt believers in Christ as His very own children?
- F. What is so special about being an adopted child? (Adopted children are not accidents, but are deliberately chosen, wanted, and desired). An adopted son in first century Rome had all the rights of a natural son and was not a "step son".

III. Promise of Forgiven Sins

- A. What does sin do to a person (Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23)?
- B. Read Acts 2:37-41.
 - 1. There is a promise mentioned in verse 39. What is that promise?
 - 2. What must we do in order to receive that promise?
- C. Read 1 John 1:7-9
 - 1. In verse 7 what must we do now that we have been buried with Christ in baptism?
 - 2. What is the promise if we continue to walk in the light?
 - 3. Can we still sin after becoming a Christian? What must we do if we sin (Vs. 9).
- D. Read 1 John 2:1-2
 - 1. In verse 1 John says if we sin we have an Advocate (NASV), one who speaks to the Father in our defense (NIV). An advocate is a defense attorney in a court of law.
 - 2. In verse 2 Jesus is our Propitiation (NASB) or atoning sacrifice (NIV). Propitiation is the payment that the law demands. What does the law demand (Romans 6:23)
 - 3. Jesus therefore, is your defense attorney before the judgment tribunal of God. He also is the payment that the law of God demands from you.

IV. Need to believe facts, not just feelings

- A. Read Hebrews 10:1-4
 - 1. Could the old law and its animal sacrifice forgive and relieve the guilt of sin?
 - 2. From verse 3, what did the sacrifices do to make people feel guilty?
- B. Read Hebrews 9:14 and 7:22-25
 - 1. What can Jesus' one-time-for-all-time sacrifice do for your conscience?

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2. What kind of a guarantee does Jesus give you from 7:22-25?

3. How should knowing these facts make you feel?

C. Read John 8:32

1. What will set you free from sin and the guilty conscience associated with it?

V. Experiencing joy and peace because of your salvation

A. Read Philippians 4:4-9

1. When Paul wrote this he was in prison. What type of attitude did he have about his salvation in Christ?

2. Do you think God expects you to have peace and joy in Christ?

B. Read Luke 15:4-10

1. How did the angels in heaven feel when you repented and were baptized?

C. Read Romans 8:31-39

1. From these verses, why should you have joy and peace?

VI. Assurance from a changed life

A. Now that you are a disciple of Jesus, you will notice changes occurring in your life as the Holy Spirit does His work in your life. Here are some of the changes that you may notice.

1. Hunger to know God and His word (1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 5:6)

2. Genuine desire to keep God's commandments and change (1 John 2:3-6)

3. Growing love for other Christians and a desire for their fellowship (1 John 3:14)

4. A desire to want to tell others the good news about your new life (Acts 4:20)

B. Read Romans 12:1-2

1. How does God transform and renew your life?

C. Read Galatians 5:22-24. List the fruit of the Spirit and pray that God will help you experience these changes in your action and attitudes.

D. Read your Bible for 15 minutes daily beginning in John, and pray for 5 minutes asking God to use your new life for His glory and to help save others.

Lesson 3: How to Be A New Person

Introduction

Throughout the ages, people have searched in vain for the proverbial "*Fountain of Youth*". It seems there is within us a desire to be a new person, to start life all over again and do it right this time. A person especially seems to have this desire when things are not going the way they should. From a worldly view, and based on what the world has to offer, becoming new is only an impossible fantasy. But with God, nothing is impossible. In fact, God wants every person to be new and He gives us the power and ability to be. In this lesson we will answer the question, "*How can a person be new?*"

I. You can be a new person

A. Everyone who comes into Christ becomes a new person instantly

*2 Corinthians 5:17: "*If any man is in Christ he is a _____*"

*Galatians 6:15: "*What really counts is a _____*"

B. What is a new creation?

C. Newness of life occurs when one is ***born again***.

*John 3:1-7

*Titus 3:5

*Romans 6:1-4

D. What do you think Jesus means when he says "*Born Again*"?

II. You must "think" like a new person

A. Just because God sees you as a new person does not mean that *you* automatically see yourself as a new person. Why do you think this is true?

B. What is the difference between your inner and outer man?

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*2 Corinthians 4:16

*How is the inner man renewed daily?

C. How do you become new?

*Ephesians 4:22-24 "To be made new in the _____ of your _____"

D According to Romans 12:1-2, how are you renewed or transformed?

E. Now that you are a disciple, where are you to focus your thoughts and your heart?
Why?

*Colossians 3:1-2, 10

F. Your attitude of mind can be made new by the following activities:

*Daily study in the Word of God and prayer

*Daily fellowship with other Christians

*Listening to cassette tapes of preaching, scripture reading, and Gospel singing

*Daily reading of good, wholesome Christian literature

*Daily memorization of scripture (Psalm 119:11)

III. You must "act" like a new person

A. Read the entire section of Ephesians 4:17 to 5:21, then Galatians 5:13-26. What are some *specific* changes that you can see from these passages that you need to make? List them.

B. What insights can you gain about changing your actions from the following verses?

*Galatians 6:7-9

*1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

*1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

IV. You must desire to be "like God"

A. How does a human imitate God (Ephesians 5:1)?

B. What does Colossians 3:10 teach about how a person is transformed to become like God in an ever increasing way?

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C. If you want to be like God, what attitude do you need to develop toward being righteous?

*Matthew 5:6

D. 1 Peter 1:13 - 16: *verse 16, "for it is written, be _____ because I am _____"*

1. The word *holy* means "*special, or set aside for a specific purpose.*" Now that you are a Christian, how do you think you are special in God's eyes?

2 For what purpose do you think God has set you aside and made you holy?

E. From 2 Corinthians 6:14- 7:1, what can you learn about keeping yourself holy and prepared to do God's service?

F. From 2 Peter 1:3-11, what spiritual qualities should you add to your faith, and why?

V. Conclusion

A. God has made you a new creation, a new person. This happened when you were born again in Christ.

B. You need to start thinking and acting like a new person and set God as your example to imitate.

C Becoming new and growing up in Christ will not happen automatically or immediately.

*Galatians 6:9 What can you learn about not quitting or getting discouraged if you should find yourself not *living up* to what you desire to become?

D. Begin a notebook for your insights on the Bible, and keeping a prayer list.

Lesson 4: Developing Your Devotional Life

Introduction

This lesson will demonstrate the importance of having a time alone with God so that you can grow strong in your spiritual life. Practical suggestions will be offered on the *How To's* of having a devotional time as well as demonstrating an actual time of study and prayer.

I. Why do you need to have a devotional time with God?

- A. It is vital for you as a growing disciple of Christ to have time alone with God on a daily basis. This time is a basic part of developing a consistent walk with God. It is in these moments of intimate communication with God that we as Christians learn the most about God and what He is doing in our lives.
- B. The word implies in several places the need for a time alone with God: List why.
 - *Psalms 119:147-148
 - *Psalm 1:2
 - *1 Peter 2:2
 - *2 Peter 3:18
- C. Building your spiritual life is just like building a house. Your individual relationship with Jesus Christ is the foundation for your effectiveness as a disciple.
 - *Luke 6:39-42
 - *Romans 10:17



- 3. Roof:** Your relationship with Outsiders. If your relationship with God and his people is not strong, you will have little impact for Christ
- 2. Walls:** Your relationship with other Christians. Priority #2.
- 1. Foundation:** Your personal relationship with God. Priority #1. Without a solid foundation firmly cemented and consistent, all your efforts and works in the Lord will be fruitless (John 15:5; Matthew 7:24-27).

- D. In your own words, why is learning to have a devotional life crucial to your growth as a Christian and how does your devotional life affect your relationship with other Christians and your influence on those in the world?

II. How to have a devotional life in Bible study

- A. **Plan for it!** Proper planning will prevent problems such as distractions and interruptions.
1. Should be a time when you can concentrate (early morning, late at night).
 2. Should be a time when you are alert and thinking clearly. God deserves your best.
 3. Should begin with about twenty to thirty minutes a day.
- B. **Find a good place.**
1. If possible, find a place where you can pray aloud privately.
 2. You may have to have a place for study and another for prayer (Mark 1:35).
- C. **Write notes** (In a notebook or in the margins of your Bible)
- D. **Procedure**
1. Study the Bible a chapter at a time or paragraph at a time. You are interested in quality, not quantity of study.
 2. Read the given passage slowly several times and think about the text. Here are some basic questions that must be answered.

***What does the passage say? (OBSERVATION)**

***What does the passage mean? (INTERPRETATION)**

***What does the passage mean to me? (APPLICATION)**

- E. **Interpretation:** Biblical interpretation is not difficult for the most part, but it does require that you ask some basic questions:
1. **Who is the author?** (Many times the first few verses will reveal this)
 2. **Who is he writing to?** (Israel, a nation, an individual or a church?)
 3. **Why is he writing?** (To correct a problem? Which one? To encourage? Why?)
- F. **Application.** (How does this passage relate to me today? What can I apply to me?)
1. Don't study just to gain *head knowledge*.
 2. Does it teach me about sins I should forsake?
 3. Are there promises to claim? Examples to follow? Warnings to Consider?
 4. What does it teach me about the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
 5. What should I do about these things? How can I change my heart or actions?

III. How to have a devotional life in prayer

- A. It is important that prayer become a natural part of your life as a disciple. As least five minutes of your devotional time should be spend in prayer. Eventually, the

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time will increase as you draw closer to God. You will also begin to experience deeper and more meaningful prayer time. It is something you learn to do (Luke 11:1)

B. Procedure (Develop a prayer list and keep a diary going)

1. Pray for the sick, the lost, and your own family, wisdom, and your own spiritual growth.
2. Pray for rulers, and governing authorities (1 Tim 2:1-4), and members of the church.

C. Use the A.C.T.S. of prayer

- ***Adoration** (Psalms 42:1-2; 24:1-3)
- ***Confession** (Psalms 32:3-6; Ezra 10:1)
- ***Thanksgiving** (Psalms 95:2; 100:4)
- ***Supplication** (Philippians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:1-3)

IV Practice some devotional / study passages

- A. Select one of the following passages and use the above instructions for a devotional time.
(2 Corinthians 5:16-21; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Romans 12:9-12; Philippians 4:4-13; Colossians 3:1-17).
- B. NOTE: Use the remaining page and take one or two of these passages and follow the procedure above to learn how to study these passages. Be prepared to share your experience next study.
- C. Begin a notebook today for your prayer diary and study notes & write out a prayer.

Lesson 5: Learning From Christ

Introduction

It is relatively easy to achieve spiritual growth in people who have the basic attitude of a student. Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). When we accept the invitation to follow Christ, we also accept the challenge to be *learners* (Matthew 11:28-30). In this lesson we will explore how to be a learner from Christ.

I. Discipleship involves learning

- A. The word *disciple* means "learner or imitator" It is this attitude that is basic in discipleship.
 - *Matthew 11:29; John 6:45
 - *Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17
 - »Christ is the leader, we are the followers
 - »Christ is the teacher we are the students
 - »Christ is the trainer, we are the apprentices
- B. The church is a teaching, studying, learning, and maturing body of people.
 - *Acts 2:42, 11:25-26, 14:21-22; 17:10-11; 18:5, 11, Colossians 1:28-29
- C. The requirements for fruitfulness demand that we be students of God's Word.
 - *2 Peter 1:3; 5-8; 12-13
- D. Before we can be *doers* of the word, we must first hear and understand the word
 - *James 1:22-25
 - »The important thing in serving Christ is not simply listening and knowing the right doctrine, but in doing the will of the Father.

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»KEY: People remember only 15% of what they hear, and about 75% of what they see. If you take notes, you dramatically increase your capacity to learn.

E. Others will follow your example.

*1 Timothy 4:12

*Matthew 5:14-16

*Philippians 2:14-15

»If you are a student, others will imitate you and do what you do.

II. Be a willing, dedicated learner

A. Be studious in your daily life. This aspect is *extremely important!* It will speed up the growth process, and demonstrate your genuineness.

B. The procedure involves several different aspects.

1. Daily time for prayer and Bible study

2. Make use of secondary reading materials such as periodicals, books,, cassette tapes, and lessons

C. Be studious at public gatherings.

1. Come to an assembly with an attitude which will help you learn (humility, eagerness, and open-mindedness.

2. Bring all your basic tools such as: Bible, notebook, pen.

3. Listen to every word of the speaker, and concentrate on what he is saying.

4. Turn to the scripture references and follow along, taking notes in margins

D. Learn to take good notes. Here are some helpful hints.

1. Effective note taking is a skill developed only through practice!

2. Write down the major points of the lesson

3. Under the major points, write down the sub points

4. List all scripture references and a brief note with it

5. Learn to record illustrations or statements you want to remember

6. Use only key words of a sentence or illustration. Use abbreviations.

7. Use ditto marks”

E. Listen to learn

1. Listen for transition statements in a sermon like: "First of all", "Second", "In the third place", "Finally", "In conclusion", "Furthermore", "Next".

2. Transitions are signposts that tell you something new or different is about to be said.

F. Review your notes as soon as possible afterwards. Edit your notes or rewrite them so that you can learn from them later on. Learn to file your notes in a notebook or organize them into lessons that you may want to write or present one day.

G. Make personal application to yourself as you study.

H. Be alert for things you may be presently studying in your own devotional study time.

III. Ask, Seek, Knock

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- A. If you are unclear on a point made, ask the speaker, or another person who heard the message. Clarify what is being said so that YOU understand the message clearly.
- B. Rephrase the ideas in your own words. This takes some time and getting used to, since most people do not write well or often.
- C. Look at these verses and note how they apply to your learning from Christ
 - *2 Timothy 2:15
 - *2 Peter 3:15-18

IV. Conclusion

- A. A disciple is a learner, student, or pupil. In order to follow Christ and mature, you must continue to learn, grow, and apply God's will to your life.
- B. Never quit being a learner. In fact, increase in your abilities to learn from Christ.
- C. Matthew 11:28-30

Lesson 6: Importance of Prayer

Introduction

Many Christians misunderstand prayer. Some conceive of it as something dependent upon saying the right words, like saying the right words for a spell or chant. Prayer is *simply talking with God*. The disciples observed Jesus' conversations with the Father and asked Him, "*Lord teach us to prayer*" (Luke 11:1).

Prayer, in order to be effective, must be an honest expression of our hearts. We must understand that we are coming before the God of the universe, our Father in heaven, and we must mean what we say.

I. Purpose of Prayer

- A. Prayer satisfied the deepest needs of the human heart (Psalms 42:1-2; 63:1, 5-8).
- B. Prayer is a means of discovering God's guidance (Matthew 7:78; James 1:5).
- C. Prayer is the means God has given us to deal with worry (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7).
- D. Prayer communicates our needs and concerns to God (John 16:23-27; Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 5:14-15).
- E. Prayer aids us in our fight against sin and temptation (Matthew 6:13; 26:41; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3).

II. Developing Effectiveness in Prayer

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It is not only important to know *why* one should pray, but the new Christian should have some workable suggestions on *how* to pray. Here are five steps to effective prayer.

A. Be well rounded.

A common problem in prayer is to become extreme in one *type* of prayer.. For example, one might continually pray for personal needs; or perhaps only for mission work. Some might pray for others to the exclusion of his own needs. Philippians 4:6-7 relates *three* essential elements of effective prayer:

1. Personal Requests: the personal needs and desires we express to God.
2. Supplications: the requests that we make for other people and projects.
3. Thanksgiving: remembering to thank God for His answers and provisions for our needs.

B. Be systematic.

Another common problem is to pray for or about something, and then forget it. Sometimes this can be done, but for other things, a systematic approach is required. For instance, a prayer list can be very valuable and helpful to you. It helps you remember all that you need to be praying for and about (Eph1:16; Col 1:9).

C. Be constant

Prayer must develop into a vital, constant communication with God. A helpful way for this to occur is to develop the habit of sentence prayer. This means saying short prayers throughout the day as a request or praise comes to mind (Romans 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17).

D. Be specific:

The Father knows exactly what we need (Matthew 6:8). He wants to give us blessings, but is waiting for us to ask in the prayer of faith. Those prayers must be specific (Matthew 7:7-11).

E. Be persistent:

Many Christians prayer for something once and then give up because of discouragement. Some unanswered prayer is the result of asking just for *things*, or asking for the wrong reasons. Some prayer is not answered by God in order to test our patience or faith in Him. Patient persistent prayer demonstrates our willingness to trust God and His timing in answers (Luke 11:5-9; 18:1-8; Romans 1:9-10).

III. Possible Hindrances to Effective Prayer

A. The Bible discusses a number of obstacles to prayer and warns against them. The following is a list of some of these obstacles:

1. Not praying in faith and believing (James 1:5-8)
2. Not praying enough or not really asking for anything (Matthew 21:22; James 4:3)

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3. Asking for the wrong reasons (i.e. selfishness (James 4:3).
4. Unconfessed sins in your life (Psalms 66:18)
5. Having unresolved marital problems (1 Peter 3:7).
6. Requests not in God's will (1 John 5:14-15).

IV. Conclusion

- A. Start a prayer list and pray daily.
- B. Continue to have a daily appointment with God. Pray conversationally during the day.
- C. Write down some key ideas you've learned from this lesson:

Lesson 7: The A-C-T-S-S of Prayer

Introduction

A. The apostles were Jews, and were raised in the environment of going to synagogue and temple worship. They must have heard thousands of prayers in their lifetime, but they still felt inadequate when they heard Jesus pray. They wanted Him to teach them to pray powerfully, and meaningfully (Luke 11:1). This lesson is designed to give you some helpful hints on how to develop a powerful and effective prayer life. We will use an acrostic "A" - Adoration, "C" - Confession, "T" - Thanksgiving, "S" - Supplication, "S" - Submission.

II. Adoration

A. All prayer should begin with thinking about and adoring the Lord. God doesn't need to be adored, but we need to adore God. This helps us understand who we are approaching.

B. Adoration is an expression of the praise, and majesty of the Lord of Hosts.

C. The most wonderful collection of prayers is in the book of Psalms. As you read them, take special note of the emphasis given to adoration and praising God. You might want to begin your prayers with reading one of the beautiful Psalms out loud to the Lord.

*Psalm 139:1-18; 22-24

*Psalm 8:1-9

*Psalm 84:1-4; 12

*Psalm 86: 1-4

*Psalm 54:1, 2, 4, 6

*Psalm 57: 7-11

*Psalm 65:1-4

*Psalm 146:1-2; 10

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- *Psalm 148:1-14
- *Psalm 109:30
- *Philippians 4:16
- *1 Timothy 1:17
- *Hebrews 2:12

III. Confession

A. Prayer is a time of confession of sin. As one feels the presence of God and as he thinks of God's purity and righteousness, and as he dwells on the holiness of God, it is only natural to acknowledge our specific sin.

B. God knows we sin, but he wants us to know that we have sinned and to acknowledge specifically what we recognize as sin.

- *Isaiah 6:5
- *Romans 7:7-24
- *Proverbs 28:13
- *James 5:16; 1 John 1:9

IV. Thanksgiving

A. Prayer should be an expression of gratitude and a time when we count our blessings. Some people pray only when they are in trouble or when they want something. This is unfortunate.

B. Look at the following verses and notice the thankfulness expressed in these prayers.

- *Psalm 50:14
- *Psalm 105:1; 106:1
- *Ephesians 5:20
- *Philippians 4:6
- *Colossians 1:12; 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2
- *1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
- *1 Timothy 2:1; 4:3-4

C. One person prayed this prayer, "O Lord, I am not what I ought to be, and I'm not what I want to be, and I'm not where I'm going to be; but thank you Lord. I'm not what I used to be!"

V. Supplication

A. Supplication is making requests from God, or asking God on behalf of yourself or someone else. It is appropriate to ask God for any of the following, just to name a few.

1. Forgiveness
 - *Matthew 6:12
 - *Acts 8:22
 - *Luke 18:13

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2. Wisdom

*James 1:5-8

*1 Kings 3:9

3. Health

*2 Kings 20:3

*2 Corinthians 12:7-9

4. Daily Food and Care

*Matthew 6:9; 33

5. Power to withstand temptation

* Matthew 6:13; 26:41

6. Spiritual Health

*Hebrews 4:14-16

*Isaiah 40:31

B. We should pray for others

1. For our family (spouse, parents, brothers, sisters, etc.)

2. For God's family (preachers, spiritual leaders, the sick, those who are faithful etc.)

3. For political and world leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

C. It is important to pray for others

*1 Samuel 12:23

VI. Submission

A. Powerful praying always includes the element of submission to God.

B. Powerful praying does not demand its way. There are always three possible answers that God will give. "Yes", "No", "Not Yet". We must accept his answer.

*Matthew 26:39

*Proverbs 28:9

*1 John 5:14

C. The following poem explains the idea of submission to God and His answers to our prayers:

He was a Christian and he prayed. He asked God for strength that He might achieve. He was made weak, that he might learn to obey.

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He asked for help, that he might do greater things - He was given infirmity, that he might do better things

He asked for riches that he might enjoy life - He was given life, that he might enjoy all things.

He received nothing that he asked for, but everything he hoped for. All his prayers seemed unanswered. Yet, he, among all men, is most richly blessed.

VII. Conclusion

A. The five words, Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication, and Submission are easy to remember. When you take the first letter of each it spells A-C-T-S-S-.

B. Remember to pray fervently, regularly, and persistently *Luke 18:1-8

Lesson 8: How To Study The Bible

Introduction

One of the most important aspects of the Christian life is Bible Study. Throughout history, every time the Bible became available to the common people and the people studied for themselves, revolutionary things happened. This lesson is devoted to showing the *importance of* and *the procedure for* Bible study.

I. Why Study The Bible?

A. We are commanded to study

*2 Timothy 2:15

*James 1:21

B. We receive blessings when we study

*Happiness (Psalm 1:2)

*Success (Joshua 1:8)

*Salvation (2 Timothy 3:15)

*Practical living (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

*Joy and light (Psalm 19:7)

*Understanding (Psalm 119:104, 130)

*Prudent warnings (Psalm 19:11)

*Keeps us from drifting (Hebrews 2:1; Ephesians 4:12-15)

*Equips us for good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

*Gives us life (John 6:63)

*Produces growth (1 Peter 2:2)

*Gives freedom (John 8:32)

*Increases faith (John 20:30-31; Romans 10:17)

*Renews our mind (Colossians 3:10)

*Transforms us (Romans 12:1-2)

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- *Enables us to be effective and productive (2 Peter 1:4-10)
- *Gives us new birth (1 Peter 1:23)
- *Gives us the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
- *Gives us assurance (1 John 5:13)

II. How To Study The Bible

- A. Have a proper attitude
 - *Humility (James 1:19-21)
- B. Have an open mind to new truth
 - *Don't use the Bible to find proof for what you think you already believe. Always have an open mind and let the Bible tell you what to believe and how to believe.
- C. Always be eager to learn
 - *Acts 17:11

III. Use Some Proper Tools

- A. Select a good translation of the Bible. The type of Bible you ought to use is one which has been translated by a *committee* of scholars out of the oldest existing Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. One - man translations and all paraphrase versions should be avoided, especially for serious textual studies.
- B. Some of the more reliable translations include the Old and New King James versions, American Standard Version, New American Standard Version, Revised Standard Version, and New International Version.
 1. **The King James Version** has been a favorite of many for almost 380 years. Its Shakespearean style of language makes its reading both beautiful and difficult. It has two major weaknesses. First, it was translated from later and less accurate manuscripts than those that have been discovered since. Since its completion in 1607, archaeology has unearthed many older and more accurate manuscripts which have resulted in the production of newer and more reliable versions. Second, the English language is constantly changing. Over the past 200 years the meanings of nearly 1,000 words used in the KJV have altered in some way. For this reason, the New Kings James Version was written, which bases itself upon the same original text of the Old KJV, but uses common English such as we use today.
 2. **The American Standard Version** is possibly the most accurate and reliable version which attempts to stay to a strict word for word translation. However, it retains much of the stiff language of the KJV and in places it is even more difficult to understand.
 3. **The New American Standard Version** is modern English, except in texts which are addressing God, then the "Thee's and Thous" are used. It retains much of the accuracy of the ASV, and attempts to translate the strict verb tenses from the Greek.

4. **The New International Version** is one of the newer and most popular of all translations. It is at least as accurate as the Old KJV, and is very readable.
- C. Some versions that may be avoided, at least for serious Bible Study, are *Good News For Modern Man (TEV)*, *The Living Bible (Reachout)*, *JB Phillips Modern English Translation*, *The Amplified Version*. Seriously dangerous mistranslations are those like *The New World Translation* (translated only by and only for Jehovah Witnesses).
- D. Select and use several of the following Bible study helps.
 1. **Concordance.** This is one of the most important aids in studying the Bible. For of the best concordances are *New International Concordance*, *Cruden's Complete Concordance*, *Young's Analytical Concordance* and *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*.
 2. **Bible Dictionary.** Two of the best are *Smith's Bible Dictionary*, and *Haley's Bible Handbook*.
 3. **An English Dictionary.** (for instance, to help you understand words like *debauchery*)
 4. **Commentaries.** Commentaries are simply that, comments about the Biblical text from one man or from several men. Never rely only on a commentary for correct understanding, however they can be extremely helpful. Some good commentaries are: *The Living Word Adult Series* (Sweet Publishing Co). *The Gospel Advocate Series of Commentaries*, *The Firm Foundation Commentary Set* by Burton Coffman, *Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary*, and *Barnes Notes*.
 5. **Vines Expository Dictionary of New and Old Testament Words.** This will help you understand what certain words in various texts mean in the original text. This is an excellent help, even for the novice Bible student.
 6. Historical and geographical charts and maps of the Bible
 7. **A Topical Bible.** This will give the student all the verses under a particular topic and can be very useful in saving time.
 8. Additional books on various subjects, such as books on doctrine, Christian evidences, and Christian living should form a part of your study library.
 9. Your own notes need to be kept and compiled as you take them from sermons and classes, and from your own study.

IV. Procedure For Bible Study

- A. Have a listening heart
 1. What phrase in the following verses indicates that we should have listening hearts? (Revelation 2:7; 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 13:9)?
 2. What expression did Jesus use in the following verses to indicate that we need to listen carefully with the heart? (Matthew 11:15; 13:9, 43; Mark 4:9, 23, Luke 8:8, 14:35).

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3. Hearing and understanding are necessary before one can correctly obey. We must honestly apply the teaching to our own personal life. Learn to listen, take notes, and have a desire to be better.

*James 1:22-25

*Matthew 7:24-27

*Romans 10:17

B. Read the scripture

1. The Bible can be read rapidly. Rapid reading involves going through the Bible thoroughly, but quickly. Rapid reading is what should be done to lay the foundation for deeper study. It allows an overview of the whole text before breaking it down into more detailed analysis.

2. Carry a small Bible with you so that you can read in times that otherwise would be wasted (i.e. waiting rooms, getting tires changed, over lunch, etc.)

3. Make time to read the Bible daily instead of watching TV, or listening to the stereo too much. "You become what you fill your mind with"

C. Study the Scripture

1. Study infers diligent observation, critical analysis, and inquisitive interest. (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15)

V. Types of study

A. Bibliographical:

1. This is a chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word by word study. It can be as shallow, or as detailed as you desire.

2. Suggestion, make a preliminary survey of the book or section, and ask the following questions:

*What is the title of the book?

*Who is the author?

*What is the setting?

*What is the date of authorship (where does it fit chronologically)?

*What is the purpose of the book?

*Who are the recipients?

*What style of literature is it?

3. Prepare an outline of the material:

*An outline helps clarify the purpose and subject matter of the book. Each book of the Bible was written in an organized, orderly fashion.

*Outlines can be formulated by three different sources, including rapid reading, taking notes or chapter and paragraph headings, or checking a commentary or other Bible study help.

B. Topical

1. This type of study consists of studying a particular *topic or subject*. The goal of this approach is to learn as much as possible about one specific topic at a time.

2. Procedure:

*Select a topic or subject.

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*Using a topical bible, concordance, or marginal footnotes, select all the verses in the Bible on that subject.

*Study each verse, making notes of information you wish to retain.

*Organize your findings into an outline form.

C. Biographical

*This type of study is identical to a topical study except you are studying a person rather than a topic. The procedure is identical to that listed above.

D. Historical

*This is a study of periods of Biblical history. There are fourteen periods of Bible history, two testaments, and three dispensations which make this an organized approach.

E. Devotional

*This is a study you conduct for your own enrichment to build a stronger relationship with God. Devotional study may make use of any of the previous methods of study

VI. Conclusion

Bible study is an essential aspect of the Christian's life. Consider it a necessity to your salvation, and organize your daily life in such a way that there is plenty of time for this nourishing time with God. Memorize 1 Peter 2:2.

Lesson 9: Relationships

Introduction

A. When a person becomes a Christian, numerous changes occur in his life. These changes are sometimes drastic in nature. Every human relationship will be altered in some way through out conversion to Christ. Sometimes the changes that occur in a relationship are not what we desire. Yet, it may be unavoidable that old friendships will change, and new friendships will begin. In this lesson we will look at how these changes in relationships may affect your life.

II. Some people will no longer want your friendship

A. Some people will hate you

*John 15:18-20

*1 John 3:13

B. Some people, including your family, may persecute you

*2 Timothy 3:12

*Matthew 10:34-37; Luke 12:52-53

*Matthew 5:10-12

C. Some people who don't know Christ may reject you because:

1. Their lives are sinful and yours is righteous

*1 John 3:12

*Galatians 4:16

2. Our righteous lives expose their sinfulness

*Ephesians 5:18-14

*John 3:19-21

3. We are different

*John 15:19

*1 Peter 2:9

III. Some old relationships will be dissolved

A. Christians should avoid the sinful influence of the world

*1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

*Romans 12:9,21

*Psalm 119:104

*3 John 2

*1 Peter 3:11

B. In order to avoid evil, you may need to cease your association with certain people

*2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1

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*1 Corinthians 15:33-34

*Ephesians 5:3-12 (verse 7 is the key)

*2 Timothy 3:1-5 (verse 5 is the key)

IV. New relationships with Christians will be established

A. Loving friendships with other Christians must be established because of the following:

1. It is commanded by God

*John 13:34-35

*John 15:12-13

*1 John 4:7-11; 19-21

2. It is essential for your personal spiritual development

*Acts 2:41-42; 44-47

B. Loving relationships with other Christians can be established by:

1. Encouraging each other daily (Hebrews 3:13)

2. Meeting together regularly (Hebrews 10:23-35)

3. Confessing our sins to one another so we can heal (James 5:16)

4. Carrying one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

V. Conclusion:

A. Let's do everything in love, especially when it comes to relationships (1 Corinthians 16:14; 13:4-7).

Lesson 10: Importance of the Church

Introduction

A. In the world, there are many organizations - governments, schools, societies, and "churches." When one asks, "What is the church?" he can expect many different answers. According to the Bible, however, the church is not *just* a religious organization. It is a living organism, made up of living people, purchased by a living savior, and governed by a living God. In this lesson we will examine what the church is from a Biblical viewpoint.

II. Significance of the word "church"

A. Ekklesia: the Greek word from which "church" is derived. It means "called out." Originally, it was used of a group of citizens called out or set aside to carry on the work of a city (see Acts 19:41, the word "assembly"). Later, Jesus applied it to His people. Those who follow Christ are a group of people who are "called out" - they are the church.

1. Called out by Christ and his Gospel
 - *Matthew 11:28-30
 - *2 Thessalonians 2:14
 - *Mark 16:15-16
2. Those who obey Christ are transferred into His kingdom
 - *Colossians 1:13; cf. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
3. We are called from darkness into light to proclaim God's excellence
 - *1 Peter 2:9

III. The church is divinely founded by Christ

A. Jesus said he would build his church

- *Matthew 16:16-18

*NOTE: Peter is "petros" (masculine, "pebble"). Jesus said that upon this he would build his church upon this "rock" "Petra" (feminine, "Bedrock, foundation"). The rock upon which the church is built is Christ, not Peter (see 1 Corinthians 3:11)

Jesus is the head of his church, and the church is his body. When a person is baptized into Christ, he is baptized into the body of Christ, not the head of Christ. Therefore, membership in the church occurs at the same time as salvation.

- * Colossians 1:18
- * 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- * Galatians 3:26-27

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B. Christ did not build a denomination

*Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4-5 Only one body, only one church

*1 Corinthians 1:10-13 It is not to be divided

C. The church was purchased and is owned by Christ

*Acts 20:28; Titus 2:14;

D. The church is made up of living stones, royal priests, and is a holy nation (1 Peter 2:5).

IV. What the church is not:

A. A man made institution (Acts 20:28; Matthew 16:18).

B. A sect or denomination (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:16-17).

C. A church among many that one chooses on his own to join.

D. A social club.

V. The church is the household of God

A. Ephesians 2:19-22

B.1 Timothy 3:15

1. God is the Father (Ephesians 4:6)

2. We are His children (Galatians 3:26; 1 John 3:1-2)

3. We are heirs of God (Romans 8:15-17)

4. We are born into His family (John 1:11-13; 3:5)

VI. The church is the bride of Christ

A. Christ is the head of His wife (Ephesians 5:23-32)

B. He is the Savior of her and none other (Ephesians 5:23)

C. As the bride, the church must submit to Christ in everything (Ephesians 5:24)

VII. The church is the body of Christ

A. Many members, but one body

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*1 Corinthians 12:20

*Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23

B. Christ is not the head of any church that he did not purchase

*Colossians 1:18

VIII. Christ's church is the church found in the New Testament

A. Everyone in the New Testament were members of the same church, the church of Christ.

B. Note: there were no Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Baptists, or Catholics.

C. The church is built on Christ and his teaching given through the apostles

*Matthew 28:18-20

*Ephesians 2:19-21

*Galatians 1:6-9

IX. Conclusion

A. Remember, to be in a church that was built by men and not by Christ is to be in a church that will soon be rooted up (Matthew 15:13-14).

B. When we are saved, God adds us to Christ's church, which is his bride. To be faithful to Christ, we must be faithful to his church. We cannot be faithful to Christ and be unfaithful to his body, the church.

Lesson 11: Fellowship

Introduction

A. Fellowship is one of the greatest blessings of being a child of God. It is one of the most important activities in the life of a Christian.

B. In this lesson, we will study the meaning of fellowship, the opportunities for it and its benefits.

II. The meaning of "fellowship"

A. Fellowship is defined as "*Companionship, company, a community of interests, activity or experience, a state of being a fellow or associate, a company of equals or friends, association, membership, partnership, comradeship*" (Webster's Dictionary).

B. In the New Testament, two Greek words are used in reference to fellowship: *Koinonia*, and *Metocha*.

1. *Koinonia* is the word most often used. It is defined as "*A relationship between individuals which involves a common interest and a mutual active participation in that interest and in each other.*" (Marvin R. Vincent).

2. In at least one place in secular literature a form of *koinonia* is used to describe the closest of all human relationships found in marriage. In the New Testament, *koinonia* is translated in the following ways:

*Fellowship (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3-7; 2 Corinthians 6:14)

*Partner (partnership) (Luke 5:10; 2 Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 1:5; Ephesians 5:7; Philemon 17)

*Administration (Ephesians 3:9)

*To share, have in common (Romans 12:13; 15:27; Galatians 6:6; 2 John 11:1; 1 Timothy 5:22; Hebrews 2:14; 13:16; 2 Corinthians 1:7)

*Participation (2 Peter 1:4; 1 Peter 4:13; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 18, 20)

*Take part in (Matthew 23:30)

*Stood side by side (Hebrews 10:33)

*Fellow (1 Peter 5:1)

3. *Metocha* is another word commonly used in the New Testament to describe Christian fellowship. It is a combination of two Greek words, *meta* "with" and *echo*, "to have." The word literally means "to have with." Scholars give it

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various meanings, including fellowship, sharing, communion, partake, participate, or to be a member of." It is translated in the following ways:

*Share (Romans 11:17; 15:27; Acts 2:32; 1 Corinthians 9:10, 23; Philippians 4:14-15)

*Have (in common) (12 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 9:12)

*Belonged (Hebrews 7:13)

*Companion (partners) Hebrews 1:9; Luke 5:7

*Partake, to have part in (1 Corinthians 10:7, 17, 21)

III. Opportunities for fellowship

A. Fellowship with the whole church, the assembling of Christians:

1. Every disciple needs a group of friends within the church. Smaller groups usually are formed because people have things in common. These groups help give people self identity and a point of reference and a feeling of companionship.

2. Examples of this type of fellowship are found in the following:

*David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:17, 41)

*Paul and Timothy (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2-5, 13, 2:2; 4:9-11, 21)

*Peter and John (Acts 3:1, 11; 4:3,19,23)

*Jesus and John (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2)

B. Fellowship with God

1. Every Christian needs a close relationship with God. Fellowship with the Lord should be constant, specific, and individual.

2. Examples of this type of fellowship are as follows:

*Jesus (Luke 4:42; 5:16; 6:12; 21:37-38; 22:39-40)

*Paul (Philippians 3:7-10)

*All Christians (1 John 1:3; John 17:25; 7:28-29; 8:19)

IV. Benefits of Fellowship

A. Christians are strengthened and encouraged through fellowship:

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*Acts 4:31; 9:31; 11:22-23

*Hebrews 10:22-25

*Hebrews 3:12-13

B. Sharing in the ministry with one another is made possible

*Galatians 6:2

*Philippians 4:10-19

*Acts 4:32-37; 6:1-7

C. Fellowship provides opportunities for worship and edification

*Prayer (Acts 2:42; 12:5)

*Teaching (Acts 2:42; 11:22-26)

*The Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

*Singing (Acts 16:25; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)

D. Fellowship makes personal spiritual growth possible

*Proverbs 27:17

*1 Peter 2:1,1; 2 Peter 3:18

E. Fellowship renews courage

*Acts 4:18-31; 5:40-42; 14:19-20

*Ephesians 6:18-20

F. Numerical growth comes with good fellowship

*Acts 2:42-47

*Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:1,7

G. Fellowship enables us to give a good example for others to follow

*John 13:15

*Acts 20:18-19; 33-35

*2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2

*Philippians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2:8-10

V. Conclusion

A. Fellowship is an important part of the Christian life. Let's continue to study it and develop strong fellowship with God, and with other disciples

B. Philippians 1:9

Lesson 12: The Lord's Supper

Introduction

A. The Lord's Supper is one of the meaningful activities in which Christians share together in each week. In this lesson you will learn more about this memorable feast and how to observe it properly.

II. Background Of The Lord's Supper

- A. Instituted by Christ at the last Passover meal before his death on the cross.
1. Passover was one of the 7 great festivals conducted each year under the law of Moses
 2. Lasted one full week
 3. It began while the Israelites were in Egypt to help them remember that God's wrath had "Passed Over" them and delivered them into a land of promise. (Exodus 11:1-10, 12:1-32)
- B. It was during the eating of this feast that Christ established the Lord's Supper
1. Matthew 26:17-29
 2. Mark 14:12-26
 3. Luke 22:7-20

III. Observing the Lord's Supper Became Part Of NT Covenant

- A.1 Corinthians 11:23-32
B. Acts 2:42
C. Acts 20: 7 It was taken on the first day of the week (Sunday, the Lord's day, the day Christ rose from the dead).

IV. The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

- A. It is a meal consisting of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 22:17-20)
1. Leavening indicated corruption, and therefore was to be eliminated from the Passover Feast, and the Lord's Supper (Exodus 12:14-20)
 2. The bread must be unleavened bread, and the fruit of the vine must be unleavened (having no yeast: The pure *product of the vine*).
- B. The bread is to remember Christ and his body (Luke 22:19)
- C. The fruit of the vine is to remember Christ's blood (Luke 22:20)

1. The blood of the new covenant (Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25)

D. Taking the Lord's Supper is a proclamation of the death of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:26)

V. Proper Observance of the Lord's Supper

A. It is possible to eat the elements of the communion, and still not be taking the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)

1. A meal often accompanied the Lord's Supper, similar to the Passover lamb feast at the Last Supper
2. New Testament churches would often have *Love Feasts* or pot luck meals that went either before or after the Lord's Supper. (Jude 1:12; 1 Corinthians 11:21-22)

B. We are instructed to not take the Lord's Supper in an *unworthy manner* (1 Corinthians 11:27). What does this mean?

1. It means we should remember the Lord's death (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)
2. It means we must judge or consider the body rightly or properly (1 Corinthians 11:29). The body here means the church. The Corinthians were taking the Lord's supper with an arrogant disrespect for their brothers and sisters in Christ and were shaming them (11:22). There was serious division in the church (1:10-13), and blatant sin going unchecked (5:1-5). Members had disregard for the weakness of others (8:9-13). When Paul says we must consider the body, he means that we must consider our relationship with our fellow disciples and have proper relationships with them (see also Matthew 5:23-24). When a Christian takes the Lord's supper with a disregard for the body, the church, then he eats and drinks judgment on himself.
3. It means that each man should examine himself.
 - *Is your attitude respectful and loving toward your fellow Christians?
 - *Is your attitude appreciative of the sacrifice of Christ?
 - *Is your life a demonstration of Christ's love and death?

VI. Conclusion

A. The Lord's Supper is a privilege and a sacred opportunity.

B. Let each of us enter into this feast with prayerfulness, thanksgiving, and praise as we remember the body that was given for us, the blood that redeemed us, and that family of which we are a part.

Lesson 13: Giving

Introduction

A. Giving financially has always been a part of godly living and worship to the Lord. Giving of our money and physical possessions is a demonstration of our commitment, our thankfulness, our sacrificial willingness, and our attitude. Notice the following verses:

1. Genesis 14:17-20
2. Hebrews 7:4-5
3. Malachi 3:8-10

B. Tithing is giving a tenth to God as a sacrifice. Abraham understood this principle even before the Law Of Moses was instituted. Offerings were everything over and above 10%.

II. Giving In The New Testament

A. There are several examples of giving in the New Testament

1. Widow who gave everything (Mark 12:41-44)
2. Giving for the need in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-45)
3. Giving for needs and lying about it (Acts 4:34 - 5:11)
4. Giving for famine relief (Acts 11:27-30)
5. Churches participated in giving for other Christians (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)
6. Financial giving was organized, encouraged, and collected (2 Corinthians 8-9)
7. Giving to support preachers, teachers, and the spreading of the Gospel (Philippians 4:14-20; 1 Corinthians 9:4-14)

III. Principles For Giving

A. Giving is a demonstration of our stewardship (Luke 12:42-43)

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B. Money is one of the gifts, talents, and abilities he has given us... some more than others (Matthew 25:14-30)

C. God gives blessings to those who are cheerful, sacrificial givers (Malachi 3:8-10; 2Corinthians 9:7-11; Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38)

D. How should we give?

1. Individually (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

2. Weekly (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

3. Proportionately "In keeping with his income" "as he has prospered" (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

4. Liberally, generously, (2 Corinthians 9:6; Romans 12:6-8)

5. Decisively (2 Corinthians 9:7)

6. Joyfully (2 Corinthians 9:7), not reluctantly or under compulsion

7. With eager willingness (2 Corinthians 8:11-12)

8. Sacrificially (2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Acts 4:32-37)

IV. Conclusion and Application

A. Giving is a demonstration of our stewardship. It clearly shows where our hearts are "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21-24).

B. Giving is a test of the sincerity of our love (2 Corinthians 8:8,24)

C. Giving is a beautiful act of worship to God, a fragrant offering (2 Corinthians 9:12; Philippians 4:17-18).

D. As we excel in other spiritual acts, Christians should excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

Lesson 14: Church Leadership Ministries

Introduction

- A. God knew that in order for His church to prosper, it needed the best possible leadership. Throughout the Bible, the difference between success and failure for God's people has come down to the quality of their leaders. (Joshua 24:31; Judges 21:25).
- B. In the New Testament, God gives us the pattern for leadership of His church. Among God-appointed leadership ministries are apostles, prophets, evangelists and teaching-pastors (Ephesians 4:11-16). We learn from 1 Timothy 3:8-12 that Deacons, or specially appointed servants are also part of God's design for his church.
- C. These ministries were ordained by God for the purpose of bringing the lost to Christ and becoming members of his church, then maturing and equipping those members so they become effective in accomplishing God's work on the earth. The church builds itself up in love as each member does his or her personal ministry for which they have been equipped by God's appointed leaders. This lesson will help us understand the structure and function of leadership ministries. We will look at evangelists, elders, and deacons.

II. Evangelists

A. The evangelist is literally "one who proclaims the good news." In the New Testament, we learn that Titus and Timothy were evangelists (2 Timothy 4:5) as was Phillip (Acts 21:8). Others assumed to be evangelists are Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25) and the *messenger (angelos)* of each of the seven churches of Asia (Revelation 2-3). The work of the evangelist includes the following:

1. He must preach the word of God
 - *2 Timothy 4:2; 2:2; 1 Timothy 4:13

 - *1 Corinthians 9:16; 1:18-25; 2:1-5; Acts 20:20-27
2. He must guard against the church departing from the New Testament teaching
 - *1 Timothy 1:3; 4:1-3

 - *2 Timothy 1:13; 4:1-5;
3. He must evangelize the lost
 - *Acts 5:42; 8:12-13, cf. Acts 21:8
 - *1 Corinthians 9:19-23
4. He must equip Christians for their ministries that cause the church to build itself up and grow
 - *Ephesians 4:11-16
 - * 2 Timothy 2:2
5. He must lead the church
 - *Titus 1:5
 - * Hebrews 13:7

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6. He must ensure that qualified elders are appointed

* 1 Timothy 3:1-7

*Titus 1:5-7

7. He must confront men (including elders) who continue to sin, publicly if necessary.

*1 Timothy 5:19-21

B. The qualifications of the evangelist are spiritual in nature:

1. He is to be a man of God, and keep himself holy

*1 Timothy 6:11-16

2. He is to be strong and focused leader

*2 Timothy 2:1-7, 15

3. He must be a worthy example

*1 Timothy 4:12, 16, 5:22; 6:11

4. He must love people and the mission of Christ and his church

*1 Thessalonians 2:7-12; 2 Timothy 1:3-4

*Philippians 2:19-23

5. He must be studious and prayerful

* 1 Timothy 4:13-16

*2 Timothy 2:15

III. The Pastor / Elder

A. God gave some to be pastors (*Greek: poimein*) (Ephesians 4:11)

B. Elders are called *shepherds* (*Greek poimein*)

*1 Peter 5:1-2 "Be shepherds, feed"... (*poimein*)

C. Elders are *Presbyters* (*Greek: presbuteros*)

*1 Peter 5:1

D. Elders are *overseers* (*Greek: episkopos*)

*1Peter5:2; Acts 20:28

E. Elders are not appointed to an *office*. They are ordained to a ministry. Their work involves the following areas:

1. They must minister to the spiritual needs of people

*Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-2

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*Titus 1:9; James 5:14-15

2. They must guard against any departure of the church from truth:

*Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28-32

3. They must lead and direct

*1 Timothy 5:17

*1 Peter 5:3

4. They must equip people for ministry

*Ephesians 4:11-16

F. The qualities of a pastor / elder are listed:

*1 Timothy 3:1-7

*Titus 1:6-9

*1 Peter 5:1-4

IV. The Deacon

A. The word *deaconos*, means "servant"

B. The first indication of men being appointed for special servant ministries in the church is in Acts 6:1-7. We also discover that deacons were mentioned along with elders in Philippians 1:1. Also listed in scripture was Phoebe, a *diakonon* (*female deacon*) in the church in Rome (Romans 16:1).

C. Deacons must

1. Serve the needs of the church

*Acts 6:1-7

*1 Timothy 3:13

2. Participate in evangelism

*Acts 6:7; 8:5-13, 26-40

*Acts 7:1-60

D. The qualities of a deacon are listed:

*Acts 6:3

*1 Timothy 3:8-13

V. Conclusion

A. The ministry of leadership is an important aspect of God's eternal plan. Men who serve in leadership ministries have a critical responsibility in leading the souls of men and women.

B. God's church must have spiritual leadership. These men must be humble, approachable, and never enter their ministries with an attitude of leadership by authority (Matthew 20:20-28).

C. Young men should have their hearts set on developing the qualities necessary for spiritual leadership. Men who are qualified and who have the gifts of leadership should accept these ministries and utilize their talents for the kingdom.

Lesson 15: How To Get Involved In our Personal Ministry Introduction

A. Each of us have been saved for the purpose of doing good deeds and using our gifts, talents, and abilities for the purpose of leading people to Christ, serving people, and glorifying God.

*Ephesians 2:10

*Colossians 1:10

*1 Timothy 2:9-10

*1 Timothy 5:9-10

*1 Timothy 6:17-19

*Titus 2:13-14

*Hebrews 10:24

*1 Corinthians 15:58

B. This lesson will show you how you can define your gifts, talents, and abilities, and use them in your life's mission in the world.

II. God Expects Every Christian To Use His or Her Gifts and Abilities

A. What do the following verses teach about using YOUR gifts and talents?

*1 Peter 4:9-10

*Romans 12:3-8

*Matthew 25:14-30

B. Every good work has as its ultimate goal the saving of souls and growth of Christ's body

*2 Corinthians 5:11 - 6:2

*Ephesians 4:11-16

*Luke 10:1; 19:10

*Matthew 9:37-38

III. How Do You Discover Your Personal Talents, Gifts and Abilities?

A. What are the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to people today? (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:8; 1 Peter 4:8-11). Check those you think you have.

- *Teaching / Prophesying
- *Faith
- *Serving Others
- *Encouragement
- *Giving and Contributing to Needs
- *Leadership
- *Governing
- *Mercy
- *Love
- *Hospitality
- *Administration / Organization
- *Others

NOTE For a complete evaluation for yourself, make sure to complete the Discovering Ministry Course offered during our Super Sundays.

B. Check the types of people you think you work best with:

- *Young married
- *Adults
- *Seniors
- *Teens
- *Young Children (ages?)
- *Single Adults
- *Single Parents
- *People With Addictions
- *Those who are physically sick

C. Check the types of ministries already on-going in this church.

- *Small Groups
- *Bible Classes
- *Music
- *Publishing / Printing
- *Advertising
- *TV/ Radio, Media
- *Non Christian Studies
- *Benevolence
- *Tele-Care
- *Nursery
- *Jail Ministry
- *Recovery Ministry
- *Food For The Hungry Ministry

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*Women's Ministry

D. How can you use your gifts, talents, and abilities in these ministries?

E. What new ministries could you start that utilize your gifts and how would you do this?

IV. Conclusion and Application:

A. God wants every member of His family productively employed in the use of his or her gifts, talents and abilities.

B. If you have a ministry idea, you may need additional training to implement your ministry. Talk to the leaders and do whatever you need to do to be equipped for the ministry that you God has designed you for. (1 Peter 4:11).

C. NOTE Again. Be sure to complete the “Discovering Your Ministry” Course taught in the next Super Sunday Seminars.

Lesson 16: Evangelism

Introduction

A. Evangelism is the process of bringing a lost person into a saved relationship with Jesus by the proclamation of the Gospel message. It is teaching the Gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and persuading people to be obedient to the Gospel so they can be saved.

B. While some Christians will be more fruitful in personal evangelism than others, this lesson will show why evangelism is so important and how every disciple can be a fruitful soul winner.

II. Every Christian Should Be A Soul Winner.

A. Jesus wants every follower to be a fisher of men

*Matthew 4:19

*Mark 1:17

*Luke 5:10

1. Is there a difference between sport fishing and commercial fishing? How?

2. Does God want us to be sport fishermen and practice "catch and release"?

B. We are commanded to make disciples

*Matthew 28:18-20

*Mark 16:15-16

C. Winning souls is a wise thing to do:

*Proverbs 11:30

*Daniel 12:3

D. People who love Jesus and want to obey him will win souls.

*Acts 4:19-20

*2 Corinthians 5:14-20

*Luke 8:38-39

E. Christ's disciples were soul winners:

1. Andrew won his brother Peter (John 1:40-42)

2. Philip brought Nathaniel to Christ (John 1:43-49)

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3. The woman of Samaria brought the entire community out to see Jesus (John 4:1-30; 39-42)

4. The Christians in Jerusalem were soul winners (Acts 5:28; 40-42)

5. The disciples who were scattered by persecution won souls (Acts 8:1-4)

F. We are obligated to win souls

*Psalm 51:7-13

*Romans 1:14-16

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23

G. We can experience no greater joy than leading another lost person to Christ and helping him have eternal life

*Philemon 6 (NIV)

*John 15:1-8; 11, 16

H. Failure to win souls will cause the church to die in a certain location (Acts 2:38; 41, 47; 16:5)

I. God expects his people to be fruitful, and evangelism is one of those fruits

*John 15:6

*Luke 13:6-9

*Matthew 21:19

*Hebrews 5:11-14

III. Every Christian CAN Be A Soul Winner

A. Make a prospect list of lost souls with whom you could share the message of Christ. To do this, write down every person you know who is not a Christian. Do not be selective or exclusive. Once you have done this, go back through the list and find the ten people you believe to be the most receptive to the gospel. Make another list with those ten being arranged in order of their receptivity. Then begin working on these ten in a bold way, trying to bring each one to a knowledge of the message of salvation in Christ.

B. Pursue each person listed with the following activities:

1. Pray for each person listed asking God to provide opportunity for you to share the Good News.

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2. Deliberately develop a stronger relationship with each one

3. Invite them to attend Bible classes, LIFE Groups, Neighbor Days or worship services with you. Make each Sunday your very own Bring Your Neighbor Day.

4. Ask each individual if he would be interested in studying the Bible with you. If there is any interest at all, be diligent in trying to set up a study. Remember the only way to lead someone to salvation is by sharing the message of the Gospel (Romans 1:16; 10:17).

C. Carry cards and invitations with you to give to people in check out lines. Leave invitations on bulletin boards. Be creative and keep your eyes opened.

D. Look for prospective people everywhere. Think souls! Invite one merchant you do business with to attend church with you.

E. Look for young people or children and invite them to Bible Class, then talk to their parents.

F. Study your Bible daily so that you will be skillful in handling the Word

*2 Timothy 2:15

* 1 Peter 3:15

*Hebrews 5:11-14

IV. List Ten People You Think Are Most Receptive Right Now:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Lesson 17: Giving and Taking Counsel, Correction and Instruction

Introduction

A .As the body of Christ, we are responsible to watch out for each other and help protect one another from sin.

*Hebrews 3:12-13

*Proverbs 11:14

*Romans 15:14

*Philippians 2:4

B. Many Christians do not correct their brothers when they see them sinning, perhaps because they don't know the proper way to do so. Other Christians, when corrected, act very offended and do not know how to accept healthy correction and counsel. This lesson will address proper ways of giving and receiving Biblical correction and counsel.

II. Giving Counsel, Correction, and Instruction

A. The means of giving correction:

1. The word. Scripture should always be used as the basis of giving instruction and correction:

*2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:2

*2 Timothy 2:15

*Hebrews 4:12-13

2. Personal wisdom and experience. Offering advice and wisdom from ones own life experience is a valid source of counsel and correction.

*Titus 2:3-4

B. The motivation for giving correction:

1. To warn a brother or sister from destruction

*Philippians 2:4

*1 Timothy 1:19-20

*James 5:19-20

*Galatians 6:1-2

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*Ephesians 5:11-14

2. To keep the church pure and healthy (Note: if a Christian will not repent of willful sin, then the church must, in love, withdraw from him until he wakes up to the reality of his error.

*1 Corinthians 5:6-7

* 1 Timothy 5:20

3. To defeat Satan

*James 4:7

*2 Timothy 2:25-26

4. To save yourself

*Ezekiel 33:8-9

C. The manner of giving correction

1. With gentleness

*2 Timothy 2:24-25; 4:2; Galatians 6:1-2; Proverbs 17:10

2. In wisdom

*Proverbs 15:1-2; 25:11-12

3. Sometimes sternly if required

*Proverbs 15:10; 1 Timothy 5:20

4. Always with great caution for yourself

*Galatians 6:1; Matthew 7:3-5

III. Taking Counsel, Correction, and Instruction

A. It is not wise to reject godly correction

1. Others may see a danger that we can't see (Proverbs 14:12)

2. Proverbs 12:1; 13:18

B. It is wise to receive correction with a proper attitude. Realize its benefit, regardless of who gives it:

1. Correction gives wisdom. Proverbs 15:31-32; 19:20

2. Correction keeps you in the truth. Proverbs 19:27

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3. Receiving correction will keep you from later regret. Proverbs 5:11-13

4. Humility is required to receive instruction from the word

*James 1:19-21

*Ephesians 4:21; 1 Peter 5:5

5. Love and appreciate the one counseling you

*Proverbs 15:12; 27:6

*Galatians 4:16; James 5:19-20

C. Your proper response to counsel, correction and instruction

1. Accept the rebuke, look at yourself, then act properly. James 1:21-25

2. Ask for further counsel and guidance to grow.

3. Don't be critical of the one giving you the correction.

IV. Examples of Correction, Counsel, and Instruction

A. Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:19-24).

B. Apollos (Acts 18:24-27)

C. Peter

1. By Jesus (Matthew 16:23)

2. By Paul (Galatians 2:11-13)

V. Conclusion

A. We are all trying to be pleasing to God in order to be saved .

B. We are not enemies of one another (Galatians 6:14).

C. Be careful when giving correction, counsel, and instruction, but do give it when you see it is needed.

D. When you are counseled or corrected or instructed, accept the message, be honest with yourself, and make any changes necessary. Humbly accept the message which can save you.

E. Always be a godly example of how to give and receive godly counsel, advice, and instruction.

Lesson 18: Care In Your Use of Freedom

Introduction

A. In Christ we have freedom, but that freedom can destroy us and other people if not handled correctly. Responsibility always comes with freedom.

B.1 Corinthians 8:1-13.

1. In Corinth, there was a diverse congregation of people from all different backgrounds

*Some had come out of idolatry and were raised in an atmosphere of perversion, degradation and corruption (see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

*Others had come from a rigid religious background in Judaism (see Acts 18:1-8).

2. In an atmosphere like this, difference of view are bound to appear. In any growing congregation, differences will present themselves and we all need to be aware of and respect these differences so that we do not destroy another person's faith by our use of freedom.

C. In this lesson we will look at some principles that govern the proper use of our freedom.

II. Principle #1, Knowledge Puffs Up, But Love Builds Up

A.1 Corinthians 8:4-7

1. The Jewish Christians understood that idols were nothing and that there was no other God, but the God of heaven.

2. Other believers, however, had been raised in a pagan background and idolatry had ruled them all their lives. They had offered sacrifices in their idolatrous worship and the eating of that meat formed an integral part of their sinful background. Now that they were Christians, meat formed an association in their minds to a degrading, sinful past.

B. The Jewish Christians could have had a disregard for the weaknesses of the other believers.

C. You may disregard something as insignificant in your own life, but to another believer, it may present a powerful, destructive temptation (meat, or no meat?) Your knowledge can puff you up and make you arrogant and uncaring toward another's weaknesses.

III. Principle #2, Realize That Your Freedom Has The Potential Of Causing Someone Else To Sin.

A. What insights can you see from 1 Corinthians 8:8-12 about causing another person to violate his conscience?

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B. Note: Paul mentions that we can ruin and destroy another person's faith by what may be insignificant to us personally

1.1 Corinthians 8:11

2. Romans 14:13-16

C. If another person is led into sin by your actions and knowledge and use of your freedom, what does Paul say is the consequence from 1 Corinthians 8:12?

D. What does Paul say is the mature, Christ-like attitude to have (verse 13)?

IV. Principle #3: Don't Look Down On Others With Different View On Matters Of Freedom And Opinion

A. Romans 14:1-12

1. Knowledge can cause us to look down on another believer who may have a different view of a matter of opinion that we do. It can cause us to judge someone else as not being as spiritual.

2. What are some specific issues Paul mentions in these verses?

B. What application can you see that we need to make from these principles?

V. Principle #4: Make Every Effort For Peace And Mutual Edification

A. Romans 14:17-22

1. What should be the attitude of love in matters of opinion (verse 15, 19-20)?

2. We should forego those things that can cause another believer to stumble (:16-17).

3. Is there a difference between a person stumbling and a person grumbling? What?

B. Romans 14:22 -23

1. What is Paul's advice if you have strong feelings about certain matters of opinion?

2. Does Paul recommend that we not make big issues out of matters of opinion that we may feel strongly about? Why?

VI. Conclusion & Application

- A. The church is a family of people from different backgrounds, different experiences, and different opinions on certain matters.
- B. There are issues and matters that are clear and indisputable:
 - 1. The matters of faith (Ephesians 4:4-6)
 - 2. The deeds of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21)
- C. There are also matters of opinion (i.e. eating meat, drinking wine, observing certain days above others, etc.) that must be governed by love and respect for the faith of other believers.
- D. Let's be totally committed to be careful so that we use our freedom in Christ properly, and not as a license to cause others to stumble and be destroyed.
- E. What personal application can you make from this lesson to your own life?

Lesson 19: The One Another Way

Introduction

- A. Christianity is a "one another" religion. We cannot live a faithful and fruitful life in Christ on our own. That's why God built the church.
- B. Any time a group of people is put together, there are principles that govern relationships and actions toward one another.
- C. In this lesson, we will look at a list of the "one another" instructions from the New Testament. These are the guiding principles for proper conduct and attitudes in the church.

II. The One Another Passages

1. John 13:34-35: Love one another
2. Romans 12:10: Be devoted to one another
3. Romans 12:10: Honor one another
4. Romans 12:16: 1 Peter 3:8 Live in harmony
5. Romans 14:13: Don't Judge
6. Romans 15:7: Accept one another
7. Romans 15:14: Instruct one another
8. Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20: Greet
9. 1 Corinthians 1:10: Agree with one another
10. Galatians 5:13: Serve one another
11. Ephesians 4:2: Bear with one another
12. Ephesians 4:32: Be kind & compassionate
13. Ephesians 4:32: Colossians 3:13: Forgive
14. Ephesians 5:19: Sing to one another
15. Ephesians 5:21: Submit to one another

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16. Colossians 3:16: Teach & admonish one another

17. 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Heb. 3:13; 10:25: Encourage

18. Hebrews 10:24: Spur one another on

19. James 4:11: Don't slander

20. 1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality

21.1 Peter 5:5 Be humble to one another

III. Conclusion & Application

A. List the one another instructions that you are presently doing well:

B. List the one another instructions that you need to improve in and what practical steps you can take to do this

Lesson 20: Husband and Wife Relationship

Introduction

A. Marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman who have made a total commitment of their total person for a total life in the will of God. But marriages are in trouble in our nation. The Lord warns us, "*Unless the Lord builds the house, they who build it labor in vain*" (Psalms 127:1). God has a design for our lives and for our marriages. Since he's the creator, he obviously understands our make-up, our needs, and the way that our relationships should work best.

B. There are two underlying problems that cause difficulty in marriages today:

1. **Misunderstanding our specific roles.** Role reversal is one of the major causes for trouble in the family. People must understand the divine arrangement for harmony to exist in the family. Understanding the God-ordained role for each person in the marriage is of major importance!
2. **Misunderstanding our individual responsibilities.** Every family member has certain duties that belong to him alone. Before these responsibilities can be fulfilled, there must be an understanding of them.

II. The role and responsibility of the husband.

A. God has ordained that the husband is to be the head of the family

1. Ephesians 5:22-25

2.1 Corinthians 11:3

B. Headship defined

1. What headship does **NOT** mean:

- *It does not mean that the male is superior and that the female is inferior.
- *It does not mean that the husband is to be a boss, or dictator, or a Master.
- *It does not mean that the wife is a doormat, or a house slave, or that she should be treated as a subordinate.
- *It does not necessarily mean that the husband *makes all the decisions*. There is more to headship and leadership than making decisions.

2. What headship does mean:

*Headship gives direction and positive leadership.

»Your head gives direction to your physical body without which life would be impossible. The husband must understand the direction his family is to go, and offer that leadership and direction.

»Christ, as the head of his spiritual body, the church, provides it with direction and caring leadership.

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»The husband, as the head of his family, is to provide direction for all under his guidance (Joshua 24:15; Genesis 6:9 - 7:1)

»Headship renders service. A true leader is a servant like Jesus. The concept of servant leadership must be complete to be a godly husband. Servant leadership has two aspects, a servant, and a leader combined (John 13:15; Matthew 20:20-28)

C. God has other responsibilities for the husband as the head:

1. He must love his wife *just like* Jesus loved the church and gave himself willing for her (Ephesians 5:25-30; Proverbs 30:21-23)

2. He must treat his wife with respect and consideration in a loving way (1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:28-29)

3. He must live his life in such a way that he remains worthy of respect, making it easy for his wife to follow his leadership (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; Ephesians 5:33)

D. The husband should be one with his wife (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:21-31; Proverbs 5:15-19; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5).

III. The role and responsibility of the wife:

A. She must *willingly* submit to her husband's leadership (Ephesians 5:22-24; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:5-6; Colossians 3:18)

B. Submission defined:

1. It does not mean that there should be rivalry between the sexes. It does not mean that one is over or above the other.

2. It does not mean that the wife is a zero, or that the husband is superior.

3. It does not mean that the husband has the right to make his wife submit. The command is for the wife to willingly submit, not for the husband to make his wife submit.

4. It does mean that nothing can have two heads and succeed. While men and women have the same rights in God's will, they do not have the same roles.

5. It does mean that the wife's role is a partnership. She is to be a supporter, a helper, and a confidante.

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C. Other specified roles for the wife:

1. She must love her husband and children (Titus 2:4; Proverbs 21:9; 13, 19; 25:24)
2. She must be one with her husband (1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Ephesians 5:30-32)
3. She must respect and honor her husband (Ephesians 5:33; 1 Peter 3:5-6)
4. She should be virtuous and industrious (Proverbs 31:10-31; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-6; Proverbs 14:1)

IV. Conclusion and Application

- A. It is not your job to make your marriage partner obey these commands. It's your job to obey the instructions given to you by God.
- B. When each person in the marriage obeys their individual commands from God, there will be harmony, love, joy, and peace in the marriage.
- C. Begin now, reading all the Christian books you can on the subject of marriage, communication, relationships, His Needs, Her Needs, etc. Never think you know enough in your relationship with your spouse.

Lesson 21: Parenting

I. Introduction

A. Children are a blessing from the Lord. Training children how to be healthy, balanced, successful, and faithful is a challenge for the best of parents. There is more to training a child than simply *raising* the child.

B. In this lesson, we will look at specific instructions from God about being a godly parent as you train and equip your children for the life ahead of them, and for eternity.

II. The Parents

A. God expects parents to bring their children up in the teaching of the Lord. It is primarily the father's responsibility to be the teacher and trainer (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

B. To successfully train a child involves three things:

1. Teaching

*Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-7

*Ephesians 6:4

2. Leading by example

*Children learn and do what they see the parents do. They develop attitudes, habits, and patterns of thought directly from what the parents model. For parents to effectively impress the commandments of God upon their children, they must keep those same commandments themselves.

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9

*Joshua 24:15

*Genesis 6:9, 22

*Titus 2:3-5

3. Discipline

*Proverbs 13:24

*Proverbs 19:18

*Proverbs 22:15

*Proverbs 23:13-14

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*Proverbs 19:15,17

»Parents can avoid causing the child to be embittered by administering discipline with love, gentleness, and understanding of the child. Never discipline in anger or to get revenge. (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12)

C. Parents reap what they sow

1. Galatians 6:7

2. Proverbs 10:1

3. Proverbs 15:20

4. Proverbs 17:25

5. Proverbs 19:13

6. Proverbs 28:7

III. The Child

A. God has instructed children to be obedient and respectful to their parents

1. Respectful

*Proverbs 1:8-9; 2:1-5; 3:1-2, 11-12; 4:1; 5:1-2; 7:1-3

*Exodus 21:15, 17

*Leviticus 20:9; 19:3, 32

*Proverbs 12:1; 13:1, 18; 15:5, 12, 20

*Hebrews 12:9-11

2. Obedient

*Deuteronomy 21:18-21

*Proverbs 28:7

*Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

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B. Children have a responsibility to serve God whether they have any parental help or not

1. Ecclesiastes 12:1

2. Psalms 119:9-16

C. Children reap what they sow

1. Galatians 6:7-8

2. Proverbs 4:1-27

IV. Conclusion and Application

A. Parents have a God given responsibility to train their children to be healthy, successful, balanced, and faithful to God.

B. This lesson is simply a beginner lesson on training children. The key to successful parenting is being what you want your children to be, and continuous training, teaching, encouraging, and discipline as needed.

C. For more information and personal study on parenting, the following books are suggested:

**Whatever Happened To Mom, Dad, and the Kids*, by Paul Faulkner.

**Dare To Discipline - Balancing Love and Control*, by Dr. James Dobson

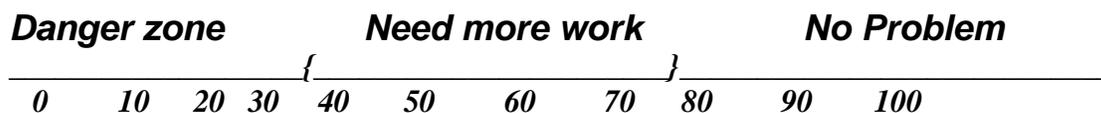
**Preparing For Adolescence*, by Dr. James Dobson

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Spiritual Checkup

This check-up is for you and will help you identify your level of spiritual maturity in the body. Be honest with yourself as you complete this questionnaire. No one else needs to view it unless you want specific help. How mature are you in your relationship with the church?

	<i>Total</i>
<i>Are You A Member</i> (Yes = +10, No = -10)	_____
<i>Worship Service Attendance</i> (Regular = +10, Irregular = -10)	_____
<i>How many new friends at church?</i> (0 = -10, +5 for each, maximum 50 points)	_____
<i>Are you aware of your specific spiritual gifts?</i> (Yes = +10, No = -5)	_____
<i>Are you using your gifts in ministry?</i> (Yes = +10, No = -5)	_____
<i>Are you a regular member of a LIFE Group?</i> (Yes = +20, No = -5)	_____
<i>Do you have an identifiable task in the church?</i> (Yes = +10, No = -5)	_____
<i>Rate your financial giving</i> (No = -5, spiradically = 0, regularly = +5 Generous = +10)	_____
<i>Do you refer to this church as "my" church?</i> (Yes = +10, No + -5)	_____
TOTAL Score	_____



A Solid Foundation
