

Discipled Fellowship

An Introduction to Biblical discipleship



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Identity

What is our Identity in Christ?

Made in the image of God

Gen. 1:27, Col. 1:15, 1Cor. 3:16, Isa. 62:3,

Made for relationship

Rom. 5:11, 18, Ps 24:5, 1 John 5:20, 1 John 1:6

Made for worship

Luke 4:8, Ps. 99:9, John 4:24, 1 John 4:19, Hebrews 9:14

Do you have a relationship with Christ?

Rom. 3:23, 3:10, 5:12, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-17

Works are the opposite of grace. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone. Faith justifies you before God, while your works justify you before men. We are to walk in Christ just as we received Him – by faith.

Titus 3:5, Galatians 2:16, Colossians 2:6-7, Eph. 2:8,9

What do you identify with?

Does it have eternal relevance?

What in your life has a bearing on eternity?

Salvation

As Christians we also identify with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection?

Our debt paid

Gal. 5:1, 1 Ptr 2:24, 1 Cor. 6:20, Rom. 6:23,

We have restored standing with God

Ps. 51:12

How should this affect my life?

1 Cor. 6:20

Love like Jesus;

In personal obedience

Luke 14:26-36, Gal. 5:22, 23

With family

Pro 13:24, Eph. 6:4

In church

1 Cor. 12:8

At work

Col. 3:23, 24

Forgive like Jesus

Eph. 4:32, Rom. 13:8, Luke 6:27 - 36

What does God's forgiveness mean for you?

Baptism

A. Water baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Romans 6:1-7

In Death – Rom. 5:8

In Burial – 1 Ptr 3:19

In Resurrection – Rev 1:18

B. Water baptism is the public testimony of your salvation and identification with Jesus. Romans 1:16; 10:11

You are publicly demonstrating that you have trusted Christ's death on the cross on your behalf. As you are taken beneath the water, you are publicly demonstrating that your sins were buried with Christ in His grave. As you come up out of the water, you are publicly demonstrating your resurrection with Christ, and that He has raised you to walk in newness of life.

C. Water baptism is a public declaration that you are choosing to follow and submit to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus set the example for us by submitting to baptism before He began His public ministry. Matthew 3:13-17

In your own words, what does baptism mean?

Have you been baptized? If no, why?

Communion

WHY SHOULD YOU OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER? The primary reason to observe the Lord's Supper is for the regular remembrance of the price Jesus paid for your sins.

A. Jesus instituted the observance of the Lord's Supper when he said, "... this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:14-20

B. The Apostle Paul confirms the observance of the Lord's Supper for the New Testament church as a memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for sin. 1 Corinthians 11:20-34

WHAT DOES THE LORD'S SUPPER REPRESENT?

A. Unleavened bread is used to signify the pure body of Jesus Christ.

1. Leaven in the Bible speaks of corruption, sin, and false teaching. It was also forbidden in Israel's Passover feast. 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Matthew 16:6-12; Deuteronomy 16:1-4

2. The bread is broken to remind you that Jesus' body was given for you. 1 Corinthians 11:24; Isaiah 53:4-6

B. Grape juice is used to signify the pure blood of Jesus Christ.

1. Grape juice (unfermented) is of the fruit of the vine and is used during the corporate observance of the Lord's Supper as it allows believers of all ages to partake. Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18

2. The juice is "poured out" to remind you that the blood of Jesus was shed for sins. Matthew 26:26-29

3. Jesus shedding His blood, and dying as a result also inaugurates the start of the new testament age, and end of the old testament sacrificial system of law unto dead works 1Cor. 11:25, Heb. 9:14&15

What should your mindset be when taking communion?

Is the observation of communion still relevant today, why?

Value

- Fully embracing our identity in Christ is the start of realizing our value to God. Also, as Christians, God's Holy Spirit lives in us.
- The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. He is co-equal with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is to be obeyed as He provides guidance and instruction to believers. Acts 5:3-4; 10:19-21; 13:1-4; 16:6-10
- God's Holy Spirit living in us is a step beyond salvation. This is how God begins our sanctification. **Below answer; What is Sanctification? 1Thes. 5:23, 2Tim 2:21**

Holy Spirit

WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT OF GOD DO WITHIN ME?

Throughout the Bible, we read about men and women who encountered the presence of God in various times and places. When you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, God gave his Spirit to dwell within you. You now have God's presence inside of you, and your body has become the temple of the Holy Ghost! John 14:16-17; Galatians 3:2; 1 Corinthians 3:16

A. The Holy Spirit is the seal and earnest (guarantee) of your salvation. Ephesians 1:13-14

B. The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God. Ephesians 3:16

C. The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation. Romans 8:16

D. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you. Romans 8:26-27

E. The Holy Spirit will teach you the Bible. John 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14

F. The Holy Spirit gives you direction in decision-making. 1 Corinthians 2:15-16

G. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need. John 14:15-18

H. The Holy Spirit will bring what He has taught you to your remembrance. John 14:26

I. The Holy Spirit will convict you of your sin. John 16:8-11

HOW DOES MY SIN AFFECT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. Your sin grieves the Holy Spirit.

God placed His Spirit within each believer because it is His desire that our lives reflect His character in the world. The Holy Spirit is grieved (saddened) when believers choose to live their lives for their own carnal desires. Ephesians 4:30

B. Your sin quenches the Holy Spirit.

When believers continuously and intentionally ignore the conviction of the Holy Spirit, it will result in a seared conscience and hardened heart. The Holy Spirit will become quenched (extinguished) because their hard heart will ignore the promptings of the Holy Spirit to lead them into holiness.

1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 4:1-2

Are there sin issues between you and Jesus now that have broken fellowship?

Is there a sin issue you need help with?

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of godly qualities within you called the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23

A. There are inward qualities that transform your personal life.

1. Love - The Holy Spirit gives you a genuine love for God and others.

2. Joy - The Holy Spirit gives you a deep abiding joy regardless of external circumstances.

3. Peace - The Holy Spirit gives you an inner peace even in the midst of conflict.

B. There are outward qualities that transform your relationships with others.

1. Longsuffering - The Holy Spirit allows you to give grace to others despite their shortcomings.

2. Gentleness - The Holy Spirit gives you the ability to treat others with dignity, courtesy, and respect.

3. Goodness - The Holy Spirit gives you a godly character that reflects God's goodness.

C. There are upward qualities that transform your relationship with God.

1. Faith - The Holy Spirit gives you confidence to trust God's Word.

2. Meekness - The Holy Spirit gives you an inner strength that is manifested in humility.

3. Temperance - The Holy Spirit leads you into a balanced life.

You now have two natures dwelling within you. Your old nature is physical, sinful, and made in Adam's image. This nature is often referred to within scripture as the "flesh" or the "old man." Your new nature is spiritual, perfect, and renewed in God's image. This nature is often referred to in scripture as the "new man." Ephesians 4:22-24

Both natures are present within you at all times. You are now faced with a daily choice to follow your flesh or the Spirit. You must choose which nature you will follow. Choosing to follow the flesh will bring consequences, and choosing to follow the Spirit will bring blessings. Galatians 5:16-21; 6:7-9

Thoughts?

What are some ways we strengthen the "new man"?

What are some ways you feed the old man?

God's Word

We also have value from God through His holy word. We're not alone! It's His holy words for us. Putting His word into our hearts enhances the value of Christian life and relationship. As we have already discussed, one way we identify with Christ is relationally. We're made for relationship. One way we find value is from God through His holy word.

UNDERSTANDING THE ACCURACY OF GOD'S WORD

- The Bible is a collection of 66 books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament, and 27 books in the New Testament.
- The Bible was written by more than 40 men in three languages over a time period of approximately 2,000 years.
- The Bible is accurate in all matters of history, prophecy, and every life issue
- The Bible does not contradict itself.
- The Bible fits together perfectly, as if it were written by one man, because the Holy Spirit is the author of all 66 books.

A. The Bible is the INSPIRED Word of God.

The Spirit of God moved men of God to write the Word of God. God revealed his Word, and men published it. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

B. The Bible is the INFALLIBLE Word of God.

God holds Himself to the truth of His Word. Every word of the Bible is perfect, and there is no error within it.

Proverbs 22:20-21

C. The Bible is the COMPLETE Word of God.

We are warned not to add to or change the inspired, perfect, and preserved Word of God. God's Word is complete; there is no new revelation from God outside of the Bible.

Proverbs 30:5-6

D. The Bible is the PRESERVED Word of God.

God's Word is eternal. He has promised to preserve His perfect Word throughout history and for every generation. You can be sure that you have access to God's perfect and inspired Word today. Mathew 5:18

Is the bible sufficient for your life?

UNDERSTANDING THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD

A. The Word of God has the power to save you.

1. The Bible says that the Word of God is able to save your souls. Without the Word of God, mankind would have no opportunity to be saved. James 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:15
2. The only way we can know the gospel is because the Bible reveals it. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again according to the scriptures. You must hear and believe what the Bible says about your sin, your lost condition, and God's plan for your salvation in order to be saved. Romans 10:17
3. God's plan of salvation begins with Him sending out His Word so that man can be saved. Therefore, you have the responsibility to share the Word of God with others so that they may also be saved. Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:13-15

B. The Word of God has the power to guide you.

1. Our own natural intellect can never fully comprehend the things of God. God gave us the Spirit of God so that we can know and understand His Word. All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and can learn the Bible. John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14
2. As you begin to study and understand the Bible, you will become equipped to make biblical and spiritual decisions in your life. The Word of God gives you clear direction and provides you with the mind of Christ for any situation in life. 1 Corinthians 2:15-16; Psalm 119:105

C. The Word of God has the power to grow you.

1. The Word of God transforms you as it cleanses you from the inside out. John 15:3; Psalm 119:9-11
2. The Word of God helps you to overcome spiritual opposition as you apply scripture to your temptation. Luke 4:1-13
3. The Word of God equips you to serve God and to live out its truths.
"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." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - a. **DOCTRINE** – The Bible teaches you what is true.
 - b. **REPROOF** – The Bible reveals areas in your life that are wrong.
 - c. **CORRECTION** – The Bible directs your attention to what is right.
 - d. **INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS** – The Bible teaches you to live right

What is a new way you will apply the Bible to your life?

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO READ AND STUDY GOD'S WORD

We need to be “Legit” students of the Word!

L - **L**iterary Style and **L**anguage used

E - **E**thnic & Cultural perspectives

G - **G**eography

I - **I**ntention

I - **I**ypes & **I**hemes

What is a new way you'll apply Bible study in your daily life?

How does Bible study make you a better disciple of, and disciple maker for Jesus?

Prayer

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Another value of having a relationship with Christ is through prayer. Communication is an essential part of any relationship, and prayer is our opportunity to commune with the Father. It is the communication from the heart of a believer directed to God. We have bold access to God's throne through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.” –
Ephesians 3:12

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” – Hebrews 4:16

A. Prayer can be spoken audibly and silently.

“I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.” – Psalm 17:6

“Now Hannah, she spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard:...” – 1 Samuel 1:13

B. Prayer can be spoken publicly and privately.

“And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.” – Acts 20:36
Has your perspectives on prayer changed, how?

WHY SHOULD YOU PRAY?

The topic of prayer can be overwhelming. Many believers are missing out on the blessings that God promises because they do not spend time with God in prayer. God is interested in every intimate detail of your life, and He promises to hear your prayers no matter how large or small they may be.

A. God answers prayer.

1. You should be confident when you pray, knowing that God hears your prayers. Psalm 86:6-7; Psalm 145:18-19

2. You should be confident when you pray, knowing that God will answer your prayers according to His will. John 14:13-14; 1 John 5:14-15

B. Prayer produces a change in you.

1. Prayer produces peace within your heart and mind. Philippians 4:6-7

2. Prayer conforms you to the will of God. It does not conform God to your will. Matthew 26:36-39; Colossians 1:9

3. Prayer changes your perspective in the midst of your circumstances. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

C. Prayer draws you close to God so that He alone can prove His sufficiency for your every need.

“And such trusts have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;” – 2 Corinthians 3:4-5

1. God knows exactly what you need even before you ask.
Matthew 6:8

2. God allows needs to come into your life so He can draw you closer to Himself. Psalm 50:15

3. You must recognize that you have needs in your life. It is dangerous to convince yourself that you do not need anything.
Revelation 3:16-17

WHEN SHOULD YOU PRAY?

A. God desires that you continuously communicate with Him in prayer. Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

B. God desires that you give thanks in every circumstance in your life and learn from the many examples in scripture of individuals with a consistent lifestyle of prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20

1. Nehemiah prayed instantly when he had an immediate need.
Nehemiah 1:4; 2:4

2. Daniel continued to pray even when a law was passed forbidding it.
Daniel 6:4-10

3. David maintained a lifestyle of prayer at all times.
Psalm 5:3; 55:17 **Thoughts??**

HOW SHOULD YOU PRAY?

A. You do not need to go through any other person to talk to God. You have direct access to God personally. 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18

B. Talk to the Lord as a friend.
John 15:13-15; Exodus 33:11

C. It is not necessary or biblical to use repetitious prayer. Matthew 6:7

D. Pray specific prayers. The prayers of many believers are wasted because they are too general and are not biblically based. Philippians 4:6 **Thoughts??**

WHAT SHOULD YOU PRAY?

There is not a special “formula” to follow when you pray. However, the Word of God does mention and demonstrate different types of prayer throughout the Bible. You will not have an effective communion with God without spending careful and committed time with Him in four major areas of prayer.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;” – 1 Timothy 2:1

A. SUPPLICATIONS – These are earnest and fervent requests for God to move. Psalm 6:8-9; James 5:16

B. INTERCESSIONS – These are specific requests on the behalf of others. Romans 15:30-32

C. PRAYERS – These are communications with God that are based in His Word. Psalm 145:18-19

D. THANKSGIVINGS – These express gratitude to God for His wonderful works. Psalm 100:4 **Thoughts??**

What might be holding back your prayer life?

What about prayer will be different now?

With the information you now have, in your own words, how would you teach someone to pray?

Purpose

What is our purpose??

Is it something you can feel?

Is it something you can know?

A healthy, profitable, purpose is one that fits in a multilayered relational dynamic with God in top priority.

Liberty in Christ

The New Testament is clear that as a saved person, you are not bound by the Old Testament law, you are bound by God's grace. Some believers abuse the grace of God by claiming liberty to do as they wish without consequences. Others measure the quality of their relationship with God by trying to keep self-imposed moral rules and religious traditions. This lesson establishes the lordship of Jesus Christ as the biblical principle that protects you from abusing your liberty in Jesus.

YOU ARE FREE IN CHRIST

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” – John 8:36

A. Jesus Christ made you free from sin.

You are free from the penalty of sin. Your sin has been judged by the cross of Christ, freeing you from the guilt and condemnation of sin. In Christ, you are forever forgiven and free. *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”* – Romans 6:12-14

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” – Romans 8:2

B. Jesus Christ made you free from the law.

The righteousness of God is fulfilled for you in Christ. Keeping a list of religious and legalistic rules will not earn you more of God’s favour because you are already accepted by Him in Jesus Christ. “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith comes, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:24-26

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” – Galatians 5:1

YOU ARE FREE TO SERVE

A. You are free to serve the Lord BECAUSE you are no longer a servant to sin. In Christ, you have been set free from your sin. You are now subject to Christ and are free to be a servant of righteousness. Romans 6:17-23; Colossians 1:12-14 Everyone in the world lives in service to either the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Before your salvation, you did not have the ability to serve Christ because you were subject to the kingdom of darkness. The liberty you have in Christ gives you freedom to do what is right, and to serve God fully and completely.

B. You are free to serve the Lord BECAUSE you are no longer bound by the law. You have freedom to have different preferences and ideas, and to use all means to see people from all cultures and backgrounds come to faith in Christ. 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

YOUR LIBERTY MUST SUBMIT TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

The purpose of this lesson is to establish the lordship of Jesus Christ as the guiding principle for your liberty. The reason you have liberty is because you have a new Lord, and have been set free from your old one. You were once a servant to sin, but now you have become a servant of righteousness.

Jesus Christ is more than just your Savior, he is also your Lord.

A. Lordship is choosing Jesus Christ first in every situation.

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” – Colossians 1:17-18

B. Lordship is yielding your will to God’s will. “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” – Psalm 40:8 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” – Philippians 2:13

C. Lordship is recognizing that you are not your own. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

D. Lordship is loving God with your entire being. “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” – Mark 12:30

What are some Liberties in life you realize are holding you back, or some you were being too critical of?

It’s important to understand the parameters/responsibilities of our relationship with our families.

Our worship and service to God begins within the home, and that is where we will discover our most important of all human relationships. God has entrusted certain responsibilities to each family member that enable us to enjoy a healthy and happy home to the glory of God.

God uses your role within the family as an illustration of what it means to be a spiritual member of God’s family.

1. FAMILY – The body of Christ is called the "family" of God. Ephesians 3:14-15
2. HUSBAND – You have been espoused to Christ as your "one husband". 2 Corinthians 11:2
3. WIFE – The body of Christ is called "the Lamb's wife". Revelation 19:7
4. FATHER – God desires that you approach him as a "Father". Luke 11:1-2
5. MOTHER – You are to spiritually minister to others “as a nurse cherisheth her children ”. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8
6. CHILDREN – God desires to relate to you as His “sons and daughters”. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18

Husbands

A. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.

Jesus chose to give up all His glory and the riches of heaven to become a poor servant. He gave up His life to save ours. In the same way, the husband is to give up his own self-interests, and give his life to serve and live for his wife.

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it,” – Ephesians 5:25 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” – Philippians 2:5-8 “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” – 2 Corinthians 8:9

B. The husband is to give honor to his wife.

The husband should know and be paying attention to his wife. He should value her as a priceless treasure and handle her with great care because she is precious. The husband should treat his wife as an equal partner, knowing they are of equal standing in God’s eyes. “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.” – Proverbs 31:10 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life;...” – 1 Peter 3:7

Wives

A. The wife is to help her husband.

The husband cannot lead a home or rear a family alone. He needs the help of a godly wife who is joined together with her husband as one, and works together with him as she helps her husband to obey God's will for the family.

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." – Genesis 2:18

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." – Genesis 2:24-25

B. The wife is to reverence her husband.

God desires for the wife to follow her husband's lead. She is to respond in kindness to the selfless service she sees, and to the love and honor that he gives her. The wife is to respect her husband's role and his example in the home in the same way the church does to Christ. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." – Colossians 3:18

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." – Ephesians 5:33

Parents

A. Parents should train their children.

Parents are responsible to train their children to be godly adults. This will involve providing loving care and encouragement as they give their children biblical instruction with patient and consistent discipline. “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest

in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” – Deuteronomy 6:6-7

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” – Proverbs 22:6

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” – Proverbs 29:15

B. Parents should not discourage their children.

A parent’s instruction should be both challenging and comforting. Parents should correct their children with biblical instruction, but they should also encourage them. Rearing children

out of frustration and anger will only provoke them to be discouraged and angry themselves. “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” – Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”

– Colossians 3:21 “As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,” – 1 Thessalonians 2:11

C. Parents should manage their home.

Both parents should work together to guide their home in holiness and wisdom in both physical and spiritual matters. The Bible gives clear instructions and responsibilities for both parents. The husband is the head of the home, while the wife is responsible to manage the home. “But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath

denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” – 1 Timothy 5:8

“I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” – 1 Timothy 5:14 “A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.” – Proverbs 13:22

“And if it seems evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” – Joshua 24:15

Children

- A. Children should obey their parents. As children obey their parents, they are obeying the Lord. Children lay the foundation for all future obedience to the Lord by obeying their parents.
 - 1. Children should obey their parents because God's Word instructs them to. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord:..." – Ephesians 6:1
 - 2. It is the duty of children within the home to obey their parents because it is the right thing to do. "...for this is right." – Ephesians 6:1 (see also: Ex 20:12)
- B. Children should honor their parents. This is not really a different command, but it is rather the same command that focuses on the heart behind obedience.
 - 1. The goal is not simply obedience, but obedience from the heart. Children should trust their parents and obey them out of love and respect. "Honour thy father and mother;..." – Ephesians 6:2
 - 2. This command comes with a promise. If children trust, love, respect, and obey their parents, they are much more likely to live a full and prosperous life. There are some children, however, that choose rebellion and miss out on this promise from the Lord. "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." – Ephesians 6:3 (see also: Ex 20:12)

What are some immediate actions you can take in your home to better serve Jesus Christ?

Church

Church Polity is the act of how the church governs itself. This is done through a delicate balance of discussion between church elders, deacons and lay congregation. A professing believer in good standing of disciplined fellowship by/with the congregation should have a voice in how the church functions and acts. Working towards a consensus items can be determined among elders towards the body, or various committees towards the elders and congregation, or by a member of the congregation to the entirety. All of this is to be done to fulfill the overarching goals of soul winning and discipleship in the church body, and community.

It is important to understand what the local church is **NOT**...

1. The church is **NOT a denominational** group of congregations. The churches mentioned in the New Testament were all individual groups of believers serving together.
2. The church is **NOT a building**. Our bodies are the temples of God, and we worship God in spirit and in truth. – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; John 4:24
3. The church is **NOT replaceable**. There are many good things (TV and radio preachers, podcasts, electronic media, commentaries, conferences, etc.) that believers try to use to fill a need that only a local church can biblically provide. God's work in your life is accomplished through the local church, and nothing should replace it in your life.

What ideas did you have wrong about the Church?

What ways has your perspective changed/improved?

A. The “Church” is the body of Christ made up of born again believers from every nation, and from all time both in heaven and on earth.

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:” – Ephesians 1:10 “... and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.” – Ephesians 1:22-23

B. The “Local Church” is the visible body of Christ on this earth that is made up of born again, baptized believers who have agreed to worship and serve God together in a specific location under clear biblical leadership.

“Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:” – Philippians 1:1-2

In what ways can you be a better part to the “Body of Christ”?

What ways can you work to help the “climate” or “philosophy” of your Church body?

What ministry would you consider getting involved in that you hadn’t in the past?

Giving

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO GIVE?

There's 3 ways we give

Time - with regular service. This is done first with regular attendance, and will hopefully grow into teaching, working, and discipleship

Talent - as Christians we have an opportunity to use and develop the talents God has given us, and put them to work for the Lord.

Treasure - Like every gift God has given us we give back to God what He has made us stewards of.

A. There are three types of giving mentioned in the Old Testament scripture.

1. Tithes

A temple tax was required under the Jewish law and old covenant. As New Testament Christians we are under the liberty of grace.

2. Offerings

Voluntary offerings are given by God's people to fund regular & special needs as they arise within the congregation. 2 Cor. 8:1-15, Exo. 16:18, 25:1-2

3. Sacrificial Giving

This is a sacrificial gift that came at the giver's expense. It was a sacrifice that someone was willing to make as an investment in God's mission.

2 Samuel 24:21-25

As a New Testament believer, your giving should be structured upon biblical principles as you establish the discipline of giving in your own life.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." – Romans 15:4

1. Give regularly to support the management of the local church.

Just as God's people brought a tithe to support God's mission in the Old Testament, you should have a set amount of your choosing to give regularly. These gifts support operating expenses, the staff, and general ministry expenses. 1 Corinthians 9:14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

2. Give generously to support the special projects and ministries of the local church.

Just as God's people brought offerings to support special needs, you should be ready to give as needs arise within your local church. Acts 11:27-30; 1 Timothy 5:3, 9-10, 16

3. Give sacrificially to support missions. Just as God's people gave sacrificially to invest in God's mission, you should be ready to give to the support of the missionaries that your church sends out and approves of. These gifts support missionaries to go to places that you are unable to go. - Philippians 4:15-19 - **What ways do you "give**

Plan

Have you ever wondered what plans God has for you?

We have all asked ourselves this at some point. As complex as it may seem, the answer is more basic than you may think. We've already seen how we fit into a personal relationship with God through prayer, Bible reading and Church attendance. As we grow in relationship, we see how God intends for us to be in our homes, Church, and also in the world. God has a plan for us in this world. If you want to see Jesus work in your life, then you must humble yourself to what God wants you to accomplish and He, through you will fulfill it. The true measure of success is not your social status, financial stability, influence, or fame: it is in the simple, humble obedience to the will of God in your life.

What the Bible says is GOD'S plan for your life?

A. It is God's will for you to be SAVED.

Anyone who is not saved is not in the will of God. 2 Peter 3:9, Heb. 6:8&9

B. It is God's will for you to be a SOUL WINNER.

It is your responsibility to share the gospel with the lost so that they might be saved.

1 Timothy 2:4; Mark 16:15

C. It is God's will for you to be SANCTIFIED.

You are to live a life that is separated unto God in holiness. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

D. It is God's will for you to SHOW GRATITUDE.

God desires that you give Him thanks in every circumstance of your life.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

E. It is God's will for you to be SPIRIT FILLED.

Being filled with the Spirit of God allows you to make the most of the limited time you have remaining to serve Him as you continue to discover and understand the will of God. Ephesians 5:15-18

F. It is God's will for you to SERVE.

You are to serve your employer as if you were serving Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:5-7

G. It is God's will for you to be SUBMITTED.

You are to be submitted to every law of man as a testimony to the lost world. However, your submission to authority is balanced by a higher standard to please the Lord first. 1 Peter 2:13-15

H. It is God's will for you to SUFFER.

You will experience suffering if you follow Jesus Christ. The suffering we endure must be the result of well doing and not of evil doing.

1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 2:19-21

Christian Living

Our relationship with Christ mostly about what we do for Him?

A. God reveals His direction for your life by the three resources He has provided.

1. God has given you the **Holy Spirit** to guide and direct you as He dwells inside you.

Galatians 5:25; John 16:13

2. God has given you the **Word of God** to be your absolute authority in every detail of your life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts. God's plan for your life will never violate the Bible.

Psalms 119:105; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

3. God has given you the **local church** to equip you for life and ministry. God provides wise counsel through other believers who surround you.

Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 13:1-4

B. God will use the events and circumstances of your life to direct you.

As different circumstances arise, God will also confirm His plan through the Bible, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and your local church.

Romans 8:28; Romans 15:22-24; Psalm 37:23

C. God is more interested in who you are than in what you do for Him.

Knowing what God wants you to do is not as important as being who God wants you to be. As you grow into the image of God, He will reveal what He desires you to do.

Philippians 2:13; Psalm 37:4-5

BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. Why does God choose not to reveal all the details of His plan for me now?

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." – John 16:12

1. Knowing the entire plan of God for you at one moment could overwhelm you.

2. You may not be equipped to handle it now. God will reveal what you can handle as you are able.

3. You may not be walking in obedience to what God has already revealed to you.

4. As you mature physically and spiritually, your interests, talents, and desires change. God wants you to be patient as He works in your life spiritually.

B. Why do seemingly bad things happen in my life?

1. God will ordain suffering in your life to perfect you. The difficult times in your life will draw you into a deeper understanding of who God is and who you are. 1 Peter 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:10

2. There are always consequences to the decisions that you make. God has given you a free will and He will not force you to make biblical decisions. There may be times when you suffer as a result of the decisions you make. Galatians 6:7-9

How has this information changed, or enhanced your perspective of God, and His word?

How has this information helped you personally?

How has this information helped you towards others?

Job & Responsibility

GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO HIS WORK

It is important to understand that God's calling in your life is not to a specific occupation, but rather to His work. God has given you the ministry of reconciling the world to Christ, and your employment is only one way in which you are to help fulfill that ministry. "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto

himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." – 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

A. Your true calling and vocation is to serve Jesus Christ with all of your life.

Ephesians 4:1

B. God expects you to be involved in His work of reaching the lost of this world with the gospel. Luke 19:10; Luke 10:1-2

C. God has called and commanded you to live a life that is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20

WHAT KIND OF EMPLOYEE SHOULD YOU BE?

A. You are to serve in the workplace as if Jesus Christ is your employer.

Regardless of the work day stresses, you have a responsibility to always reflect the light of Jesus Christ. "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" – Colossians 3:22-23

B. You are to do your best and work hard so that your employer is successful.

The company you work for does not exist in order to provide you a job; it must maintain a profit in order for you to remain employed. God will work through you to bless your employer materially, and He will work through you to minister spiritually to your co-workers. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." – Ecclesiastes 9:10

C. You are to focus on your own work and not the work of others.

Do not allow someone else's errors and poor work habits to affect you so that you are free to be a good witness of Jesus Christ by both your words and life.

"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

D. You are to have a healthy respect for the company and its leaders.

“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” – Titus 2:9-10

1. Respect your employer’s authority – “not answering again”

Choosing to submit to your employer’s authority, even in the midst of disagreement, will allow you the opportunity to be a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Respect your employer’s property – “not purloining”

Take care of your company’s property, and do not take property that does not belong to you.

3. Respect your employer’s time – “shewing all good fidelity”

Be faithful to do your work with diligence throughout your scheduled shift.

YOU WILL ENCOUNTER CONFLICT IN YOUR JOB

A. Your job may conflict with your spiritual priorities.

This is a conflict that requires you to seek God’s guidance in balancing your priorities. You cannot abandon your job or take off work for a few minor conflicts; however, you should not use your job as an excuse to neglect your church or spiritual life. 1

Corinthians 9:25; James 1:8

B. Your job may conflict with biblical principles.

There may be times when your employer requests you to do something that is contrary to the Word of God. You must make a biblical decision to do what is right, and guard yourself against the temptation to be influenced by sinful activities and attitudes around you. Ephesians 5:3-12

C. You may have conflict with your co-workers.

While your co-worker may not be a believer, you should follow both biblical principles of dealing with conflict as well as any policy that your company requires. You must choose to be blameless and humble in any situation that requires conflict resolution. Matthew 18:15-17

D. You may encounter conflict through persecution.

Many times, persecution in the workplace is nothing more than the result of a believer’s improper walk with the Lord. However, there will be times when the opposition you face is because you are truly living for Christ. The proper response to persecution is to commit the adversity to the Lord and respond to it in a blameless manner. 1 Peter 2:18-23; 3:16-17

E. You may have conflict because of an opportunity to advance in your career.

God can use your higher position and larger wage for His glory. However, more money or a better position are not always what is best for you. Any new responsibility may become a burden on your time and hinder your service to Jesus Christ. It is important to

be sure that you are able to be faithful with the greater responsibility, and that you will not allow yourself to become too busy. Luke 16:10-13

How has your approach to your employer changed?

What steps are you going to take to put what we've covered into practice?

How will this study help change your work environment?

The Lost

Part of God's plan for us is to be separate from the world, while at the same time reaching lost men and women for the Lord Jesus Christ. As you seek to rescue the lost, you will receive opposition from the world because it is contrary to God's eternal purpose. This lesson is focused on the importance of being an effective witness of the grace of Jesus Christ while overcoming the opposition you receive from the world.

A. The world is watching you to see if you really live out what you believe.

1. They should see your love for God in the way that you live your life.

1 Corinthians 8:3

2. They should see that you live a life that is separated from the way of the world. You should be separated from the world, but not so separated that you lose all credibility or influence. 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

3. They should see that you are open and honest in all matters.

2 Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17

B. The world will oppose you because you are Christ's representative on earth.

1. Satan is the power behind any opposition you receive.

a. He has established the course of this world that is directly opposed to the work of the Lord. Ephesians 2:1-3

b. He seeks to destroy your life in any way he can. 1 Peter 5:8

2. You will be opposed because Jesus was opposed. However, the world will only oppose a believer who is living for Christ. John 15:18-21; 2 Timothy 3:12

3. You will receive opposition from three main areas...

a. Society in general will oppose you because it is contrary to God's Word. The majority of this opposition will come through the media, literature, and education.

1 John 2:15-17; 1 John 3:13

b. Lost people will oppose you because you are no longer part of their family. Acts 9:17-23

c. Your friends, family, co-workers, and acquaintances will oppose you. This opposition is often the hardest to face because of the personal relationships involved. Mark 6:4; John 1:11

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE LOST WORLD?

The people, laws, and cultures of where you live will affect your view of the lost world. It is important to understand that the truths of God's Word apply to all believers within all cultures and nations.

A. You must understand your relationship with the culture.

1. Most cultures are contrary to the holiness and purposes of God. Titus 1:10-14

2. You must live a godly life while ministering within the culture you live in.

Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:12

B. You must understand your relationship with the government.

1. Submit to the laws of your land as a testimony to the lost. 1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-5

2. Pay your taxes, giving to the government what is due by law.

Romans 13:6-7

3. Pray for your government and pray for your freedom to share the gospel. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

C. You must understand your relationship with the lost world.

1. You're a **citizen** of heaven and not in this world. Ephesians 2:6

2. You are a **pilgrim** in a strange land. 1 Peter 2:10-12 3. This world has nothing of eternal value to offer you. 2 Peter 3:10-13 4.

3. You are now an **ambassador** of Jesus Christ, and this world is your mission field to reach the lost for Christ. Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

How has your approach to the lost changed?

Are there people/situations you'd like prayer for?

Disciple Making

Jesus made disciples by leading them to evangelize. “And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.” – Mark 1:17-18

-If you follow Jesus, then He will lead you to seek the lost. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” – Luke 19:10

HOW DO YOU SHARE YOUR FAITH?

A. Start by understanding what God told you to do. “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” – Mark 16:15

1. God told you to **GO**. You cannot share your faith without going where the lost are.
2. God told you to go and **PREACH THE GOSPEL**.

You cannot share your faith without going and proclaiming the gospel.

B. Focus on your obedience, not results.

1. Share the gospel because you are commanded to.

When your actions are based upon answering the question “What did God tell me to do?” instead of “What is going to work?”, then you will measure your success based upon your obedience, and not on your results.

“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” – 1 Corinthians 9:16

2. Do not be tempted to be clever in your presentation of the gospel.

The message of the gospel is powerful alone without attempts to make it more palatable or believable. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” – Romans 1:16

3. Do not be tempted to avoid sharing the gospel because you feel unequipped. God has equipped you to carry the great message of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection to the world. “And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament...” 2 Cor. 3:4-6

C. Pray for God to lead you in the sharing of your faith.

1. Pray that God will fill your heart with a desire to tell all men about Jesus Christ.
“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” – 2 Peter 3:9

2. Pray for God to provide you with opportunities to share the gospel.
“Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.” – Colossians 4:3-4

D. Develop a simple presentation of the gospel.

There are many different ways to share the gospel, but it is important to understand that the gospel will always include the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The most familiar gospel presentations are:

“Romans Road” Romans 3:23, 5:12, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 10:13

“ABC” (Ask, Believe, Confess) Romans 10:13, John 3:16, Romans 10:9&10

What are some ways you can put this study to use in your life?

What fears and/or struggles might you have applying what you’ve learn as it applies to evangelizing your family, friends, and coworkers?

What ways has God put on your heart to make Disciples of Christ?