

A  
FOLLOW  
UP  
STUDY FOR  
NEW CHRISTIANS  
PROVIDING  
BASIC  
BIBLE DOCTRINES  
TO  
GROUND ONE  
IN  
THEIR FAITH

Taught By Pastor W. Jack Casey

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 1

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Welcome, friend, into the family of Jesus Christ! Your decision to confess Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord has brought you into a wonderful new life and relationship to God.

Many things happened when you trusted Jesus Christ and told Him that as a sinner you needed Him for your eternal salvation.

*1. YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION*

1. On the account books of heaven where all your sins were recorded, God "imputed" (an accounting term meaning "to put") to your account the righteousness of Christ (Rom.4:20-25).

2. This means you were "Justified" (a legal term meaning "to declare right or righteous"). In the sight of God, you are seen in Jesus Christ and His righteousness.

3. Rom. 5: I says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have PEACE WITH GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ." Your conscience cleared and the guilt is lifted because you know you have been reconciled to God (the differences have been settled).

4. Something else happened when you were saved! Eph.1:12-14 tells us that the moment you trusted Christ you were sealed with the Holy Spirit who is the "earnest", or down payment, of our great inheritance.

Read Eph. 4:30 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"

For how long have you been sealed? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jesus called this your new birth in Jn.3:3 "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God". Once you were born physically, but now you have been born spiritually. When you received Him, eternal life began to live in you. This makes many wonderful things possible for you.

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You can now begin to understand God's Word ( I Cor.2 :12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of

God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.)

You can obtain strength to apply the Word to change selfish Habit patterns (I Cor.10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"; Phil.4 :13).

You can experience joy in trials (Rom.5:1 -5).

You can have fellowship with other believers in the church of Christ (I Jn. I: 7-9 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.).

## II. YOUR ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION

1. Read I Jn. 5:11,12. God says, "This is the record, that God has given to us \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and this life is in \_\_\_\_\_."

Note: "THIS IS THE RECORD." Not your feelings! Not a human's

Statement! GOD'S WORD IS THE RECORD! It cannot pass away! It is forever settled in heaven!

2. According to I Jn.5:12 "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life", when a person receives Jesus Christ as Savior, what does he have? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long is this life? I Jn.5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

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4. Circle the correct word: "These things have I written to you...that ye may (think) (feel) (wish) (suppose) (hope)( know) that ye have eternal life."

5. Read I Pet. 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time".

a. What are three descriptions of your inheritance reserved in heaven? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Who protects this inheritance? ( v s.5 ) \_\_\_\_\_

6. How confident in His keeping power may you be? II Tim. 1: 12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

7. What is our confidence according to Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Your assurance of eternal life is beneficial to you in many ways, but it was also planned for God's glory in that you might live and grow in the likeness of Christ (Rom. 8:28-29).

8. Who does Christ promise to save and keep? Jn.6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. \_\_\_\_\_

9. What characterizes those who possess eternal life? Jn. 10:27-28  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. In Jn. 1:12-13 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God". What assurance is given to

those who accept Christ?

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11. Your eternal salvation is guaranteed by: a. the Savior's Blood (Heb. 9: 11-12, 10: 10, 12, 14, 18)

b. the Savior's Word (Jn.5:24)

c. the Savior's Perseverance Phil.1:6

d. the Savior's Hand (Jn. 10:28-30)

e. the Savior's \_\_\_\_\_(Jn. 17:15, 24)

f. the Savior's \_\_\_\_\_(Rom. 8:35, 37-39)

g. the Savior's \_\_\_\_\_(Eph. 1: 13; 4 :30)

If you aren't in Christ, you have eternal death (Rev. 20:14-15). If you habitually sin without overcoming and growing, you cannot claim that you have been saved (Jn. 10:27; I Jn.3:9). If you have received Christ, REJOICE !!!

12. Note four great truths from Jn.5:24. \_\_\_\_\_

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The believer has already passed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

13. What are some evidences of eternal life?

a. I Jn. 5: 13 that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

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b. I Jn. 3: 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren \_\_\_\_\_

c. I Jn.3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure (See vs.1 & 2 also)

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14. What did the Holy Spirit put in your heart as a believer?

R om.5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." \_\_\_\_\_

15. How does this love mature and grow? (I Jn. 2:5)

Through a person, or your own thoughts, Satan may ask you, "Surely you don't believe you are going to heaven simply because you claimed a passage of Scripture like Rom. 10:9 And confessed to take Christ, do you?" or "You don't FEEL saved do you?"

God wants you to avoid the tragic mistake of basing your life on your feelings. He wants you to begin basing your life on that which can never fail - the eternal WORD OF GOD! Remember: Faith is not based on the five senses, but faith is ALWAYS acting on God's promises (Heb.11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, and 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him; Rom.4:20-21).

Rest upon the set truths you have learned in your study today!

### III. PURPOSES OF YOUR ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION

Remember:

1. Assurance of your salvation gives Christ the honor!( Read II Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.;

I Pet. 1: 5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"; Eph. 2:1-9). This is planned by God so that you may be able to serve Him in love.

2. Assurance of your salvation begets a higher degree of service!

a. How does God want you to be before Him? Eph.1: 4 "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Circle one: (in fear) (in love)

b. We serve out of love because He first loved us( I Jn.4:7-10).

3. Assurance of your salvation begets a better witness Focus on:

a. His work (Heb. 10:10-18)

b. His power (I Pet. 1: 5)

c. His love (Rom. 8:28-29, 31-35, 37 -39)

d. His faithfulness (Phil.1:6)

## Follow Up For New Christians

### Lesson 2

#### GROWING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

A skilled carpenter found a branch lying on the ground in the woods. He carefully broke off twigs and cut knobs until just the right amount of the branch remained. After whittling the bark, he patiently shaved the wood to obtain the shape he desired, and he sanded it until it was smooth and splinterless. Finally, he used special tools to carve intricate designs of beauty into the sculpture for his pleasure.

Much in the same way, God wants to prune away the sinful habits and selfish attitudes in our lives so that we can become more like His Son, Jesus Christ.

In Godliness Through Discipline. Jay E. Adams states: "There are only two kinds of life: the feeling-motivated life of sin oriented toward self, and the commandment-motivated life of holiness oriented toward godliness."

Godliness is the goal of the Christian life. The Bible shows us how to please God by being, doing, saying and feeling what He desires.

#### *I. CHANGE IS PROMISED*

1. Read God's promise in I Cor. 10:13, and write it here in full.

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2. We have the same source of strength now as Jesus did when He was tempted in the wilderness.

What is our steadfast source of power? (Matt. 4:2-11)

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3. Read the following passages and note the three sources of temptation.

Jas.1:13, 14 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

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I Jn.2:15, 16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

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1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Note four ways in which God's Word is useful for overcoming sinful habits in II Tim. 3:16, 17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What kind of attitude is necessary in order to grow in the likeness of Christ? Matt.5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

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What did Jesus promise? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How should we view ourselves as Christians?

a. II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Rom. 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is God's purpose for the believer? (Rom.8:28, 29) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Read Rom.7:18-25; 8:12

a. Who made it possible for us to “walk after the Spirit?” \_\_\_\_\_

b. Since we are “free from the law of sin and death” (8:2), what is possible for us in our daily walk with Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Rom. 8:10”: And if \_\_\_\_\_ be in you, the body is \_\_\_\_\_; but the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ because of \_\_\_\_\_”

10. How are we able to identify with Christ? ( Gal.2 :20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. How are we to live our lives?

a. Rom. 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. According to I Jn.4:4, why is it possible for us to orient our lives toward righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_

## *II. CHANGE IS COMMANDED*

1. What does God command here in I Pet.1:1516? But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does God desire of us in Rom. 12: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How can we learn what is pleasing to God?

a. Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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b. Eph.5:8-10 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

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4. What does Rom. 6:12, 13 say about orienting our lives toward Godliness? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In your own words, describe the three things Paul tells us to do in Eph. 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. How can we obtain the power and the desire to obey God's Word?

a. Gal. 5:16 Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Jn. 15:7, 8 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Heb. 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Phil.4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe the "fruit" that glorifies God.

a. Gal. 5:22.23

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b. Eph. 5:9 For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth

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8. What things are we to pursue according to I Tim. 6:11? But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

### III. CHANGE REQUIRES DISCIPLINE

There is no such thing as "instant" Godliness!

I. How does Godliness come about?

a. I Tim.4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness

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b. Heb. 5:11-14

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c. Heb.12:1, 2, 11

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In order for a believer to "exercise" himself toward righteousness, discipline is necessary. Discipline means "sustained daily effort." The word Paul used in I Tim. 4:7 is the one from which the English word "gymnastics" has been derived. This term is related to athletics. We are all aware that it takes years of regular practice to achieve athletic skills.

God does not expect us to be perfect; He expects us to be growing. We need to exert "sustained daily effort" as we apply His Word to our lives.

2. Note an area in which you need to change. \_\_\_\_\_

3. List the steps that are necessary to accomplish your goal.

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Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 3  
PROVISION THROUGH GOD'S WORD

When you received Jesus Christ as your Savior, His power became available to you. I Jn. 4:4 says; "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." However, in order to overcome sinful habit patterns, grow in righteousness, and obtain guidance for our lives, we must act upon God's Word in faith. Whenever God requires anything of His children, He always provides instruction and power to meet those requirements through His Holy Word.

*I. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD'S WORD*

A. Reverence

In II Tim. 3, Paul warns us of perilous conditions in the last days, which began when Christ was crucified over 1990 years ago. He describes wholesale iniquity (vs. 2 -4), wholesale hypocrisy (vs.5 -7), wholesale apostasy (8 -10), and wholesale persecution (11- 13).

Read II Tim.3 :15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

a. What is the key to victory, even in bad situations?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the most important thing the Scriptures teach us?  
(vs.15)\_\_\_\_\_

c. The Scriptures are God-breathed as no other writings inspired and are profitable for\_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, and for\_\_\_\_\_ in righteousness (16).

d. What does God's Word enable us to do? Read vs.  
17\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read II Pet. 1:16-21 "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." now answer the following questions.

- a. What is "more sure" than extraordinary experiences perceived by our senses? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Approximately 39 men of God wrote the Scriptures under special inspiration over a period of 1500 years. Who specifically inspired these men? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. As we study God's Word, what are we to keep in mind? (vs. 20).  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How is God's Word described in the following passages?

- a. Ps. 119:24 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Ps. 119:72 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Ps. 119:89 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Ps. 119:138 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Ps. 119:140 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Ps. 119:142 \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Ps. 119:160 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Paraphrase Heb.4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. From the following verses, note the attitudes we should have toward the Word of God.

- a. Ps. 119:35 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Ps. 119:42 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Ps. 119:62 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Ps. 119:117 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Ps. 119:164 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Ps. 119:167 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Obedience

1. What will prove our love for Christ? (Jn. 14:15, 21, 23) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Luke 8:5-15 and answer the following questions.

a. What 3 things may hinder us from obeying God's commands.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

b. What is produced by our obedience to Him? vs. 15

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the "fruit" of the Spirit? As found here in Gal.5:22, 23  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Who is glorified by this "fruit"? (Jn. 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read, Jn. 15 :4-10 and list three requirements that are necessary for bringing forth fruit.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is commanded here in Jas.1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. According to Eccl. 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this

is the whole duty of man. Now what is our responsibility?

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8. Will God require anything too difficult for us? Note the content of the following verses.

a. I Jn. 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous

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b. I Cor. 10:13 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Why are we able to obey His commandments (Phil.2:12,13)

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10. When we show a willful desire for obedience God enable us to obey .Read examples of this in Mk.3:1-5 and Luke.17:12-14.

### C. Dependence

How much can we depend upon the Word of God? Note the content of the following passages.

1. Luke. 21: 33\_\_\_\_\_

2. Matt.4:4 \_\_\_\_\_

3. I Pet. 1: 23,25\_\_\_\_\_

4. Eph. 6:12, 13, 17

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5. Jn.5:24 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Ps. 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

## II. OUR USE OF GOD'S WORD

A. Read 1 Tim. 3:15-17 Note four things God's Word is profitable for.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Steps For Profitable Use of God's Word

In order for God's Word to be profitable for us, we need to apply 5 necessary steps to aid understanding.

#### I. Hearing God's Word

What do the following passages say?

- a. Rom.10:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Eph. 4:11-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Prov. 1:33 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Reading God's Word

a. What does Paul tell Timothy in I Tim. 4:13-16?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. By reading God's Word we can obtain an overall knowledge of the Bible. A few minutes each day and discreet underlining can be a great aid in relocating truths rapidly. As you read, ask yourself these questions.

- \*To whom is the passage speaking?
- \*What is the circumstance?
- \*What does it tell me about Christ?
- \*Does it mention sins I should avoid?
- \*Are there promises to claim?
- \*Are there questions which I need to find answers to?

## 3. Studying God's Word

a. Note the content of the following verses.

I Pet. 2:2, 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Heb. 5:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

II Tim. 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

b. We must study in order to "rightly divide" (properly explain) God's Word to others. As you study, apply 4 basic principles of interpretation by answering the following questions.

1. What does the CONTEXT of the passage tell you? The words surrounding the passage normally throw some light upon its meaning.

2. What is the TELIC or PURPOSIVE USE of the passage? How does it serve as a useful function?

Example: I Pet.3:7; Eph.5: 23, 25: Husband's role

I Pet.3:1-6: How a wife should live with an unbelieving husband

Eph.5:21-3:1 Husband/Wife relationship

Eph.6: 1 -4: Parent/Child relationship

3. What is the ORIGINAL MEANING of a particular word in the passage? Is it found else where in the Bible?

(Use Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

4. Is your interpretation CONSISTENT with the rest of the Bible? Every passage must bear the weight of the rest of the Bible, even if it seems unclear to you. All of the 31,177 verses are perfectly balanced.

4. Memorizing God's Word

a. How did Jesus defeat Satan in the wilderness? (Matt.4:3 11)\_\_\_\_\_

b. How may we keep our selves from sin?

Ps. 119:9, 11\_\_\_\_\_

Ps. 119:80\_\_\_\_\_

To memorize a passage, understand and picture its meaning. Read it many times, and gradually learn to recite it without looking.

5. Meditating On and Applying God's Word

(The most essential step for profitable use of Scripture)

a. What does God promise if we delight in His commandments?

Ps. 1: 1 -3 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What 4 actions are mentioned in Ps. 119:15, 16?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

c. How may we grow in righteousness daily? (Ps.119:9)

\_\_\_\_\_

d. What is the commandment in Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing

one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord?

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e. Paraphrase Jas. 1: 22-25.

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Meditation: Transforming God's Word from head knowledge to concrete applications by enumerating and initiating steps for putting off old habit patterns and putting on Biblical patterns toward conformity to Jesus Christ.

### *III. OUR BENEFITS FROM GOD'S WORD*

A. What is the most important benefit we receive by faith in God's Word? Jn. 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

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B. How did our eternal salvation come about? (Eph. 1:13)

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C. What is the prerequisite for answered prayer?

a. I Jn. 3:21, 22 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Jn.15:7, 8 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Ps. 66:18 \_\_\_\_\_

D. In order to have fellowship with God, what is our responsibility? (I Jn.1:6-10)

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E. Read the following passages and note the benefits of the Word of God.

a. Prov. 2:6-9

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b. Ps. 119:130 \_\_\_\_\_

c. I Thes. 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Jn.15:10, 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 4

PROVISION THROUGH PRAYER

A child who asks his parent for a cookie may often hear the reply, "But I just gave you one a few minutes ago." In Jn.16:24 Jesus says that when we ask for a need, it will be treated just as though we've never asked before: "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Jas. 1:5 describes God's attitude when we ask Him for wisdom: "if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him."

The sovereign God has ordained that our needs should be met in answer to prayer. He moves on our hearts and invites us to ask for our needs. God promises in Jer. 33:3: "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou' knowest not."

When we say, "Our Father" we call to the sublime power of the universe. Why then do we fail to touch this great resource?

I. FIVE BASIC HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

A. "I don't take the time."

God created us, saved us, loves us, and desires our fellowship in prayer that He might meet our needs.

1. What does I Thes.5:17 say about this?

*17 Pray without ceasing.*

God wants us to have a constant, prayerful attitude so that at anytime we would be able to speak to Him in close fellowship. Instead of growing weary or discouraged, we need to pray. (See Luke 18: 1).

Fain- means to become discouraged because of a situation.

2. What does Jas.4:2 say about prayer? "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."

3. What is God's attitude toward our prayers according to Prov.15:8, 29? The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD:

but the prayer of the upright is his delight. The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Andrew Murray said, "There is so much talk about lack of time and many distractions that the deep guilt of not praying is often not recognized."

B. "I lack a clear conscience."

1. When will the Lord not hear us?( Ps.66:18) "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"

2. What can hinder our prayers according to I Pet.3:7?

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

3. What kind of heart is necessary as we pray? ( Heb.10:22) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water,

4. Unconfessed sin will hinder our fellowship and prayer life. If possible, confess sins to those whom you have offended.

Note the content of the following verses:

a. I Jn. 1: 9? If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

b. Matt. 5:23-26? 23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

"Confession" means to agree with God that our actions or attitudes are sin and to ask His forgiveness for them. We

also need to ask for the forgiveness of those whom we offend (if possible).

5. What does Matt. 6:14, 15 say regarding a forgiving heart toward others?

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. "I ask amiss."

1. How does James 4:3 explain "asking amiss"? Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.  
Sometimes the things we want may not be best for us, but God promises to supply our needs.
2. What does He promise to supply in Phil. 4:19? But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
3. We need to look to Christ for an example. Read Matt.26:39, 42 and describe the attitude we should have as we pray.  
' And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

D. "I pray in the wrong name."

1. What is required of us as we pray? (Jn. 14:13)  
13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

2. What does God desire for us as we receive answers to prayer?  
Jn. 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

As believers we may draw on the riches of God's grace in Jesus' name.

E. "I do not believe God."

I. What is Christ's promise to us in Matt.7:7, 8?

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

2. What does I Pet. 3:12 say about our prayers to God?

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

3. According to Jas. 7:6, 7 what attitude must we have as we pray?  
But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Wavering means to desire God to remove the pressure of the trial; before learning His lesson for us. God wants to meet our needs rather than our wants.

4. What is required as we pray according to Mk. 11:22-24?

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them. and ye shall have them.

## II. FIVE BASIC PARTS TO PRAYER

### A. Praise

Jesus taught His disciples to begin prayers with "Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name"(Matt.6:9). As we come to God in prayer we need to recognize and praise Him for His divine attributes.

Read the following psalms of praise, and use them as aids to your prayers to God: Psalms 8, 19, 24, 29, 33, 47, 65, 77, 93, 95, 96, 97, 99, 104, 111, 113, 114, 115, 139, 147, 150 158.

### B. Confession

1. What does the word "confession" mean? (See I, B, 4.)

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Remember": Confession" means to agree with God that our actions or attitudes are sin and to ask His forgiveness or them.

2. Describe David's attitude in Psalm 139: 23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

God knows our hearts. As believers there is only one sin that

He will not forgive, and that is an unconfessed sin.

The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to search our hearts. WE must confess those actions and attitudes that are contrary to His Word, request His grace to put off the sin in the future, and determine to put on godly actions and attitudes to please God.

### C. Thanksgiving

1. Read 1 Thess. 5:18 and write it here in full. " In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

2. According to Eph. 5:20, how often should we give thanks to God? "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

#### D. Supplication for Others

"Supplication" signifies requesting, begging, beseeching, or voicing a need.

1. What does Eph. 6:18 emphasize? Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2. What does Phil. 4:6, 7 tell us to do? "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

3. Prayer lists:

a. List those for whom it is your responsibility to pray, and number them according to priority or responsibility (spouse, children, parents, sisters and brothers, pastors, teachers, missionaries etc.).

b. Pray for your immediate family daily. Divide up extra family members throughout the week.

c. List unsaved people and pray for their salvation.

d. Pray for your Sunday School class and church family members.

#### E. Supplication for Yourself

Ask yourself this question: What is the greatest need that God sees in my life?

Pray that God would help you to become more like Jesus Christ in specific areas, habits, and attitudes. List particular personal needs, and apply God's word daily.

### *III. THREE PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC PRAYER*

A. Do not pray to impress others. (See Matt. 6:5-8). And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the

heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

B. Pray clearly enough so that others can say "Amen" with you. (See I Cor. 14:16). "Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?"

C. Public prayers in the Bible are usually short and of general concern to the group. Be considerate of others. Share Jesus- Acts 3: 1-9. Prayer works; prayer is work; prayer causes work!

"Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God:"

This kind by fasting and prayer - Mk 9:20-29. "The world seeks better methods while God is seeking better men and women of prayer!"- EM Bounds

20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And of times it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came

running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory...”- Eph.4 :20,21 .

20 But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 5

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

God's care for you does not stop after you are saved. Part of His plan for your growth and conformity to Christ's image is accomplished through the foundations of the local church. A scriptural, local New Testament church is God's plan for every believer, and we are admonished to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for reasons of indifference (Heb.10:25).

Nowhere in the New Testament is there a believer who does not become involved in a local assembly. According to the pastoral epistles of Timothy and Titus, these assemblies were to be organized well. We need to understand the importance of what God says regarding New Testament churches.

The term "church" is derived from the Greek word "ecclesia," which means "called-out ones" (Acts 15: 14).

I. SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS CONCERNING THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. The Church as the Body of Christ

1. Its present magnitude

- a. The Church in this sense consists of the entire body of believers from the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) until the Rapture (I Thess. 4:16, 17). Every person who is saved is a part of this body.
- b. What specifically was Christ's prayer for believers in Jn. 17:21? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. According to I Cor. 12:12, 13 Christ's prayer has been answered. As believers, each of us is members of one body.
- d. When we are saved, who seals us? (Eph. 1:13, 4:30)  
\_\_\_\_\_

- e. In Eph. 4:3 we are told to \_\_\_\_\_ the unity, not make the unity

2. Its present limitations

The church as the body of Jesus Christ has particular limitations:

- a. It never meets in this age.
- b. It never makes decisions.
- c. It never administers ordinances.
- d. It never preaches or sends missionaries.

Invisible Body of Christ!

#### B. The Church as a Local Assembly

1. An evangelistic emphasis - Bringing the lost to Christ
2. Missionary - Gospel to the World
3. Regenerated Membership
4. Biblical Missionaries - where the Bible is thoroughly taught in study and preaching.
  - a. The primary usage of the term "church" in the New Testament refers to local churches. 90 out of 111 times the word is used in this way. It is a true church if it is established according to the Word of God.
  - b. A local church is a body of baptized believers convening together to carry out the commission given by its head, Jesus Christ.
  - c. Missions taught in the New Testament, is the making of disciples and the organization of local churches.
  - d. The Bible never refers to a local church as being part of any larger earthly organization. Although men may refer to "the Church that is in America," speaking of many churches, the Bible does not. Instead, we read: "to the seven churches which are in Asia..." (Rev. 1: 4, 11, 20). God's plan for this age involves His work being carried on through local, self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating churches.
  - e. Five Qualities of Members
    1. Members are Loving- Jn.1 3:34, 35
    2. Members are Caring- I Cor. 12:25, 26
    3. Members are Forgiving- Eph. 4:32
    4. Members are Forbearing- Eph.4:2
    5. Members are Submitting- Eph. 5:21; I Pet.5:5; Rom.12:10; Phil.2:3, No one is above being taught by someone else.

## II. SCRIPTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

### A. Jesus Christ is its Foundation.

a. Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

(Matt. 16:18). Some believe that "Peter" and "rock" are synonymous; therefore they claim that Peter is the foundation of the church.

However, the Greek word for Peter is "Petros" and the word for rock is "petra."

W.E. Vine, in his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says: "Petra" denotes a mass of rock distinct (and larger) than petros, a detached rock. "These words are not synonymous. "Petra" is something that cannot be moved, and" petros" is something that can.

b. In the following verses what is the word "rock" a symbol of?

Deut3. 2:3, 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps. 13:31 \_\_\_\_\_

I Cor. 10:4 \_\_\_\_\_

c. "For other \_\_\_\_\_ can no man lay than that which is laid, which is \_\_\_\_\_ " (I Cor. 3:11) .

A true church is one built upon Jesus Christ, and Biblical teachings of Christ must be foremost.

### d. Five Marks of a Bad Church

1. Lack of Historical Perception not examining 1 900 years of church history.

2. Distorted versions of the Bible – adding to or leaving out parts.

3. Desire to cause division. True believers feel a bond of unity with others.

4. Major or minor points- I Tim. 4 warns against this.

5. Return to past errors.

### B. Jesus Christ is the Head.

1. How is Christ described in the following verses?

a. Eph. 5:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Col. 1 : 1 8 \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Jn. 16:12-14 we learn that our Lord, as Head of the church, is currently directing activities through the leadership of the

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3. Read Eph. 6:17. The Holy Spirit uses the sword of the Spirit, which is the guide to His church.

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4. Since the Bible teaches that Christ alone is the Head of the local church, we reject any human overlordship whether it be a pope, cardinal, archbishop, bishop, secretary, or convention.

We learn in the New Testament that each local church was to follow the Scriptures and be completely autonomous; each church is to be self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating.

5. When decisions need to be made, although the church looks to its pastor for leadership and its deacons for direction, each member should seek the mind of Christ and prayerfully make decisions that are based upon relevant Biblical principles. A decision of the majority, if not in contradiction with God's Word is final.

### C. Church Membership

1. Read Acts 2: 37-41, 47 and notice the events that preceded membership of the local church:

- a. Conviction
- b. Repentance and Faith
- c. Baptism
- d. Membership

2. Salvation precedes baptism, and there is no hint in the New Testament of a person being baptized and not becoming a member of a local church.

### D. Church Officers

1. Pastors (synonymous terms: shepherd, overseer, bishop, elder, and example)

a. What is a pastor compared to in I Pet. 5:7-4? \_\_\_\_\_  
He feeds, guides, protects, and rescues.

b. In Eph. 4:11-16 we learn that he equips the \_\_\_\_\_ for the work of the \_\_\_\_\_ for the edifying of the \_\_\_\_\_

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c. List 16 Biblical characteristics of a pastor from I Tim. 3: 1 - 7 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to

hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_

d. What does Paul charge to Timothy in II Tim. 4: 1-5?

\_\_\_\_\_

e. What responsibilities are described in the following verses?

Acts 20:28, 31 \_\_\_\_\_

I Pet. 5: 1 -3 \_\_\_\_\_

Heb. 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Deacons

Read what Acts 6: 1-7 and I Tim. 3:8-13 tells us about the responsibilities and characteristics of church deacons. Deacons were selected to put down murmuring; therefore, they function with the pastor in matters of care and discipline of church members.

Deacons were chosen to free full-time workers for the ministry of God's Word and prayer. These mature men function as assistants to the pastor.

### E. The Purpose or Commission of the Church

#### I. Affirmation of Life

a. According to Jn. 13:34-35 how will others know that we follow Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What attitude should we have toward those who are lost? (Matt. 9:35, 36) \_\_\_\_\_

c. Note ways in which we may glorify God in our behavior.

Titus 2:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 2:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 2:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

I Pet. 2:7-15 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Proclamation by Word

a. Why is Paul sorrowful in Rom.9:2-3? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How may a lost person learn about eternal salvation through Christ? (Rom.10:14, 15, 17 and Isa.6:8) \_\_\_\_\_

c. Read Acts 6:7 and Luke. 8: 11-15. The seed is the Word of God: one sows, another waters, and God gives the increase. The Word is increased because? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Baptism and Church Membership

a. What is Christ's command in Matt. 28:19? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What occurred after people were saved? (Acts 2:41) \_\_\_\_\_

c. List some purposes of the Biblical, local church found in the following verses:

Heb. 10:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Jn.4:24 \_\_\_\_\_

I Jn. 1: 3 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Education

Read Eph. 4:11-16 and answer the following questions.

a. List three purposes of the local church (vs. 12)

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b. What will this prevent? (vs. 14) \_\_\_\_\_

c. What is our goal? (vs. 15, 16)

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d. What is vital in accomplishing this goal?( II Tim.3:15-17)

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#### F. Additional Characteristics of the Local Church

The local church:

1. Has rolls for tracking (Acts 2:41, 47)
2. Gives letters of recommendation (Philemon)
3. Takes in members (Rom. 14:1)
4. Transacts business church leaders choosing those to fill ministry roles.
  - a. Matthias chosen (Acts 1)
  - b. Deacons chosen (Acts 6)
  - c. Missionaries sent (Acts 11: 22; 13:1-4)
  - d. Messengers sent- sending to minister (Acts 15:22)
  - e. Gifts given to missionaries (I Cor. 16:2, 3)
5. Practices discipline with the goal of restoring believers
  - a. Exclusion of members (I Cor.5; Gal.5: 1)
  - b. Restoration of members (II Cor.2: 6-8)
6. Is given commission, ordinances, and Pastoral Epistles for order.

Conclusion:

In Acts 2:41 we find that immediately after their salvation and baptism, believers were "added to" or became members of the local church in Jerusalem. Membership in a bible-believing Christ-honoring church in your community provides Inspiration of

fellowship with other believers and opportunities to do your part in the spreading of the Christian faith. If you, as a believer, are not a member of a local church you should follow the example of the believers in Acts 2:41. The preaching, teaching care, and warmth of the local church body is God's plan for your growth. It is important for you to become a faithful member, attender, supporter and servant in your local church.

## Follow Up For New Christians

### Lesson 6

### BAPTISM

Our Lord commanded His church to make disciples and baptize them. It is quite clear that the early church understood His teaching and obeyed it. Numerous references tell us of their immediate baptism after their salvation.

Unfortunately, Christ's disciples today do not seem to be as faithful to hear, teach and obey His commands regarding baptism.

Since baptism is our Savior's imperative and was faithfully practiced by the New Testament church, it behooves every believer to carefully study and heed Christ's teaching on baptism.

#### *I. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?*

A. Christ Commanded baptism of Believers.

1. What are Christ's four commands in Matt. 28:19, 20? Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What must precede baptism according to Mk.16:14-16?

3. Baptism is not related to salvation. Salvation cannot be of human merit, for it is a work of God - not of man. Read the following verses, and note how we are saved.

a. Jn.1:12-13 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Gal. 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Titus 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Eph. 2 :8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

## B. The Apostles Practiced Baptism of Believers

According to the following verses, what occurred before baptism took place?

1. Acts 2:36-40 \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Acts 8:9-13 \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Acts 16:30-34 \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- 

## *II. WHY SHOULD A BELIEVER BE BAPTIZED?*

### A. Obedience to God's Word

1. Christ commanded baptism in Matt. 28:19, 20.
2. Baptism was practiced in the New Testament church.

### B. Identification with Jesus Christ

Read Rom. 6:3-16.

Baptism is not a ritual it is identification with Jesus Christ.

Baptism is an outward expression of your inward faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection it; is a reminder that you are dead to sin and a risen to walk in newness of life.

### C. Church Membership

Read Acts 2:36-42 and notice the events which preceded membership to the local church:

1. Conviction
2. Repentance and Faith
3. Baptism
4. Membership

## *III. HOW SHOULD A BELIEVER BE BAPTIZED?*

A. The Greek word for "baptize" is "baptizo," which means "to dip or immerse". This is the word used in the New Testament.

B. Which mode of baptism fits the thought of the following passages: sprinkling, pouring, or immersion?

1. Jn. 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Acts 8:36-39 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Rom. 6: 4-5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Col. 2:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Biblical immersion symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:3- 4). It consists of excluding the person from sight (in posture or repose of death) once in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and rising to newness of life.

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 7  
HOW THE BELIEVER CLEARS HIS CONSCIENCE

God expects the believer to grow in the likeness of Christ. Growth, not perfection, is His expectation. Since we still have the old selfish thought patterns as well as the new nature, we still sin. Every selfish attitude, thought, word, deed, and habit is sin. It is essential to our growth in Christ that we learn the way God has provided for us to clear our conscience to stay in fellowship and to continue to grow.

Our old way of treating sin must change. Like Adam and Eve, our Genesis Chapter Three way of dealing with guilt is ineffective. The Genesis Chapter Three type of person runs from tree to tree, hides, blames shifts, and tries to cover over sin so that God and others cannot see it. God's way is to grow in transparency to: walk in the light of His Word and deal with sin properly.

*1. SEEING THE NEED OR IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH GUILT GOD'S WAY*

1. From Ps.32:3-4 list three results of keeping silent about sin.

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2. List at least 8 results from Ps.38: 2-10.

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3. What does Prov. 14:30 say about the effect of the sin of envy?

4. What does Jas.4: 1-3 say regarding sin?

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5. What does the sin of not loving another believer (hatred) cause? \_\_\_\_\_

Can we know God's will while living with the sin of hatred according to I Jn. 2:11? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Jas. 5:15, 16 implies that one cause for a believer's sickness may be \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: By no means does he say "all." The Bible also recognizes organized illnesses that are to be treated with "oils" or medications as well as sicknesses for other reasons.)

7. Read Ps. 51: 12, 13 and note the two things David expected AFTER his sin was dealt with properly.

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. UNDERSTANDING THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE

### A. Repentance Is Not Simply Sorrow.

Some have supposed that repentance simply means having some remorse about sin and the web of complications it has caused. Paul carefully distinguishes between the "Godly sorrow," which brings repentance, and the "sorrow of the world," which brings death in II Cor.7:10.

There are several reasons why a person may show remorse, or the "sorrow of the world":

1. He may be sorry he is caught and enduring pain.
2. He may be sorry he is causing others pain.
3. He may be sorry that he can't continue in his sin peacefully.
4. He may be sorry that his great plans are not working out.

Read Matt. 27:3-5. Did Judas' sorrows cause him to repent to God? What did he do instead? \_\_\_\_\_

### B. The Meaning of Repentance

1. The word "repent" simply means "to change direction" or "to turn around and go the opposite way." Repentance is a change of mind, will, emotions, and direction concerning sin, self, and God.

2. Repentance involves:

a. Seeing that our sin hurts a Holy God and being genuinely sorry that we did it. How did each of these persons express the meaning of repentance?

1. David in Ps. 51:14-17 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Paul in II Cor.7: 9, 10

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3. Christ in Matt.5: 3-4

---

b. An inward repugnance to sin followed by acts of forsaking it through Christ's power. What do the following passages say regarding the forsaking of sin?

1. Matt.3:8 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Prov. 28:13 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Acts 26:20 \_\_\_\_\_

c. A humbling of the self; surrendering to the will and service of God. See Acts 9:6 "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

3. Repentance itself is the gift of God. (See Acts 5:31) This is possible because Christ has already paid the price for our forgiveness on Calvary's Cross. We do not merit or earn it; we only appropriate it.

### III. APPLYING THE STEPS OF CLEARING THE CONSCIENCE

#### A. Agreement with God's Word about Our Sin

1. According to I Jn. 1: 9, what is the believer to do when the light of God's Word shows him that he has sinned?

---

2. The word "confess" means "to say the same thing" or "to agree with God about my sin." Which of the following is a Biblical confession and which is not?

a. "Lord, forgive me. You know I couldn't help it."

b. "Lord, you know I don't know why I did it."

c. "Please forgive me. You know I did it because of the way so-and-so treated me."

- d. "Lord, I had no excuse. I see how wrong I was. Please forgive me."  
3. What did David call it in Ps. 51: 3- 4, 14-17?
- 

## B. Confession

### 1. To God:

From A, 2 above select the correct confession that says the same thing God does about sin, and write it here:

### 2. To Appropriate People:

What did Christ command when our sin has caused a breach in their relationship with another person in Matt.5:23- 24?

---

## C. Restitution

( to "make right" with the appropriate people)

1. Note what may result from failure to make restitution and solve problems with other believers in the following verses:

a. Matt. 5:23 When did Christ say it should be done?

---

b. Jas. 5:16 (What is affected?) \_\_\_\_\_

c. I Pet. 3:7 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of the following reasons for not going to someone to ask forgiveness are Biblical, and which are not?

a. "The other person really doesn't know about it; I only thought it in my mind."

b. "I will not go to him during the invitation service; I will see him on an individual basis."

c. "It is complicated, and I may need the help of my pastor or a deacon."

d. "Although he was hurt for awhile, he has probably forgotten it."

e. "I know there is no need to ask because he won't forgive me."

f. "But he hurt me, also."

g. "If I do, it will not make a difference."

3. According to Mk. 11: 24-25 what kind of attitude are we to have toward others offenses toward us?

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4. What are we to do toward offenders according to Rom. 12:21?

---

What kind of attitude does Jas.1:2 describe?

#### D. Change

I. Regarding the forgiveness of sin, Lewis Sperry Chafer said:

“Let it not be supposed that this land of restoration of the child of God to the Father’s fellowship will react in an attitude of carelessness on the part of the Christian. The sufficient answer to this challenge is:

a. True confession is the expression of a very real repentance, or change of mind, which turns from the sin. This is the exact opposite of becoming accustomed to the sin, or becoming careless with regard to it.

b. This very revelation is given, we are told, not to encourage or license us to sin, but rather that “ye sin not” (be not sinning).

According to the Scriptures and according to human experience, the believer’s safety in the faithfulness and justice of the Father and the advocacy and propitiation of the Son is the greatest incentive for a holy life. It is clearly revealed that

God has, by other and sufficient means, guarded against all careless sinning on the part of those whom He has eternally saved through the merit of His Son.”

2. In I Jn. 2:3-6, what does John say immediately after he admonishes the believer to walk in the light and confess sin?

---

3. Read Prov.28:13. God says, “...whoso confesseth and \_\_\_\_\_ shall have \_\_\_\_\_”

4. In Eph. 4:22, 24 how does Paul say we effect this change?

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 8  
FOUR RULES OF COMMUNICATION  
(Ephesians 4:25-32)

Good relationships over any length of time do not come automatically! All of the story plots patterned after Goldilocks and Prince Charming who “ride off into the sunset and live happily ever after” are purely fictional and absolutely unscriptural! Relationships simply never, ever, ever happen that way! They cannot! The reason why is that all men are sinners, and sinners are selfish and finite. The fact that we are selfish and finite that means WE ARE GOING TO HAVE CONFLICTS!

However, you may cheer up! Good marriages and good relationships are not built upon an absence of- problems. Problems CAN and MUST be solved! God commands it! And what He has commanded He always gives the means and the strength to carry out.

In Eph. 4:22-32, Paul talks about putting off old ways and putting on Christ’s ways. In these verses he gives us four vital rules for communication to solve problems. These rules are to be used in all our relationships. Let’s learn them.

I. RULE ONE: BE HONEST! (Eph. 4:25)

Wayne Mack, in Marriage Relationship, rightly says that one of the most basic requirements of good communications is mutual openness and honesty! There must be honest listening and speaking if problems are to be solved.

A. Thoughts of the Mind Are Only Known to Oneself

To see why this is true, read I Cor.2:11. After reading this verse, write down why a person has to verbalize his thoughts to another.

---

B. Non-Verbal Data Is Helpful. But Can Never Be Conclusive.

We can never know each other by second guessing. Non-verbal indications may cause us to question, and we should be alert to smiles, frowns, voice tones, body language, notes, presence or absence, touches, pats, hugs, helpfulness, attentiveness, and

sharing. However, facts can only really be known, and problems dealt with, through openness and honesty.

### C. Honesty Is More Than Not Lying.

According to Eph.4:25, honesty and openness is more than avoiding a lie. It means \_\_\_\_\_

D. According to these passages what happens when we do not listen and talk honestly?

1. Prov.18:13 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Amos 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Matt. 5:23-26 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Matt. 5:9 \_\_\_\_\_
5. I Cor. 14:8, 9, 33, 40 \_\_\_\_\_

### *II. RULE TWO: KEEP CURRENT! (Eph. 4:26.27)*

“Be angry and sin not; Do not ever let your wrath – your exasperation last until sundown. Leave no such room or foothold for the devil” .

#### A. There Are Times To Hold the Tongue.

What do the following verses say regarding this?

1. I Pet.4:8 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Prov. 14:29 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jas. 1:19 \_\_\_\_\_

We never have a right to expect people to live according to our preferences. We are to make righteous judgments (J n.7:24; Matt. 7:1-6). We are to have a forgiving spirit (Eph.4:31, 32), receive our weaker brother (Rom.14:12) and recognize that when a person is growing, God is teaching him.

#### B. There Are Times When It Is Wrong to Hold the Tongue.

If sin is hindering growth or causing harm to the body of Christ, or the offender or situation is deteriorating rapidly, it is extremely unloving to fail to seek to resolve the problem.

1. According to Eph.4:26, is anger sinful in itself?
2. The energy called “anger” is given to attack problems; it is not given to attack and destroy people.

a. In Eph.4:26, 27, "clamming up" is destroying whom?  
Self \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ others

b. In Prov. 25:28, "blowing up" destroys others and means that the person doing this is in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ out of control.

c. When we let the problem remain unsolved day after day, to whom are we giving a foothold? (Eph. 4:26, 27) \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Questions to Ask Yourself Before Bringing up a Sticky Problem to be Solved

1. Do I have the facts right? (Prov. 18:13) \_\_\_\_\_

If not, you need to admit that you are not sure.

2. Should love hide it? (I Pet.4:8) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is my attitude right? (Eph.4:15) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the timing right? (Prov. 15:23b) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are my words loving? (Eph.4:15) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have I prayed for God's help? (Prov.3:5b) \_\_\_\_\_

### III. *RULE THREE: ATTACK THE PROBLEM: NOT THE PERSON!* (Eph. 4:29)

#### A. Words Can Harm.

According to Jas.3:5-8, what is wrong with this statement: "Sticks and may break my bones, but words can never harm me"?

#### B. People Are Not To Be Attacked.

1. What did Christ say about "cutting people down," calling them "racca", or worthless, or fool? (Matt. 5:22)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. When we attack someone as a person, who are we really criticizing? Who created him? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are some words, voice inflections and tones, and non verbal actions that really say to others, "I do not think you are worthwhile as a person"?

C. Instead. Choose Words That Will Help To Solve Problems: Words That Are Solution-Oriented.

Eph. 4:29 describes these words and non-verbal accusations as those that "edify" and "minister" \_\_\_\_\_ unto the hearers."

What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. RULE FOUR: ACT: DON'T REACT! (Eph. 4:31, 32)

##### A. Don't React.

Our tendency from our Genesis Three nature is to be defensive about dealing with our own sins and to deal with our own needs. We tend to defend, react rather than respond, blame shift, and run. (See Gen. 3:12)

How does Paul describe these Genesis Three-type actions - Eph. 4:31? \_\_\_\_\_

When someone loves us enough to approach us about a need in our life, we can always find fault with him; but we will never solve problems nor grow by being a Genesis Three kind of person.

##### B. Instead. We Are To Act. (Eph. 4:32)

Through Christ's Spirit, we must LEARN to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. Changing habits is not easy, but is much easier than the "way of the transgressor". Acting to change habits may not seem simple, but we have great promises in the following passages. What are they?

1. I Cor.10:13 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Phil. 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_

When we speak of Acting to change habits, we mean LIST THE STEPS REQUIRED putting the Biblical principle in its place. This is what meditation is. This is being serious about loving obedience to Christ. (See Lesson 2: "Growing in Righteousness" and Jay Adams booklets: Christ and Your Problems and Godliness Through Discipline.)

Conclusion:

1. Listening and lovingly desiring to communicate to solve problems goes with each rule.

2. A desire to be God's kind, of 'person and to have a right relationship with Him is essential to applying His principles.

3. For additional reading: Christian Living in the Home by Jay Adams (Chapter 3); Marriage Relationship by Wayne Mack (Unit 4);

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 9

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO GET ALONG AND SOLVE PROBLEMS

Matthew 18

Christ told His disciples: "By this [your love for one another] shall all men know that you are my disciples" (Jn.13: 34, 35). In Eph. 4:16 Paul describes a healthy church as one in which every member is meeting needs and, as a result, the body is not only healthy, but also increases. Heb. 10:24 commands believers to stimulate one another to love and good works. There are numerous passages in the New Testament exhorting believers to love and care for "one another."

This love and care for one another is not to cease when a believer does wrong in a way that hinders growth and inter personal relationships.

Notice carefully that the unloving legalists in Jn. 8:3-11 ignored the problem of the man taken in adultery and sought to combat legalism, Paul tells the Spirit controlled believer to set out to "restore" a believer who is "overtaken in a fault" (Gal. 6:1). Love is to motivate us! We cannot ignore or destroy as the legalists do; love cannot stop when conflicts arise; love must seek to restore. We are to care for one another when the need is greatest.

However, we must be careful. The greater the problem, difference, or conflict; the greater the love that must be manifested and the greater the need to follow Christ's principles. Let's study them.

I. HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING OFFENSIVE

(Personal preparation)

A. What was the disciples question in Matt. 18:1?

\_\_\_\_\_

1. What had Jesus just told His disciples prior to this?(See Mk.9: 31 37)\_\_\_\_\_

2. Instead of being sorrowful about His death, what did the disciples argue about? (See Lk.9:46-48). \_\_\_\_\_

B. What did Jesus say when each disciple, demeaning his brothers, claimed to be "more worthy" to lead?

1. Note some words to describe the characteristics of one who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:3-5).

---

2. How severe is it to cause a fellow believer to stumble or cause offense? (Matt. 18:6, 7)

---

3. Before we can go to restore another (vs. 11-19), what kind of careful self-discipline is needed as described in vs. 8, 9?

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4. Why does v. 10 say we should not "despise" or "think down" younger believers? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Rather than cut off, think down, or drive away, what does vs. 11-14 teach us to do?

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## II. WHAT TO DO WHEN I REALIZE I HAVE OFFENDED ANOTHER (causing a breach in there relationship)

1. As a person prepares to worship, what degree of importance is given to settling an offense? (Matt.5:23, 24)

---

2. What kind of attitude is necessary during worship? Read the following verses and write your answers.

a. Rom. 12:19 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Mk. 11: 24-26 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Eph. 4:31,32 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What kind of action aids this?( Rom.12:20,27)

---

## III. HOW TO DEAL WITH A BROTHER WHO HAS OFFENDED ME (Read Gal.6: 1 and Matt.18:15).

A. Note the steps to take in Matt.18:15-17.

1. (v. 15) "If thy brother"

There is to be loyalty in the Christian ranks.

a. Jn. 13:34,35:" A new commandment I give unto you, that ye

---

By this shall all men \_\_\_\_\_

b.

Gal. 6:1: "Brethren, if a \_\_\_\_\_ ye who are spiritual  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the spirit of meekness"

2. (v. 15) "Trespass"

Gal.6:1:" ...be overtaken in a fault"

a. Note: This does not regard personal preferences. There is a breaking of Scriptural Truth, and the brother is "overtaken" or "caught," in it.

b. Is any action to be taken because of "hear say" or the proverbial "smoke"? Is any action necessary if a brother falls in an area but recovers quickly and grows? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference? \_\_\_\_\_

3. (v. 15) "Go"

Do not wait until the reproofs of life teach him or until others are hurt. Go! This is a test of Christian love. How is it described in the previous verses? (Matt. 18:12-14)

---

4. STEP #1

(v. 15) "Tell"

This is a strong word that means "to convict" or "to convince."

It is the same word used in Jn. 16:8.

a. Why do you think that the believer must go in great love and concern to convince? How did sin cause man to act toward God's Truth in Gen. 3:8-13?

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b. According to Matt. 18:15, is he to be approached in front of others? If not, then how is he to be approached? Why?

---

5. What is the GOAL in the following verses?

a. Matt.18:15 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Gal. 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Jas.5:20 \_\_\_\_\_

6. STEP #2

(v. 16) What is to be done if Step# 1 fails? \_\_\_\_\_

a. They are to go to:

1) evaluate and establish the truth.

2) put pressure toward settling and healing.

3) keep few involved.

b. Who could be chosen to go? \_\_\_\_\_

7. STEP #3

(v. 17) What is to be done if Step #2 fails? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What is still the GOAL in the following verses?

1) Gal. 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_

2) I Cor. 5:5 \_\_\_\_\_

3) Read II Cor.2:6-8.What does it say concerning successfulness of the command in I Cor. 5:5?

---

b. Note:

1) Step #3 is the last resort. The first two steps may be continued if there is no great danger or rapid deterioration and if there is progress.

2) Remember that a doctor scrubs before an operation.

This is what Christ meant in Matt. 18:18, 19 and what Paul meant in Gal. 6:1 ("...considering thyself").

3) All must purpose to "bind on earth" what has already been bound (settled) in heaven (Matt.18:18, 19). All must agree to take God's side!!

4) "Let him be to thee as a heathen" (v. 17). The goal is still to restore him. Friendly and kind? Yes! But he is not to be recognized

as a brother in Christ. If he is a family member, eat with him as a family member, but not as a fellow believer. (See I Cor. 5:11).

The goal is restoration! This demands that we take God's side and say, "Believers repent! Believers honor the Word!"

c. What promise is given to two or three who gather in Christ's name to restore a believer? (Matt. 18:20)

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d. What truths did Jesus teach about forgiving those who repent in the parable of Matt. 18:21-35?

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1. Peter thought he was being very generous by choosing the number "seven." The teachers of law taught less. What did Jesus say?

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2. How did the offenses of the two men in the parable compare?

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Conclusion:

1. Who taught this method of aiding each other in solving offenses? (Matt. 18:2)

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2. How many church problems and lacks of harmony have you known about? How many believers do you know have gone astray without anyone practicing Matt. 18 to restore them?

---

3. When a person comes to share a problem with you about someone else, how should you tell him to handle it according to Matt. 18: 15?

---

Be sure to inform him that you will check with him soon to inquire if he has handled the problem Biblically. If he went to the offender and did not get satisfaction, encourage him to get the pastor or a

deacon to go with him. To whom did Christ promise a blessing in Matt.5:9? \_\_\_\_\_

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 10  
TAMING THE TONGUE  
James 3

When Paul said, "grieve not the Holy Spirit..." he was referring to the misuse of the tongue. (See Eph. 4:29, 30). James said that one's ability to "bridle" his tongue is a true test of maturity.

Probably no time can be more rewarding than time spent in prayerful planning and practice of the right use of words and speech. The tongue can either heal or bruise. It may give hope, or it may discourage. It can be directed toward God or away from Him. It can either make or break marriages and friendships. It can honor God or curse Him.

It is important to our Christian growth and ministry that we study and grow in the knowledge of Scriptural principles regarding the use of the tongue.

I. BASIC INSIGHTS

1. Can any person tame or control his tongue by his own strength?  
(Jas. 3:8)

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2. Note 5 descriptions of the destructive nature of an unconsecrated tongue. (Jas. 3:6)

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3. Why is it humanly impossible to control the tongue? (Matt. 12:34)

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4. Through whose power can we obey Scriptural Truth? (Phil. 4:13)

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Read the following verses, and briefly note what each says regarding usage of the tongue.

## WRONG USES

1. Eph 4:25 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Eph. 4:29 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Eph.4: 31 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Eph. 5:4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Col. 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Jas.3:10 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Prov. 10:18 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Prov. 11:13 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Prov. 15:1 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Prov. 17:9 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Prov. 19:5 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Eccl. 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Sarcasm

13. Prov.26:1, 8, 19 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Matt.12:34-37 \_\_\_\_\_
15. Gal.5:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

## Right Uses:

1. Acts I: 8 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Prov. 10:21 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Prov. 15: 1 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Prov. 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Prov. 15:8 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Prov.15:23 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Prov.17:28 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Prov.20:5 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ps. 33:1 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Isa.50:4 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Rom.13:8 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Ps.33:2, 3 \_\_\_\_\_
13. Jn.16:24 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Eph4.:15 \_\_\_\_\_
15. Eph. 4:29 \_\_\_\_\_

## II. PROJECTS

A. Write "R" for the right usage and " W" for wrong usage of the tongue.

1. silence: always\_\_\_\_\_ sometimes\_\_\_\_\_
2. profanity \_\_\_\_\_
3. sarcasm: almost always \_\_\_\_\_
4. talking to a person about a problem who is not part of the problem or solution( gossip)\_\_\_\_\_
5. boasting \_\_\_\_\_

B. List some right uses of the tongue.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

C. What might you commend the following people for?

1. cashier at supermarket \_\_\_\_\_
2. waitress \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sunday School teacher/student \_\_\_\_\_
4. organist/singer \_\_\_\_\_
5. janitor \_\_\_\_\_
6. parents \_\_\_\_\_

D. Make a list of things you can share with others.

## III. COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

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(Borrowed from Wayne Mack's A Homework Manual for Biblical Counseling; Vol. I; p.37)

1. Be a ready listener and do not answer until the other person has finished talking (Prov.18:13; Jas.1:19).
2. Be slow to speak. Think first. Don't be hasty in your words. Speak in such a way that the other person can understand and accept what you say ( Prov.15:23,28;29:20; Jas. 1:19).
3. Don't go to bed angry! Each day clear the offenses of that day. Speak the truth, but do it in love. Do not exaggerate (Eph.4:15; Col. 3:8; Matt. 6:34).

4. Do not use silence to frustrate the other person. Explain why you are hesitant to talk at this time (Prov.10: 19; 15:28; 16:21-23; 18:2; 20:15; Col. 4:6).
5. Do not become involved in quarrels. It is possible to disagree without quarreling (Prov.1 7:14; 20:3; Rom.13:13; Eph.4 :31)
6. Do not respond in uncontrolled anger. Use a soft and kind response and tone of voice (Prov.14:29; 15:1; 25:15; 29:11; Eph.4:26, 31).
7. When you are in the wrong, admit it and ask for forgiveness and ask how you can change (Prov. 12:15; 16:2; 20:6; 21:2 Matt.5:23-25 Luke. 17:3; Jas5 :16).
8. When someone confesses to you, tell him you forgive him. Be sure it is forgiven and not brought up to the person, to others, or to yourself! (Prov.17:9; Eph. 4:32; Col.3:13; I Pet.4:8).
9. Avoid nagging (Prov.1 0:19; 6:21, 3; 17:9; 18:6-7; 21: 19; 27:15).
10. Do not blame or criticize the other person. instead restore...encourage...edify (Rom.1 4:13; Gal.6 :1; I Thess5. :11 ).
11. If someone verbally attacks, criticizes or blames you, do not respond in the same manner (Rom.12:17, 21; IPet.2:23;3:9).
12. Try to understand the other person's opinion. Make allowances for differences.
13. Be concerned about the other person's interests (Eph.4:2; Phil.2:4; 3:15-16).

#### *IV. PRACTICAL PROJECTS TO TAME THE TONGUE*

\_ A. Memorize these 10 tongue-tamers:

1. Prov.29:20
2. Prov.18:13
3. Prov. 15:4
4. Prov.21:23
5. Prov. 17:28
6. Prov. 18:8
7. Matt.12:36, 37
8. I Pet. 3:10
9. Col. 4:6

10. Ps.19:14

B. Learn to keep promises (Ps. 15:1-4)

C. Learn to keep vows to God (Eccl. 5:4-7)

D. Learn to identify:

1. Gossip ( reporting/rumoring problems that do not concern you)
2. Slander (truth designed to hurt)
3. Bad reports (misinformation)

E. Join the" Good Reports Fellowship"

1. The world reports bad news.

2. Remember that Satan is the "accuser" of brethren (Rev. 12:10).

Let us not be like him.

F. List 10 sentences that can help defuse an argument. 1. "Could you say that another way so I can be sure that I understand you?"

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

(The following section is borrowed from Wayne Mack's A Homework Manual for Biblical Counseling: Vol.1 p. 38)

What attitudes or messages do the following sentences convey to you? Do they convey respect, appreciation, consideration, encouragement, affection, love or disdain, disrespect, rudeness, animosity, hostility, or rejection? Try to imagine yourself hearing these sentences from someone else.

1. "You don't really care." \_\_\_\_\_

2. "I really need you." \_\_\_\_\_

3...Well, what do you have to complain about today?-\_\_\_\_\_

4. "It sounds like you had a bad day. Can I help you?" \_\_\_\_\_

5. "You shouldn't' feel that way!" \_\_\_\_\_

6. "I'm really sorry that you feel that way. How can I help? I'll be glad to pray for you and do anything I can." \_\_\_\_\_
7. "You never kiss me." \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Do you know what, honey? I really love you and like to have you hold me and kiss me." \_\_\_\_\_
9. "Well, what do" you know? Miracles still happen. You're ready to go on time. \_\_\_\_\_
10. "Hey, honey, I just wanted you to know that I really appreciated the way you hurried to be ready to go on time."
11. "Honey, you're terrific, and getting better all the time." \_\_\_\_\_
12. "You always forget what I ask you to do." \_\_\_\_\_
13. "I like the way you smile. It really brightens my day." \_\_\_\_\_
14. "We ought to have company more often. It's the only time we get good food around here." \_\_\_\_\_
15. "That was a super meal. You're a great cook." \_\_\_\_\_
16. "How come you could get home early tonight when you don't do it other nights?" \_\_\_\_\_
17. "Boy, it's really great you got home early. I really miss you during the day." \_\_\_\_\_

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 11

ECCLESIASTICAL SEPARATION

"...when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"(Luke 18:8)

1. Each congregation of believers ("ecclesia" means "called-out ones") is to be heaven's representees on earth by reflecting the holy character of Jesus Christ. In II Cor.5: 20 Paul says": ...we are ambassadors for Christ."

2. Satan has other plans. From the beginning he has desired to hinder the witnesses of the body of Christ (Matt.16:12; I Tim.4:1; Heb.13:9; Eph.4:14; Matt. 15:9).

a. He contaminates believers with unholy doctrine (II Tim.4:3; Phil.3:17-19; Jude 4; Rev.2:14).

b. He contaminates believers with unholy people (II Cor.11:13 - 15).

*I. DEFINITION OF APOSTASY*

A. In order to understand the Biblical doctrine of separation, it is necessary to see it against the backdrop of Scriptural teachings on apostasy.

1. Apostasy denotes the removal from or forsaking of a person or a system of thought. Read an example of this in Acts 21:18-21.

2. The departure is willful. Apostates' actions are displayed in I Tim. 4:7-3.

3. The New Testament uses the verb form meaning "personal withdrawal" or "withdrawal from the faith" (Lk.8:13; I Tim.4:1; Heb.3:12).

4. According to Unger, apostasy is "the act of a professed Christian who knowingly and disadventantly rejects truth regarding the deity of Christ (I Jn.4:1-3) and redemption through His atoning sacrifice (Phil.3 :18;II Pet.2:1)

B. Heresy is not apostasy (Titus 3:8-11) Heresy refers to a selfish choice which results in petty divisions within the church. It regards carnal trouble making rather than theological error.

C. Apostasy must be distinguished from ignorance (Acts 19:19)  
Paul's solution was to separate the disciples in verse 9.

## II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF APOSTATES

A. They repudiate the organized system of revealed truth: faith in Christ (II Tim. 3:5). They believe it will not work.

B. Who motivates the apostates? (I Tim. 4:1)  
I) \_\_\_\_\_

C. How are apostates described in I Tim. 4:2?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(They declare with conviction that they do not lie.)

D. Read II Pet. 2:10 and give five descriptions of apostates.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

E. How are they described in II Pet. 2:12-14?  
\_\_\_\_\_

F. What do they promise? (II Pet. 2:19)  
\_\_\_\_\_

G. Who do they oppose? (Jude 8)  
\_\_\_\_\_

H. Briefly summarize the description given in Jude 12.  
\_\_\_\_\_

I. Apostates have a form of religion without \_\_\_\_\_ (II Tim. 3:5).

Pickering writes: "Satan's doctrines are spread by Satan's "ministers" (II Cor. 11:13-15). Unsaved people, who have no spiritual discernment, hail these men as great religious leaders while the preachers of Truth, God's ministers, are despised and viewed as being uncooperative, divisive, and unloving. Satan's preachers accommodate themselves to the tastes of unregenerate hearers and are thus much more popular."

### *III. THE PROGRESSION OF APOSTASY*

Can the course of apostasy be checked once it has become firmly entrenched? (Num.11:1; 12:9; Josh 7:1; Eph.5:6)

A. Apostasy is very serious; God's anger burns against those who depart from the faith (Rom.1:18; Ps.7:11).

B. Apostasy is definable and discoverable. We need not appear baffled by what constitutes apostasy (Col. 2:8; I Tim.6:20-21; Heb. 13:9).

C. Apostasy is pervasive and progressive. 1. The leaven of the Pharisees produced religious externalism (Matt. 16:6, 12; 23:14, 16, 28).

2. The leaven of the Sadducees exhibited skepticism toward the supernatural (Matt.22:23, 29).

3. The leaven of the Herodians manifested a spirit of worldly compromise (Matt. 22:18-21).

4. Leavening portrays false doctrine in that it works its way quickly through the mass "till the whole [is] leavened" (Matt. 13:33).

5. II Tim. 2:16, 17 depict false doctrine as gangrene and it must be shunned.

D. Apostasy is irremediable and awaits judgment (II Pet.2:17, 21; Jude 11-15).

1. These verses provide no hope that apostasy will be checked and that, truth will triumph.

2. History yields no example of a group or denomination that has been rescued and restored to a Biblical witness after having been captured by apostates.

3. As this age moves on to its conclusion, apostasy will deepen for "perilous times shall come" (II Tim.3: 1) and "evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse" (II Tim. 3:13).

E. Apostasy will come to full fruition during the time of the tribulation in the mother of harlots, Babylon the Great (Rev. 17). This false religious system is characterized by:

1. Unfaithfulness to divine truth (Isa.1:27; Jer.2:20).
2. False professions of identification with a system of truth.
3. Ecumenicist (worldwide cooperation of religious groups. Rev 17:1, 15.)
4. Progeny (See Heb 5:11-6:6.)

*What should a child of God do?*

Briefly summarize the commands given in the following verses:

1. Rom. 16:17 \_\_\_\_\_
2. II Cor. 6:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Gal. 1: 8 -9 \_\_\_\_\_
4. II Jn. 7-11 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Rev. 18:4-5 \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. WHEN DOES A CHURCH BODY BECOME APOSTATE?

A. A body is not apostate at the time:

1. they remove the Gospel from their official creed or confession. It has occurred long before this.
2. The believers within the group still have freedom to preach the Gospel.
  - a. Apostates are liars (II Pet.2:3).
  - b. Apostates twist meanings of words. They may sound as if they are preaching truth.

B. A body is apostate at the time:

1. Men and women in its leadership deny the basic tenants of the Christian faith.
2. Official periodicals and media presentations promote views contrary to the Orthodox Christian faith.
3. Official schools of the body employ faulty members and/or utilize visiting speakers who teach views that are a variance with essential doctrines.
4. No effort is made by the leadership of the group or the majority of its constituency to expunge the offending parties.

Conclusion:

Pickering writes: "Separation, both personal and ecclesiastical, is grounded in the nature of God. God is the great separatist. He is absolutely separated from all evil and error. Do His people err in emulating Him?"

God's answer to apostasy:

1. "Turn away" (II Tim. 3:5)
2. "Shun" (II Tim. 2:16)
3. "Come out of her" (Rev. 18:45)
4. "Flee" (Jer. 50:4-9; 51:6)
5. "Return to your first love: Christ" (Matt. 6: 33)

Follow Up For New Christians

Lesson 12

BIBLICAL LOVE

(John 13:34, 35)

I. What commandment did Christ give to His disciples the night before He went to the cross? (Jn. 13:34, 35)

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2. What would "all men" be able to know when they saw this "love one to another"?

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3. Love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us and a key to Christian service (Gal.5:22; Jn.21: 15-17).

There is no growth apart from growth in love. Since it is so important, let us answer some questions about love.

I. WHAT IS BIBLICAL LOVE?

1. List 14 characteristics of love in I Cor.13:4-7.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do these characteristic put more emphasis on actions or on feelings? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jn. 3:16 says that God so loved the world that He

---

Is the emphasis here on an action or a feeling? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the emphasis mostly on action in I Jn.3:18?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think I Thess4:9 and Titus 2:4 talk about being "taught" to love?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who did Christ command His disciples to love in Matt. 5:44?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can we command our emotions? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the emphasis here on actions or emotions? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who is the supreme example of love? (Eph.5:25) \_\_\_\_\_ Love is:

a command to be obeyed- not an option.

a command to be obeyed- not an accident.

a command to be obeyed- not a feeling to be generated first.

a command to be obeyed- with our eyes open to needs.

## II. WHAT ARE SOME HINDRANCES TO GROWING IN LOVE?

### A. Separation from God

The source of love is God. One must be united to Him through salvation (I Jn.4:7-10).

### B. Adherence to False Connotations

We may have picked up wrong ideas about love. Which of these have you observed?

1. Love is an excuse for not disciplining children.

2. Love is an excuse for not having and upholding convictions.

3. Love is an excuse for not solving interpersonal conflicts.

4. Love is an excuse to get married when real obstacles are not removed.

5. Love is a way to describe lust.

6. Love is weakness.
7. Love is not masculine.

### C. Fear of Risk

For which of the following reasons would our selfish nature tend to withdraw from growing in

1. It is costly

love? \_\_\_\_\_

2. It requires commitment and sacrifice. \_\_\_\_\_

3. It requires change.

4. It may expose me to pain.

5. I am sentimental toward the romanticism of magical relationships without problems.

(This ignores the reality of living in a sinful world. Real love sacrifices to solve problems!)

### D. Dependence upon Self

We cannot grow in deeds of love through our own strength (Jn.15:5).

## III. HOW IMPORTANT IS BIBLICAL LOVE?

Love is:

1. One of God's attributes (I Jn.4:8).
2. Expressed in Christ's work on Calvary ( I Jn.4:9).
3. Of God and born of God (I Jn. 4:7).
4. Essential to spiritual growth (Eph.4:16).
5. The badge of discipleship (Jn.13:34, 35).
6. A witness of Christ's incarnation (Jn.17:23).
7. Directly related to obedience (Jn.14:2, 15:10-14).
8. Commanded to husbands (Eph.5:25).
9. Taught to wives (Titus2:4).
10. Commanded to all (I Jn.4:11).
11. Able to overcome evil (Rom.12:20, 21).
12. Able to defeat fear (I Jn.4:18).

#### *IV. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “GROW IN LOVE”?*

Growing in love means to:

1. love God and His Word (Jn.14:27, 15:10; I Jn.5:3).
2. Sacrifice yourself for others (Phil.2:3, 4; Rom.12:20, 27).
3. be solution-oriented (Eph.4:15, 29).
4. Perform loving deeds and actions as well as to speak kind words (I Jn.3:18).
5. Learn the blessing of giving (Acts20:35).
6. Serve for God’s glory (Eph.4:16; Prov.6:6-8).
7. Say, “Forgive me, “and” I forgive you” (Eph.4:32; Jas.4:6).
8. Restore others (Gal.6:1).
9. Know you are never unloved (Rom.8:38, 39).
10. Overcome selfishness and its emptiness (Gal.5:19-23).

#### *V. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES IF WE IGNORE GROWTH IN LOVE*

##### *A. Problems with Others*

Lust

Greed

Indifference

Anger

Envy

Hatred

Murder

Result in Loneliness

##### *B. Problems with God*

Briefly summarize the content of the following passages:

1. I

Jn.2:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. I Jn. 5:14-15; 3:18-22

\_\_\_\_\_

##### *C. Problems with Self*

1. Fear (I Jn. 4:18)

---

2. Lack of assurance (I Jn.3:20, 5:14-15)

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3. Insecurity (I Jn.2:15-17)

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4. Wrong affections (Col.3:1 -3)

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#### *VI. OUR EXAMPLE OF LOVE IS CHRIST*

His love for us is:

1. unprecedented (I Jn 4:10,19).
2. Unselfish (Jn.3:16; 13:1; Eph.5:25).
3. Unending (Rom.8:38, 39).

#### *VII. AREAS OF LOVE*

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ " (I Jn.4: 11). " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ because He first loved us" (I Jn.4:19).

Discuss your love and your need to increase love in these areas:

1. God and His Word
2. Your spouse
3. Your children
4. Brethren in Christ (Eph.4:16)
5. Lost people (I Jn.4:18)
  - a. Service evangelism (Lk.19:10)
  - b. Friendship evangelism (Matt.11:19)
  - c. Hospitality evangelism (Matt.22:10; Luke. 14:12-14)
  - d. Marketplace evangelism (Acts)

Follow Up For New Christians  
Lesson 13  
The Pastor

God's care for you does not stop after you are saved. These lessons you have been studying ought to have conveyed this truth to you by now. Jesus said in Jn. 14:18, "I will not leave you comfortless."

The word "comfortless" means "orphan". Our Lord does not want you to feel alone or be left alone as an orphan. As a matter of fact, He has done many things to keep you from feeling this way. In love, in addition to giving you the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26) and making you a member of His body (I Cor. 12:13), He has appointed a man over you so you may grow strong and become mature as a Christian. This man is your pastor. There is no such thing as being in the will of God and out from under leadership. You are in the will of God as long as you are under his leadership. Let's look at the role this man is to play in your life.

I. THE WORLD'S IDEA OF A PREACHER

First of all, we need to see that God's appointment is much different from the world's concept of the ministry. The world's idea is that the preacher is a nice little fellow who preaches sweet sermons once a week. He gets along well with everybody by saying nice things. His main job is to marry and bury and be sort of a social director. Apart from this, he is not to really affect anyone: kind of a necessary evil or leech on society. But this isn't what God says! Study further!

II. TERMS THE BIBLE USES REGARDING GOD'S MAN

A. Bishop: (I Tim. 3: 1-2; Phil. 1:1)

1. This term means "one who oversees." Literally, he sees over your shoulder to watch what you are doing in order that he might encourage, correct and counsel you in your Christian life.
2. This term also means "one who superintends." He is to be concerned about your welfare. He is to see after you and, yes, even to inspect what you are doing. He is to advise and help you and the church in God's goals (Acts 20:28-31).

B. Elder: (Acts 20:17 and I Pet. 5:1)<sup>1</sup>. This term refers to the maturity with which he can give you advice. He isn't a newcomer or novice in this business. He is an elder!

2. Both "bishop" and "elder" refer to the same person. This is reflected in Acts 20:17, 18 and Titus 1:5-7.

C. Shepherd - one who guides

1. In Acts 20:28 Note the words "to feed"

2. This word is Translated at times to "shepherd" and then again to "pastor. Both functions are the same. Eph. 4:11 uses the same word.

Now, by way of illustration, let's say that you were called away from your farm for a considerable amount of time. So, you hired a shepherd or pastor to take care of your very expensive, registered herd of Hereford cattle. You entrusted this herd to him. When you returned, you found to your dismay half-starved cattle lying around the pasture, the pond dry, and no feed available to the thin, wobbly critters. Their coats were dull. What ones had strength were standing around the gate bawling for feed. Now, how would you feel toward that pastor or shepherd? Angrily, you would ask, "Why have you done this?" He may reply, "Well, I didn't want to upset them by driving them to another pasture or by changing their feed, so I let them go." "But wait a minute," you would retort, "I don't care how much you upset them. Those cattle didn't exist for themselves. My investment in them was for me; they existed for me! They're not their own!"

You would be so enraged at this whole thing; you would scathingly take him out and send him down the road. Now can you get a little idea of how our Lord feels toward those pastors or shepherds who won't do their job? He invested His life in the flock. They're not their own.

Read I Cor. 6:19, 20.

D. Minister: a servant to all

This is the fourth term used for the pastor. Look up these verses:

1. Rom.

15:25\_\_\_\_\_

1. II Cor. 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Col. 4:17 \_\_\_\_\_
3. I Tim. 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_
4. II Tim. 4:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Hence he is at your service to help you in your growth for Jesus Christ

### III. These Men are God-appointed; they didn't appoint themselves

- A. Old Testament: Numbers 16:5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will show who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.
- B. New Testament:
  1. 1Tim. 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; whom God calls He qualifies.
  2. Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
  3. Eph. 4: 10-11 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers

### IV. BECAUSE OF THIS APPOINTMENT, THEY HAVE GOD'S AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH. THEIR COUNSEL REPROOFS AND INSTRUCTION MUST BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

This is true, as long as it is in line with God's Word.

A. They can establish rules of proper order to keep the decency and order God desires as we see here in Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee. Since this is the New Testament pattern any outside form of control over churches is unbiblical and dangerous Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed

with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed

B. They can expect to be followed in obeying God's word. As here in 1 Cor. 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

C. They are to be obeyed (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24). The word "rule" used here does not mean to use a club or rod, but rather to lead the mind through a reasoning process to a conclusion based upon the Word of God. This man is cautioned not to be an overlord in 1 Pet. 5:3; Rom. 12:8, but rather an example of obedience to the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ Himself 1 Pet. 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

D. They are to be honored, respected and held up to God (1 Tim. 5:17).

E. Their needs are to be met 1 Tim. 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward so that their time can be invested in you.

F. Accusation against him is not to be accepted without 2 or 3 good witnesses 1 Tim. 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Then go to him first as Jesus says in Matt. 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. If he refuses to change, verse 20 is to be carried out.

G. Ordination is to be entered slowly and carefully at the recommendation of older ministers as Paul instruct Timothy in 1 Tim. 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

H. The Extent of the Pastor's Authority

If responsibility implies a corresponding authority which it does we can get a clear idea of the areas and extent of a Pastor's authority by considering his God-given responsibilities in the church.

There are three major areas of Pastoral responsibility with corresponding authority:

1. A Pastor has the responsibility and authority to teach and shepherd the church according to Eph. 4:11-12. Pastors

therefore have the authority to oversee all aspects of such ministry including who can and cannot teach and what can or cannot be taught!

2. A Pastor has the responsibility and authority to protect the church from false teaching 1 Tim. 4: 1-6 and Titus 1: 9-13. Pastors have the responsibility to protect the congregation from getting involved with false things, wrong Bible studies, meeting with unbiblical doctrines.
3. A Pastor has the responsibility to oversee the entire work of the church according to 1 Peter 5:1-2. A Pastor's position of overseeing the church is similar to that of a supervisor. Pastors are not to do all the work of the ministry they are to supervise the work. There is widespread rebellion against Pastoral authority today. Such is the product of the fallen human nature. Those who rebel the leading of the church according to God's word will answer to Jesus Christ Heb. 13:17

### The Spiritual Characteristics of the Pastor's Authority

The authority exercised by a Pastor is to be distinctly different from that exercised by those in the secular world according to Jesus in Mark 10: 42-43 and 1 Peter 5:3

1. It is a ministering authority- authority of a shepherd is seen in 2 Cor. 13:10 and Acts 20:28. It is for the purpose of building up and protecting God's people and work.
2. It is a submissive authority- that of a steward as seen in Mark 10: 42-45 and 1 Cor. 3:9; 4:1. God's people, property etc. Pastors are stewards (caretakers) as opposed to Diotrephes in 3 John 9-10
3. It is a Liberating authority to build up the body of Christ.

Conclusion: Does this mean that the pastor will always be right? The answer is NO! He is a human being and is bound to be wrong at times. However, except in the areas of immorality and false doctrine, he is to be heard with an open mind, and then carefully compared with God's Word as in Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether

those things were so. Make sure as a child of God you do not commit the sin found in Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.



