

# Book 1 LIFE

Welcome to **2Squared Discipleship**. You are about to begin the **LIFE** discipleship study. This study will give you the foundation you need for growth in Christ. Growth in Christ occurs by faith in the grace of God through the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

This study will take you through the topics of Life, Union with Christ, The New Covenant, Sin and Desire, Grace and Identity, Faith, Law and Gospel, and Indicatives and Imperatives.

Along the way you will see **Discipleship Corners**. These will be your opportunity to interact with what we are learning. You are encouraged to take the time to answer the questions that you find here.

Jesus commissioned us to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). Making disciples is what we will learn to do in **2Squared Discipleship** based also on the idea of multiplication of disciples found in 2 Timothy 2:2:

*2 Timothy 2:2. what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men [and women] who will be able to teach others also.*

The goal of **2Squared Discipleship** is that you are able to share the truths that you have learned with someone else one day, and in so doing you will be making a disciple as Christ commanded. But discipleship is much more than just knowing truths, it is also about sharing your life with someone. Don't lose sight of this as you complete the study. Let it be a time to learn how to share the truths of the Gospel, but also how to share your heart and soul with others as well. We want to be able to say with Paul:

*1 Thessalonians 2:8 so we cared for you, because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*

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# Lesson 1 LIFE

**God wants us to live. He wants us to desire him, experience him, worship him, image him, and depend on his grace.**

## I. To live is to desire.

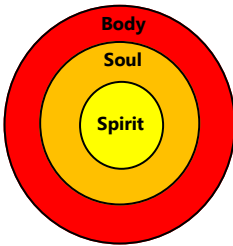
Since the beginning, God's desire for humanity has been for us to truly live. That is, to experience his life. He wants us to desire him above all else.

*Psalm 27:4. One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.*

## A. We are living souls.

The word for soul is the Hebrew word *nephesh* or throat. This word points to the idea of desire. God made us to hunger and thirst for him - that is life. We can't understand life, ourselves, or each other without understanding desire.

*Genesis 2:7. ...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul.*



### Body

God created a physical body for mankind. In Christ our bodies will one day be resurrected and remade.

### Spirit

God breathed a spirit into man's body. In Christ we have a new spirit, the Holy Spirit.

### Soul

Man became a soul (intellect, emotion, will). In Christ our soul is a battle ground for the Spirit and the sinful "flesh."

## B. Life or death.

In the beginning man chose death over life. We all desire life but are deceived into choosing things that bring death. Christ alone offers eternal life.

*Genesis 2:9. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

# 2<sup>2</sup>

## Discipleship Corner: Living Souls.

We are called to make disciples wherever we go. To do this we will need to understand both the word of God and the souls of people.

This means talking to people about their desires.

**On a scale from 1-10. How comfortable are you talking to people about your desires? Their desires?**

**Why did you receive Christ's life? What did you desire?**

## II. To live is to image God.

We were made in the image and likeness of God. We represent and reflect him to the world. This means reflecting God's glory, his character, and his nature.

*Genesis 1:26. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."*

- Image: represent God
- Likeness: reflect God.

### A. God is relational.

Because God is a Trinity, he is a community within Himself. He is the most relational person that exists. **We image God when we are relational.**

*John 1:1-2. <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.*

### B. God is love.

Because God is a community, He can love. But beyond this He IS love. He is the source of all true love. **We image God when we love each other.**

*1 John 4:8. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

### C. God is holy.

God is perfect in all His essence and ways. There is no trace of evil in God. He is wholly separate from sin and darkness. **We image God when we are holy.**

*1 Peter 1:16. since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

### D. God is good.

God's love and holiness combine to make Him fully good. If God is only loving but not holy, or holy and not loving, He cannot be good. **We image God when we are good and do good.** This is our ultimate purpose.

*Psalms 136:1. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.*

### E. God's goodness is His glory.

The glory of God (His weightiness and worthiness) is expressed by His perfect goodness. **We image God when we display his glory.**

*Exodus 33:18-19. <sup>18</sup> Moses said, "Please show me your glory." <sup>19</sup> And [God] said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you.. And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

**God's Love + God's Holiness = God's Goodness and Glory**

**What is glory?**

All glory in this world comes from God and all things share some level of God's glory. The flower has glory as does the horse and the heavens. God's glory is manifested externally as light, thunder, or quaking. But his glory is also his internal character. The desire for glory is what drives all of mankind, either toward God or a God substitute.

**What is goodness?**

Goodness is a concept that we have trivialized and lost sight of its full meaning. To be "good" is to live up to your created design. It is deeply connected to the idea of truth, integrity, and beauty. To "do good" is to restore people and things to their original design. Without goodness there is no real meaning, truth, or beauty in this life. Like God, we exist to be good and do good.

# 2<sup>2</sup>

**Discipleship Corner: Image Bearers.**

To be alive is to bear the image and likeness of God. We are making disciples of image bearers who are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus, the ultimate image bearer (more on this to come).

### How does making disciples of Jesus Christ connect to our purpose of bearing the image and likeness of God?

**III. To live is to worship God.**

God created mankind to worship him. This is our purpose. He placed us in the Garden where we would serve God and take care of creation as the priests of the earth.

**A. Worship is beholding God in Christ.**

To worship is to behold (contemplate, meditate upon) the glory of God in Christ and his cross.

**B. Worship transforms us.**

Worship in God's presence is what changes us, nothing else. Beholding the glory of God increases our love and trust for God.

**C. Worship is a life of service.**

We are meant to be living sacrifices. The lifestyle of service IS our worship of God.

*Genesis 2:15. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

- Work: *abad* - this word is translated as work, serve, worship.
- Keep: *shamar* - this word is translated as keep, guard, watch.
- These words are used describe priests in the Temple.

*2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*Romans 12:1. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

## We Become What We Behold

2<sup>2</sup>**Discipleship Corner: Worshipers.**

Evangelism and discipleship are about creating worshipers.  
Worshipping God is our life's purpose.

**When you think of the word worship what comes to mind?**

**What would a fully devoted worshiper of God look like? Write out your answer below:**

## IV. To live is to depend on God's grace.

From our beginning to our end we will depend on God's grace for our life.

- By grace we are created.
- By grace our lives are sustained.
- By grace we are not destroyed for our sin.
- By grace we are offered salvation.
- By grace we are being transformed.
- By grace we will be resurrected.
- By grace we will be made complete in Christ.

### A. Jesus lived dependent upon God's grace.

Jesus lived his human life the same way we must - in complete dependence upon God. To "be like Christ" is primarily to be dependent upon God's grace.

*Acts 15:11. ..we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus*

*Ephesians 2:8. For by grace you have been saved through faith.*

*Hebrews 4:16. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace .*

*Titus 2:11-12. <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness.*

*Romans 6:14. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

*John 5:19. "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.*

*Acts 10:38. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good ..for God was with him.*

2<sup>2</sup>**Discipleship Corner: Dependence on Grace**

The essence of discipleship is to help others to see their constant need for God's grace. There is absolutely no spiritual growth or progress apart from the grace of God.

**As you think about making disciples, in what ways will you need God's grace?**

# Notes/QUESTIONS

# Lesson 2 UNION WITH CHRIST

**We are in Christ and Christ is in us. This union with Christ is the basis of all spiritual growth.**

## I. Union with Christ and spiritual growth.

Union with Christ is a great mystery. It is God's plan to restore humanity to himself. Christ's union to the church is what rescues and redeems the church. Without it we would not be saved.

### A. Spiritual Growth is transformation into Christ-likeness.

The goal of all spiritual growth is to become more and more like Jesus.

- He is the ultimate human and image of God.
- He is the fullness of humanity (goodness, truth, beauty, love, holiness).
- He is relationally perfect.
- He perfectly displays the glory of God's grace.
- He lived in full dependence upon God.

*Ephesians 4:11-15* <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children.

<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

*2 Corinthians 3:18.* And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

### B. Spiritual Growth is a process.

In scripture, spiritual growth is primarily described as a process, or a transformation. Like a baby or plant growing little by little, we too grow over time in our Christ likeness.

## 2<sup>2</sup> Discipleship Corner: Spiritual Growth.

We make disciples so that others can be spiritually mature in Christ. *Colossians 1:28.* Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

**How does it encourage you to know that the goal of spiritual growth is to be fully conformed to Christ likeness?**

**How does it encourage you to know that spiritual growth is a process?**



## II. You are In Christ.

Faith in Christ places us into Christ and thus into God. This truth is what brings all spiritual growth.

### A. Christ is our representative.

Christ represents those that place their faith in him. Just as Adam was the representative of humanity in the Garden of Eden, or David was the representative of the Israelites against Goliath, Christ is our representative before God.

### B. We participate with Christ.

We share in every part of Christ's life. His death, resurrection, and glorification are now ours as well. All that is his becomes ours!

- Christ's death and resurrection are our death and resurrection.
- Christ's identity is now our shared identity.
- Christ's security is our security.
- Christ's blessings are our blessings.
- Christ's inheritance is our inheritance.
- Christ's mission is our mission.

## III. Christ is In You.

The Holy Spirit indwells us today as the Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit ministers the life of Christ to us spiritually, thus connecting our life to his.

### A. Christ In You brings internal change.

Christ in us by the Spirit is the guarantee that we will change. We are being transformed into his likeness from the inner man. Christ is much more than just our example, he is our very life. He is the ultimate human who is restoring us to our true humanity.

### B. Christ In You enables constant communion with God.

The reality of God's presence within us allows us to experience constant communion with God. God's loving presence never leaves us.

*Colossians 3:3. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

*Romans 5:17. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man [Adam our representative], much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ {Christ our representative}.*

*Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

*Ephesians 1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

*Romans 8:9. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

*Romans 8:29. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son*

*John 14:16-17. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

## IV. The Benefits of Union with Christ.

Union with Christ is a whole new life with benefits that answer all of our deepest questions.

### A. We have a new identity.

Union with Christ gives us a new way of seeing who we are. We are loved and we are free. We are a new creation. Union with Christ sets us free to be this true self without destroying our current self.

*Colossians 3:10. put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

*1 John 3:2. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

### B. We have a new destiny.

There is a glorious destination ahead for us– the perfect image of God (Christ-likeness).

*1 Peter 1:16. You shall be holy, for I am holy.*

### C. We have a new purpose.

Union with Christ makes us holy– set apart. Our purpose is to reveal the glory of God through our personal holiness day by day.

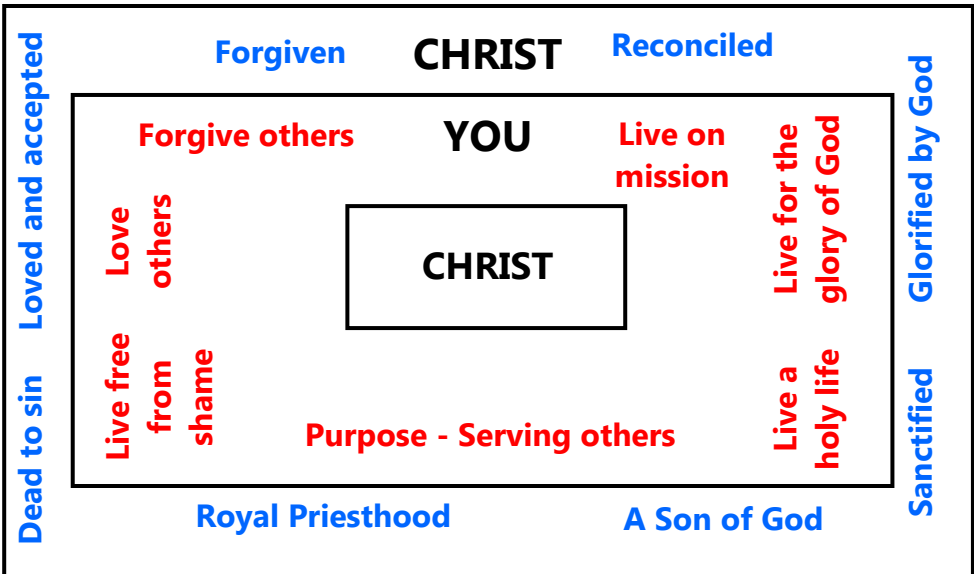
*Colossians 1:27. Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

### D. We have a new hope.

Union with Christ gives me the hope of being with Christ forever, because Christ is already with us forever.

**Blue: What you have because you are IN CHRIST.**

**Red: What Christ wants to do because he is IN YOU.**



**What would you add to this diagram?**

2<sup>2</sup>**Discipleship Corner: Union with Christ.**

You are IN CHRIST and CHRIST is IN YOU. You share every blessing that Christ has from God the Father.

**You are IN CHRIST: How does this truth encourage you?**

**CHRIST is IN YOU: How does this truth motivate you?**

**Has your spiritual growth been rooted in your union with Christ? Explain.**

**V. Union with Christ and Salvation.**

In scripture our salvation is presented not just as a one time event, but also as the process that culminates in our glorification as a true image bearer of God. We have been saved (justification). We are being saved (sanctification). We will be saved (glorification).

**A. Justification**

The single point in time when you trusted Christ for salvation, were permanently forgiven and freed from sin's penalty. This happened when you were placed into Christ. You are justified because you are IN CHRIST.

*Romans 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

*Romans 8:10. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

**B. Sanctification**

The ongoing process that began at justification and ends at glorification. It is the gradual deliverance from sin's power. Because you are IN CHRIST you have already been declared sanctified (holy and righteous), and because CHRIST is IN YOU, you are being gradually conformed to his holiness.

*Hebrews 10:10. we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

*Hebrews 10:14. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

**C. Glorification**

When Jesus returns and delivers you forever from sin's presence. You will be with Christ! This is our precious promise from God, but God declares that we have already been glorified because we are IN CHRIST. Because CHRIST is IN YOU, you can experience his glory (though not fully) even now.

*Romans 8:30. ...those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*

Now let's practice identifying these three truths of our salvation in Christ. Read the scriptures below and in the chart write the phrases that teach **Justification**, **Sanctification**, and **Glorification**.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

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Romans 5:1-5 <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

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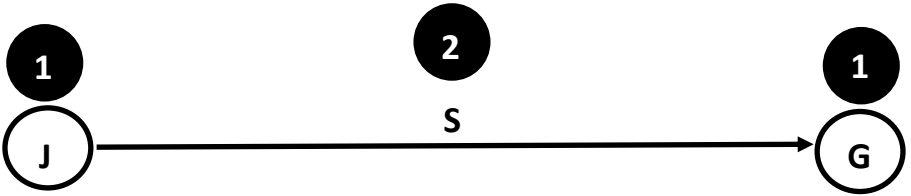
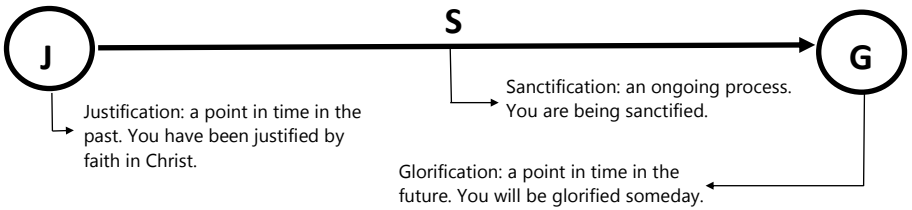
1 John 3:1-3 <sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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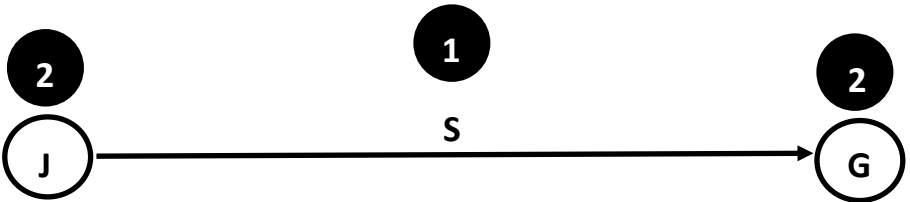
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# UNDERSTANDING AND TRUSTING IN OUR JUSTIFICATION AND GLORIFICATION BRINGS ABOUT OUR SANCTIFICATION.



**1** Trusting what God has done (justification) and will do (glorification) by his grace...

**2** ...will bring about spiritual growth by grace through faith that strives for holiness.



**1** Trusting in your own spiritual growth (constantly evaluating and comparing)...

**2** ...will cause you to forget God's grace (justification and glorification) and to rely on your own ability to change behaviors (works not faith).

## VI. Union with Christ as the power for spiritual growth.

REMEMBER: The foundation of all spiritual growth is faith in your union with Christ.

### A. Grace or obedience (or both)?

Does our growth in Christ occur by our trusting in God’s radical free grace? Or does it happen by our radical obedience to Christ’s commands? Do we grow by believing or by doing?

The “Radical Grace” model of growth.	The “Radical Obedience” model of growth.
Just believe more.	Just obey more.
Emphasis on resting in Christ.	Emphasis on striving for Christ.
“Come unto me and I will give you rest.” - Jesus	“If you love me you will keep my commandments” - Jesus
God loves you unconditionally as you are and not as you should be, because nobody is as they should be. - Brennan Manning	Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### B. Grace and obedience meet in union with Christ

Radical grace and radical obedience meet in the life of Jesus. He lived a life of obedience from grace. The work of Christ **FOR** us cannot be separated from the work of Christ **IN** us. The grace of our union with Christ empowers both our resting and our striving.

*Ephesians 2:8-9. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

*Philippians 3:12. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*

### C. The bridge between grace and obedience is faith in Christ.

Often there seems to be a “gap” between God’s grace and our obedience. We are not what we want to be. This gap is closed by our ever increasing faith in God. The more we trust his grace the more we will naturally choose to obey. The more we trust our union with Christ, the more Christ will be free to work through us.

*Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**2****Discipleship Corner: Union with Christ.**

Yes, there is a gap between where you are and where you want to be. But union with Christ alone fills that gap.

**Where have you felt the “gap” of your sanctification? The gap between grace and obedience?**

**Have you leaned toward “radical grace” or “radical obedience?” How does union with Christ demand both?**

**How would faith better fill the gap? How would faith allow you to receive “radical grace” while pursuing “radical obedience?”**

**If you’re having trouble getting started think through some of these different scenarios.**

- A) Whenever you go to church you just feel like complaining. How might your union with Christ encourage you?
- B) You can’t seem to move past an ongoing sin struggle. How might faith in your union with Christ allow you to move toward victory?
- C) You feel guilty about the mistakes you have made in the past. How could faith in union with Christ bring freedom?
- D) You struggle to fit in with others (at school, work, church, etc.). How can understanding and trusting union with Christ encourage you?
- E) You tend to use guilt or fear to gain respect. How could trusting your union with Christ bring freedom?
- F) You feel lonely and unloved. How could believing your union with Christ bring you joy?

# Notes/QUESTIONS



# Lesson 3 THE NEW COVENANT

**God makes covenants with us because he loves us. Because we are in Christ, we live within the promises of the New Covenant.**

## I. Before the covenants (a review).

God's desire is to share Himself by creating a people for Himself.

### A. God existed.

Before there were any people, God, the Trinity, was enjoying perfect love and admiration within Himself.

*Genesis 1:1. In the beginning, God.*

*Genesis 1:27-28. <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

### B. Be Fruitful and Multiply.

God wanted to share the love of the Trinity with humanity. Like God, we can love and serve. God wanted Adam and Eve to be fruitful, because He wanted there to be lots of people for Him and us to love and serve.

*Genesis 2: 16-17. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

### C. A Garden of Love and Liberty.

The relationship with God in the Garden was one of love and liberty- God loved them enough to give them freedom. God did not want us to be robots. He wanted to be our God, and for us to desire to be His people.

*Romans 5:12. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*

### D. A Corrupt Race.

After Adam sinned every person ever born has tried to do life apart from God. We want to be able to decide what is "good and evil" for ourselves. Read Genesis 3.

*Genesis 3:15. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

### E. The Seed.

After the Fall, God tells Satan that he will be judged. One day there will be a conflict between the woman's seed and Satan. The "seed" will crush Satan's head, while being wounded himself. Over time the identity of "the Seed" will be made clear.

## 2

### Discipleship Corner: Before the Fall.

God created us from love to share his life and love. But this meant giving us the freedom to choose or reject him. Think about what life must have been like before sin. Discipleship is about restoring the "Garden" through Christ.

**Think about what you learned in lesson 2. How does union with Christ restore us to what we had in the Garden? How does it take us beyond what we had in the Garden?**

## II. Our covenant God.

Because of sin God needs and desires to restore humanity to a relationship with himself and each other. In order to do this, God will make covenants with mankind, primarily through his chosen people, Israel.

### A. What is a covenant?

A covenant is a relationship that is both deeply personal, and at the same time completely legal and binding. It is a commitment to love and faithfulness. Its legal and binding nature, regardless of circumstances, makes it more loving because it is now unconditional. Covenant is God's primary relational tool— He is a covenant God. He cannot break His covenants.

### B. Why covenants?

Why does God make covenants with us?

**Because God wants a family.** He wants to be their God and they to be His people. He wants to share Himself with those who will love Him by faith. The Adam and Eve Family did not trust God, and so now the human family is corrupt. The story of Noah and the Ark showed this corruption. The human family does not love and trust God. BUT, The Noah story also shows that God is willing to have a relationship with us through grace, as He did with Noah. After Noah, God will choose Abraham and his descendants as the ones who will restore humanity. God will make three big covenants with this family: the **Abrahamic Covenant**, the **Mosaic Covenant**, and the **Davidic Covenant**.

**God will save the world through an earthly family (Israel) so that he can have a heavenly family (the Church).**

### III. The Abrahamic Covenant.

In his grace, God chose Abraham and his descendants to be his family whereby he would offer salvation to all the families of the earth. God promised Abraham **LAND**, **OFFSPRING**, and **BLESSING**. The covenant with Abraham was unconditional - God will do it no matter what Abraham does (Gen. 15). At the same time the covenant would ask Abraham to be faithful and obedient to God as is seen in the ritual of circumcision (Gen. 17) and the sacrificing of Isaac (Gen. 22).

Genesis 12:1-3. <sup>1</sup> Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 17:7-8. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

Genesis 22: 17-18. <sup>17</sup> "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

**What specific promises does God make to Abraham?**

**How does this covenant depend upon God's grace?**

**Here God expands the covenant to Abraham's offspring. How does this demonstrate God's faithfulness?**

**"and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" How does this promise point us to Jesus?**

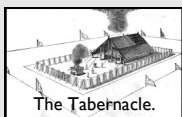
**How does it point to God's love for the whole world?**

## IV. The Mosaic Covenant.

Abraham's family ended up slaves in Egypt. But God powerfully brought them out of slavery to Mount Sinai where he would establish a covenant with them and restore them as his family. This Mosaic Covenant is one of both **WORKS** and **GRACE**. God will faithfully uphold his end of the covenant, but the nation must also faithfully obey God - if not they will be cursed and destroyed. But if they obey, they will be blessed and be a shining light of God's goodness and holiness for the world. Sadly, Israel would never fully learn covenant faithfulness.

Leviticus 26:11-13. <sup>11</sup>I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. <sup>12</sup>And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. <sup>13</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 29:45. I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God.



Exodus 19:6. you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Isaiah 49:6. [God] says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Deuteronomy 28:1-2. <sup>1</sup> "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God... <sup>2</sup> all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God."

Deuteronomy 28:15. "But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God... then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."

**How do the promises here sound similar to the promises made to Abraham? How do they sound different?**

**What purpose does God have for the nation of Israel?**

**Does this sound like good news? Why or why not?**

## V. The Davidic Covenant.

At Mount Sinai God established his family and eventually brought them into the Promised Land. Israel would ask God for a king and God would allow it (reluctantly). God will choose Israel's second king, David and his offspring as the family through whom the Messiah (the Christ) would come to save the nation and the whole world. God will make an unconditional covenant with David whereby He will establish David's family as God's family forever.

2 Samuel 7:8-17. <sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts.. I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more... <sup>11</sup> Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" <sup>17</sup> In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

**What promises are made to David and his offspring in this covenant?**

**God told Abraham and Israel that He wants to be "their God" and for us to be "His people." Also, He wants to give them a place to live with Him forever. Where do you see these same thoughts in the Davidic Covenant?**

**"Your throne shall be established forever" How does this promise point to Jesus?**

All the covenants were meant to progressively reveal God and his relational love for his people. Even though God's holy standard in the Mosaic Covenant could never be met by anyone because of sin, his grace would still shine through the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants. He was not going to give up on Israel or humanity. All these covenants ultimately would find fulfillment in Jesus— He would perfectly reveal God and his relational love.

Covenant	Jesus the fulfillment
Abrahamic	Jesus is the Seed that blesses all nations. He is our inheritance.
Davidic	Jesus, Son of David, will reign as the eternal king, and build God's household.
Mosaic	Jesus would perfectly keep the Law. And He is the sacrificial lamb who makes perfection available to us.

## 2

### Discipleship Corner: Covenants.

The Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants will each demonstrate the faithfulness of God and His desire to have a relationship with his people.

**How do these covenants connect to Jesus' command to make disciples? Think about a) God wants to be our God. b) God wants us to be his family.**

## V. The New Covenant.

The old Mosaic Covenant could not bring righteousness because it could not change the heart. Of course God knew this, which is why he predicted long before Christ that a new covenant would be needed. One that would not just demand holiness, but also produce holiness inside of us. This is why union with Christ is the foundation of the New Covenant. Only by being united to Christ can we be truly and eternally changed.

*Jeremiah 31:31-35. <sup>31</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

Jesus' death and resurrection enacted the New Covenant with Israel. As the mediator of the New Covenant, Jesus invites all peoples (Jew and Gentile) to place their faith in him, be united to him, and enjoy the promises and blessings of the New Covenant. What are these promises and blessings?

Hebrews 10:1-18. <sup>1</sup>For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup>Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup>But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

<sup>11</sup>And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup>waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

<sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

<sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, <sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," <sup>17</sup>then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

**According to Hebrews 10, what was the problem with the Old Covenant (the Mosaic Covenant)?**

**How is Christ's sacrifice better than the sacrifices of the Old Covenant?**

**What promises are made in the New Covenant? Why are these promises better than the Old Covenant?**

The New Covenant is far superior to the Old Covenant because it is rooted in Jesus' indestructible life. Use Hebrews 10 (previous page) to compare the New Covenant to the Old Covenant in the chart below.

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Continual sacrifices.	
Sins covered for one year.	
Law written on tablets of stone.	
The blood of bulls and goats.	
Mediated by Moses.	

**2**

**Discipleship Corner: The New Covenant.**

Christians live under the New Covenant, not the Old. Understanding this is crucial for spiritual growth and faith. Consider how each of these truths might impact how you disciple someone. How do they impact your own heart and mind?

**You are completely forgiven.**

*Hebrews 10:12. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God*

*Hebrews 10:17. "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."*

**You are empowered with a new heart to obey God.**

*Hebrews 10:16. I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds*

**You have a personal intimacy with God.**

*Hebrews 10:14. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

*Hebrews 10:18. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.*



# Notes/QUESTIONS

# Lesson 4 SIN AND DESIRE

Understanding your sin, and the desires behind it, is an important part of spiritual growth.

## I. The Nature of Sin.

Even though we are united to Christ we still sin. To overcome sin we must be able to identify it and the desires behind it.

### A. Sins we commit.

Sins are any actions, attitudes, thoughts, words, and omissions that we commit because we resist God's grace and then fail to trust him.

Notice Psalm 51:1-2. In the OT there are three words/ideas that describe sin.

- **Transgression** (*pasha*) - to willfully rebel against God.
- **Iniquity** (*avah*) - "twisted out of shape" like a joint out of socket. Twisted desires.
- **Sin** (*chatha*) - to miss the mark or target.

### B. SIN is a force.

Sin is not simply isolated acts of disobedience. The Bible says that SIN is a force that, apart from Christ, we are completely deceived by and enslaved to. SIN wants to destroy us (Gen. 4:7).

### C. SIN destroys relationships.

Sin is SIN because it is unloving. Sin not only hurts you but it hurts others and ultimately God. Sin is not about breaking rules, it's about breaking hearts, including God's heart.

*Psalm 51:1-2*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my **transgressions**.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my  
**iniquity**,  
and cleanse me from my **sin**!

*Genesis 4:6-7* <sup>6</sup> The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?" <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

*Ephesians 2:1-3* <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

2

## Discipleship Corner: Sin and SIN.

A big part of discipleship is helping others to understand their sin. As we will see this means addressing behavior (sin) but also desires (SIN).

**What relational consequences of sin have you experienced (with God or others)?**

## II. Sin and Desire.

As we said back in Lesson 1, to live is to desire. All sin flows from what we desire.

### A. Sin begins in the heart.

All sin begins with what we desire—bad desires, or good desires that have taken control of our life. Desires become thoughts and thoughts become choices or behaviors.



*Mark 7:21-23* <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

*Romans 1:24.* Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity.

## WE ALWAYS CHOOSE WHAT WE BELIEVE IS MOST SATISFYING

### B. We are natural born sinners.

All sin begins in our hearts because our hearts are full of SIN. The Bible rejects the idea that man is inherently good. We are born with the force of SIN in our hearts. Sometimes we call this the SIN NATURE. We did not become sinners because of bad environments or bad circumstances. We are not naturally good and just happen to "slip up" once in awhile. Sin is born into us and produces all kinds of evil desires within us.

*Romans 5:12* Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

*Romans 5:19* For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**Imputation** In theology the word imputation means that something is credited to someone's account. The Bible teaches that our sin was imputed to us from Adam. His sin was placed on our account (see Romans 5:12 and 19 above). The good news is that Christ's righteousness can also be imputed to your account through faith. That is what the New Covenant promises.

### C. Sin as glory seeking.

Glory is "weight," meaning, significance. Every one of us desires glory because we were all created to display the glory of God, to image him. Seeking glory is not the problem, finding it in something other than God is. We were meant to receive our glory from God. But because of SIN we fall short of God's glory and seek to find glory in all kinds of other things. Rather than God being our glory, his creation is (including ourselves).

*Psalms 8:4-5.* <sup>4</sup>what is man that you are mindful of him.. <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

*Romans 3:23.* for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

*Romans 1:22-23.* <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

### D. Sin as idolatry.

As we seek glory from things other than God, these things soon become what the Bible calls idols. An idol is anything we desire more than God. The question isn't IF we have idols. The question is what will our idols be?

*Romans 1:25. they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

*1 Corinthians 10:14. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.*

## AN IDOL IS ANYTHING YOU'VE ELEVATED ABOVE GOD.

Sex	Comfort	Relationships	Marriage	Family	Money	
Food	Race	School	Career	Achievement	Drugs/Alcohol	Possessions
Service	Politics	Romance	Approval	Financial Security	Attractiveness	

### E. Sin as desire.

As we said above, all sin flows from our desires. Desire, of course, is not bad, it is what drives us toward God. But desire can also take us away from God toward idols and lesser glories. Look at how James connects sin to desire below:

*James 4:1-4. <sup>1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your **passions** are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You **desire** and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?*

- Passions: *hedone*. These are wrong desires that we have no business having.
- Desire: *epithumeo*. These are good desires that can take over our life.

James connects our desires to both our horizontal sin (quarrels and fights among each other), and our vertical sin (failure to trust God, not asking, asking with wrong motives, spiritual adultery). The problem is not desire itself. It is that we expect each other to satisfy our desires rather than God.



### Discipleship Corner: Sin and desire.

We were created to desire God and his goodness. But desires can also become twisted and lead us away from God. Think through your own desires using the chart below.

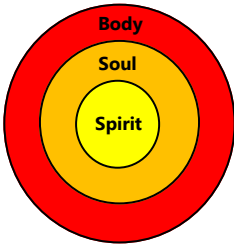
I have a desire for this good thing:	How it can become a wrong desire:	How it might become an over-desire:

### III. The Solution to Sin: Your New Heart.

If the cause of our sin is our sinful heart or our sin nature, then the solution must be a new heart and a new nature. This is what union with Christ gives us.

#### A. New Heart.

The great promise of the New Covenant and of our union with Christ is that we are given a new heart. Through the forgiveness of sins, our hearts are cleansed. The Holy Spirit indwells us as the Spirit of Christ. We are new creations!



#### Spirit

Your new heart flows from your new spirit. You have a whole new operating system - The Holy Spirit. Your deepest desires now come from Christ's indwelling life.

*Isaiah 1:18. though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

*Hebrews 8:10. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*Romans 6:6. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

*Romans 6:11. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*Galatians 5:17. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing **the things you want to do.***

(our deepest desire is spiritual)

#### B. New Nature.

Your union with Christ means that you have died with Christ and been raised with Christ. Your sin nature is dead and gone. You have a new nature.

#### C. New Desires.

With our new heart comes new desires. Because we are in Christ and Christ is in us we have his desires. We want what he wants. You no longer have to desire or choose sin.

**You can trust your new heart**

#### Old Covenant Heart

Jeremiah 17:9-10. <sup>9</sup>The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>"I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Mark 7:21-23 <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

#### New Covenant Heart

Jeremiah 31:33. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 11:19. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

2 Cor. 3:3. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2<sup>2</sup>

## Discipleship Corner: Your New Heart.

In Christ we have been given a new heart, Jesus' heart. Your deepest desires flow from your new heart. You can trust your new heart.

**How do you see yourself? Dirty and distant from God? Clean and close to God?**

**Where can you see evidence of you trusting your new heart? Your God given desires?**

## IV. So Why Do We Still Sin?

This is the big question. If we have a new heart and a new spirit, then why do Christians still sin so much?

### A. The Flesh.

The flesh is a what the Apostle Paul calls that selfish part of us that still remains even after we are saved. The flesh is empowered by "indwelling sin."

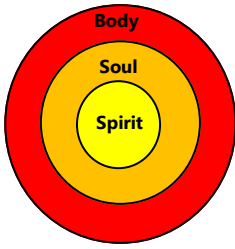
### B. The battle between the Flesh and Spirit.

The Christian life is characterized by a battle between two competing forces: the Flesh and the Spirit. The Spirit is constantly ministering grace to our heart and mind, but we sin when we allow the selfish Flesh to resist this grace and seek our own agenda (idols, lesser glories). Study the passages below to better understand the battle between the Flesh and Spirit.

*Galatians 5:13-18.* <sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. <sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

*Romans 7: 14-20.* <sup>14</sup>For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup>For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. <sup>17</sup>So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

*Romans 8:5-9.* <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.



**Body** Sin enters through our corrupt bodies (senses, memories, etc.) and stirs up the Flesh.

**Spirit** the Holy Spirit is revealing the grace of Christ and changing our desires.

**Soul** The battle between the Flesh and Spirit is raging in your desires, thoughts, choices, and feelings.  
**Indwelling Sin** lives here- Romans 7:17;20. Paul will say "it is not I who do it, but sin that dwells within me." Indwelling sin plagues us until death.

**THE GOSPEL: WE ARE BOTH WICKED (FLESH) AND LOVED (SPIRIT).**

**2 Discipleship Corner: The Flesh.**

We have a new heart by the Holy Spirit, but we also still have indwelling sin and the Flesh warring against the Spirit.

**In what ways have you personally felt this spiritual battle inside your heart/mind?**

**How do Galatians 5:13-18, Romans 7:14-20, and 8:5-9 help you to better understand yourself? The challenge of discipleship?**

**V. Battling Sin.**

There is only one way to fight the sin within you: by the Spirit (union with Christ).

**A. Fight Desire with Desire.**

The Christian life is not about sinning less and less, it is about finding more and more pleasure in God. Therefore we don't defeat sin by focusing on our sin. Yes, we identify our idols, but we overcome them by focusing on the greater pleasure of knowing Christ and his grace. We fight sinful desires by allowing them to point us to our greater desire. We oppose the Flesh by "Walking in the Spirit."

*Galatians 5:16-17. <sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

**B. Know that you are dead to sin.**

We will talk about this more in upcoming lessons. We cannot overcome a sin until we truly believe that SIN has been completely overcome in our lives. Sin will dominate us until we trust that there is now "no condemnation" for sin.

*Romans 6:11. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ.*

*Romans 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

### C. Know that you are dead to law.

We will talk about this more in upcoming lessons too. For now we should know that sin is stirred up by the expectations of the Law (see page 20). Christ has set us free from the law, he is our righteousness. Therefore, we are free to love and serve God simply for who he is, not in order to earn salvation.

*Romans 7:4. Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ.*

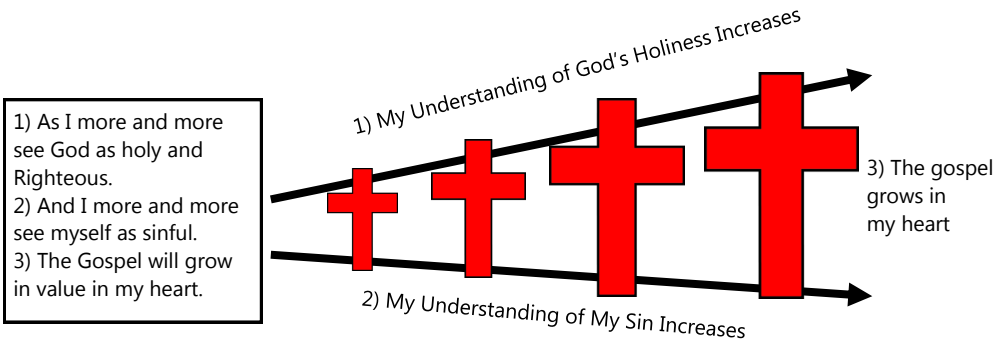
*Romans 7:6. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*

*Romans 5:20. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

### D. Behold God’s holiness and grace.

The Christian life is not about “sinning less and less.” Rather, the more you behold God’s holiness, the more you understand your sinfulness. God will continue to reveal more and more of your idols throughout your entire life. But at the same time, God will reveal more and more of his grace, teaching you to depend on him more and more.



## 2<sup>2</sup>

### Discipleship Corner: Battling Sin.

We battle sin by beholding God’s glory, grace, and goodness in the person and work of Christ (our union with Christ).

**What are the ways that you have tried to fight sin in the past?**

**There are two extremes to avoid when thinking about our sin: a) taking our sin too lightly (self deception, self righteousness, rejecting grace), and b) allowing our sin to cause despair (feeling defeated, law keeping, rejecting grace). Which of these do you tend towards?**



# Notes/QUESTIONS

# Lesson 5 GRACE AND IDENTITY

**Grace and your new identity in Christ are the foundation and power for all growth in Christ.**

## I. Our New Identity.

Because of grace we have a whole new identity. In Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin, but are free to live Christ's life of love and holiness.

### A. We are the New Creation.

We are already what God will re-create in the future - the New Creation. This means we are:

- Citizens of Heaven: Heaven is our new kingdom home, our loyalty is there.
- Ambassadors: we are representatives of Heaven with the ministry of reconciliation.
- Heaven ready: we have been re-made like the heavens and earth will be some day.

*2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

*2 Corinthians 5:20. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ.. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

*Galatians 4:6-7. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

### B. We are Sons of God.

We are the adopted and born again adult sons of God. This means we have:

- Access: we can approach God at any time.
- Purpose: we take on the Father's business.
- Future: we have a glorious inheritance.
- Likeness: we share God's DNA.

*1 John 3:9. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.*

### C. We are the Bride of Christ.

We are betrothed to Jesus as his glorious bride.

This means we are:

- Loved: Christ loves us with a covenant love.
- Cleansed: Christ is purifying us for our wedding.
- Pursued: Christ will never give up on us.

*Ephesians 5:25-27. <sup>25</sup>Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

**Why is understanding your new identity so important? Because:**

Who I am → Precedes → What I do

Identity → Precedes → Behavior

Position → Precedes → Condition

## 2 Discipleship Corner: Identity.

Our new identity is secure in Christ and has the power to change how we live. But often our “lesser identities” take control and become a law that must be obeyed in order for us to be righteous.

**When you think of who you are, what comes to mind? Parent? Married? Single? Teacher? Plumber? Son? Daughter? Student? Athlete? Conservative? Liberal? Baptist?**

**Where have you seen a “lesser identity” become a law that you must live up to?**

**Which of these new identities stands out to you? Why? a) New Creation, b) Son of God, c) bride of Christ.**

## II. Grace, Identity, and Core Needs.

We were created to depend on God, alone we are not complete. Because of this we each have several “Core Needs” that we desire to have met, and that can be met in Christ.

### **Forgiveness.**

We are all guilty before God. We all desire to be free of guilt and shame.

### **Love and acceptance.**

We all desire unconditional love and acceptance.

### **Purpose.**

We all desire to have meaning and impact in life (glory).

### **Security.**

We all desire to feel safe.

### **Strength.**

We all desire to be strong, to solve problems.

### **Beauty.**

We all desire to experience the truth and pleasure of beauty.

### **Freedom.**

We all desire to be free to love and free from sin’s control.

**YOUR CORE NEEDS WILL EITHER DRIVE YOU TO GRACE OR TO SIN.**

## 2<sup>2</sup> Discipleship Corner: Core Needs.

Our Core Needs are the things that every one of us desires. They are not bad things. In fact, they are all things that God wants to provide for us.

**Which of the Core Needs on the previous page stands out to you? Which do you desire the most?**

### III. Grace, Identity, and Spiritual Growth.

There are only two potential ways that we can grow spiritually and overcome sin. One of them fails every time and the other one works every time.

#### A. Self Effort (Works).

Your first option is to change on your own without Christ, but this is doomed to failure. This is every other religion - save yourself by your own efforts. Unfortunately many Christians think they grow this same way, by trying hard to change. But there is no real heart change.

*John 15:5. apart from me [Jesus] you can do nothing.*

*Titus 3:5. he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

*Colossians 2:6. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.*

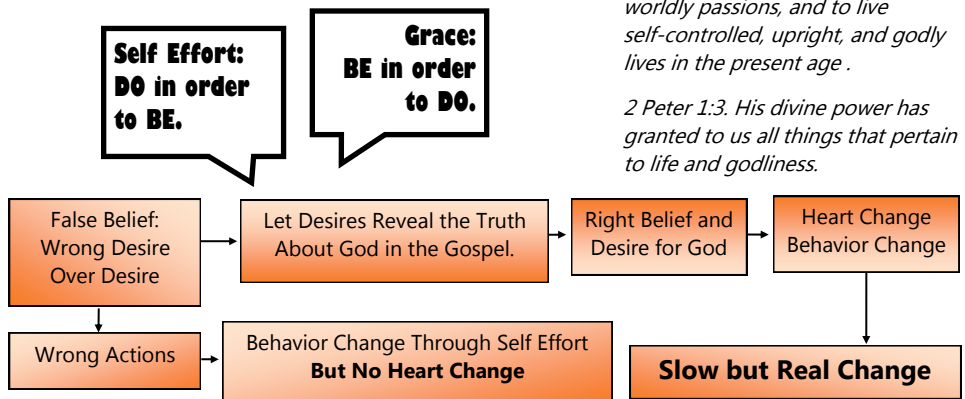
- We are sanctified the same way we were saved - by grace through faith.

*Titus 2:11-12. <sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age .*

*2 Peter 1:3. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.*

#### B. Faith.

Your second option is to trust in God's grace. In Christ we have a new identity and access to never ending love. God's grace supplies everything we need for life and godliness. Through faith in this grace we are changed into Christ's image.



**When we believe that we have all we NEED in Christ, we won't NEED sin.**

# 2<sup>2</sup>

## Discipleship Corner: Core Needs, Grace, or Sin.

Our core needs will either drive us toward God's grace and our new identity in Christ, or they will drive us toward sin. Use the chart below to explore how grace and identity free us from sin.

<b>SIN: emotions and behaviors that come from not receiving grace or trusting my identity in Christ</b>	<b>CORE NEEDS</b>	<b>GRACE: What is your new Identity in Christ?</b> For each scripture write how it grants you a new identity in Christ and freedom from sin.
I manipulate in order to get love. I idolize relationships, substituting sex for love, etc..	<b>Love and Acceptance</b>	Eph. 1:4-6.
I may try to earn forgiveness by being good. Guilt comes in when I forget my forgiveness.	<b>Forgiveness</b>	Eph. 1:7, Col. 2:13-14.
I seek purpose by what I do or produce, rather than by what I am in Christ. I get discouraged or proud depending on if I succeed.	<b>Purpose</b>	Eph. 1:8-10, 2:10.
I make earthly treasures or relationships my security. I worry when things don't go my way. My security may be found in religious traditions.	<b>Security</b>	Eph. 1:11,14.
I seek power by hurting or manipulating people. I try to control situations rather than trust God.	<b>Strength</b>	Eph. 1:19-21, 2:6.
I feel defeated by sin— that it is impossible to overcome a habitual sin. I try to overcome sin by trying harder or by will power	<b>Freedom from Sin's Control</b>	Rom. 6:6, Col. 2:11,12.

# Notes/QUESTIONS

# Lesson 6 FAITH

**Spiritual growth occurs as we live by faith in God's grace and our new identity. This faith will then produce loving obedience.**

## I. The Nature of Faith.

There is much confusion about the nature of faith. Faith is not how we get God to do things, it is how we trust that God will do what he says he will do.

### A. Faith is trusting God's promises.

In lesson 3 we learned that God is a covenant God. He makes promises to us that are impossible for him to break. Faith is trusting in those promises. Do you remember our New Covenant Promises?

*2 Corinthians 1:20. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. [Jesus Christ].*

*Hebrews 12:1-2. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of [faithful] witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our **faith**, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

### B. Faith is not focused on Faith.

Faith's object is of utmost importance. Our faith is in Christ and his work on the cross. Our faith is not in our faith. The question is not "how much faith do you have?" The question is "in whom are you placing your faith?"

*Genesis 15:6. And [Abraham] believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

• Abraham's faith was dependent

### C. Faith is dependent.

Faith is resting and receiving. It is simply trusting in the salvation that God has promised and that his grace will bring it to pass.

*James 2:21-22. <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works.*  
• Abraham's faith was active.

### D. Faith is active.

Faith is acting upon the promises of God. Faith is complete trust, but that trust must be expressed in faithfulness. When we truly have faith, this faithfulness will happen naturally by the Spirit.

Faith is...	Faith is not...
Rooted in the Word of God	Rooted in experiences, impressions, or feelings
Dependent on what God has done for us	What makes God do things for us
Focused on the Lord Jesus	Focused on faith
Receiving grace	Self effort
Allowing yourself to be loved, though unworthy	Earning God's love through your own worthiness

2<sup>2</sup>**Discipleship Corner: Faith: Dependent and Active.**

Faith is both dependent and active. Read the story of the healing of the paralyzed man in Mark 2:1-5 and 11-12.

**How was this man's and his friend's faith both dependent and active?**

**How has your faith in Christ been both dependent and active?**

**In discipleship, why would it be important to emphasize that the "dependent" must precede the "active?" What is the danger in reversing this order?**

## II. Faith and Salvation.

Faith is necessary for our justification, sanctification, and glorification.

### A. We are justified through faith.

It is not faith that saves us. We are saved **by** grace **through** faith. But faith in what? It is the object of our faith that saves us.

- It is never our good works that save us.
- It is not enough to say "I have faith in God," or even "I have faith in Jesus."
- Our faith must be in the person and work of Christ on the cross for us.

Read Paul's descriptions of saving faith below. What is the object of our faith?

*Romans 3:21-26.* <sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—<sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.<sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

*Galatians 3:10-14; 23-26.* <sup>10</sup>For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."<sup>11</sup> Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."<sup>12</sup> But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—<sup>14</sup>so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.



## B. We are sanctified through faith.

Not only are we justified by grace through faith, we are also sanctified by grace through faith.

- The same grace that saved us is saving us.
- We don't move from "by grace through faith" (Spirit) into works (Flesh) once we are saved.
- Law keeping cannot produce spiritual growth.
- To "live by faith" is to never stop realizing your need for and dependence upon Christ's saving work for you on the cross.
- We grow spiritually by growing deeper into grace and our identity in Christ.

*Colossians 2:6-7. <sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord [justification], so walk in him [sanctification], <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

*Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ [justification]. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith [sanctification] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

*Galatians 3:3. Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit [justification by grace through faith], are you now being perfected by the flesh [works]?*

*2 Timothy 2:10-13. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup>The saying is trustworthy, for: "If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us; <sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.***

*1 Peter 1:6-9 <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that **the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

## THE GOSPEL IS NOT THE ABCs OF OUR FAITH. IT IS THE A-Z OF OUR FAITH.

### C. We are glorified through faith.

We are justified, sanctified, and glorified by grace through faith in Christ through our new identity. Our trust in God's grace and our new identity in Christ must **persevere** until the end. Our faith must be proven true.

But at the same time, the glorious truth of our union with Christ is that Christ will **preserve** us until the end. Christ will not lose what is truly his. Look at 2 Timothy 2:10-13.

- "If we deny him, he will deny us" - We cannot reject Christ and his gospel and expect to be saved. We should see this as someone who was never truly saved.
- "If we are faithless, he remains faithful." - this IS the gospel. This is for those of us who embrace the gospel but still fail over and over. Jesus is faithful FOR us. Amen!

2<sup>2</sup>

## Discipleship Corner: Faith and Your Salvation.

Faith in God's grace through the saving work of Christ is what justified you, is sanctifying you, and will glorify you.

**How does it encourage you today that your salvation is all by grace?**

**What's wrong with this statement: "If I have faith, then God will bless me."**

**What has been the object of your faith in your salvation? Your answer here is extremely important. Is it anything other than Christ and his life and death for you?**

### III. Living by Faith.

We are called to live by faith in God's grace and our new identity in Christ. Our faith must be focused on Christ alone, never ourselves or even our own faith.

#### A. Walking by the Spirit.

When we live by faith in Christ alone and our union with Christ the scriptures call it "walking by the Spirit." The Holy Spirit ministers our union with Christ to us.

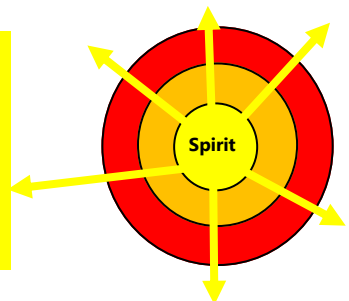
- Walking by the Spirit means trusting that we have spiritually experienced everything that Christ has - life, death, resurrection, glory.
- Walking by the Spirit means trusting that we have every blessing that Christ has - love, acceptance, strength, security, holiness, etc. (think Core Needs).
- Those who walk by the Spirit consistently experience God's love, hope, peace, and forgiveness.

*Romans 8:1-4.* <sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

*Galatians 5:16.* But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Walking by the Spirit means releasing the Spirit of God within you to overcome the desires and works of the Flesh (selfishness). How does this happen practically? By having the "mind of the Spirit" (dependence) and by "keeping in step with the Spirit" (actions). (see next page). That is, thinking like Christ and acting like Christ as we trust the grace of God in Christ.

**Release  
of the  
Spirit**



## A. Walking by the Spirit continued.

Walking by the Spirit in faith is both dependent and active. This includes having the mind of the Spirit (dependency) and keeping in step with the Spirit (action).

### 1. Having the Mind of the Spirit.

To have the mind of the Spirit is to have the mind of Christ. It is trusting that we are IN CHRIST. It is thinking and meditating upon grace.

*Romans 8:5-9.* <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

### 2. Keeping in step with the Spirit.

To keep in step with the Spirit is to live out Christ's life and love. It is trusting that CHRIST is IN US. It is acting as Christ would in the world (living sacrifice).

*Galatians 5:16-24.* <sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

<sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

<b>2</b>	<h2>Discipleship Corner: Walking by the Spirit.</h2> <p>Walking by the Spirit includes having the mind of the Spirit (dependence) and keeping in step with the Spirit (action). This is grace through faith.</p>
<p><b>Having the mind of the Spirit:</b> dependence on grace, focused on God's love IN CHRIST. We can set our minds on the Spirit or on the selfish things of the Flesh.</p>	<p><b>Keeping in step with the Spirit:</b> sharing God's grace as CHRIST IN US. Our actions will either flow from the fruit of the Spirit or the works of the Flesh.</p>
<p><b>Spiritual disciplines:</b> reading and meditating, prayer, praise, community, corporate worship and preaching.</p>	<p><b>Spiritual disciplines:</b> service, prayer for others, being an example, making disciples, mentoring.</p>
<p><b>In what ways do you struggle to have the mind of the Spirit? Keep in step with the Spirit? How might spiritual disciplines done from grace help you?</b></p>	

# 2<sup>2</sup>

## Discipleship Corner: Grace Through Faith.

Our Core Needs can either drive us to sin or to God's grace in Christ. Then grace must be appropriated by faith (walking by the Spirit, the mind of the Spirit, and keeping in step with the Spirit).

SIN	CORE NEED	GRACE IN CHRIST	MIND OF THE SPIRIT-DEPENDENCE	IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT-ACTION
Jealousy, sex as substitute for love, rescuing, serving only to be loved. Result- co-dependency, fear of loss, manipulating	<b>LOVE</b>	I am chosen by God, loved by God, adopted by God (Eph. 1:3-6).	I believe that God loves me. I accept His love for me.	I choose to love and serve others.
Judging other's sin, false good deeds done to make you feel good. Result- Hypocrisy, phoinness.	<b>PURPOSE</b>	God has revealed His will to me (the supremacy of Christ). I am God's masterpiece (Eph. 2:10).	I believe I am re-created for good works. I am called to make disciples.	I live out my purpose to worship and show off God to others through good works and testimony.
Anger, selfish ambition. Seeking power from position while avoiding "sinners."	<b>POWER</b>	I have resurrection power in me (Ep. 1:18-20). I have been strengthened by Christ.	I believe my power comes from Christ who gives me strength.	I choose to serve others and for-sake sin. I get involved in ministry even when I feel weak.
Willpower. I force myself to stop sinning-but heart not changed. Result- Pride, impulsivity, no joy.	<b>CONTROL</b>	All things work for good = conformed into Christ (Rom. 8:28-29). God is in control.	I believe that I have all I need to live a godly life (2 Pt. 1:3).	I choose to live in self control, denying selfish desires. I take risks knowing that God is in control
Discord, envy greed, tradition. Stoicism ("I'm OK"). Result- apathy or anxiety.	<b>COMFORT</b>	We are sealed by the HS. We have hope through the Spirit who intercedes for us (Eph. 1:14).	I have hope in the resurrection and future inheritance of Christ and with Christ.	I allow myself to be comforted by the Spirit, not my status or human relationships alone.
Self seeking , disrespect, finding identity in my deeds Result- Self absorbed, superiority or inferiority.	<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	I am in Christ, am a son of God, and am the bride of Christ. (Gal. 4:1-7; Eph. 5:25-27).	I believe that God is accomplishing my sanctification. I am valuable as His child.	I choose to get involved in ministry- I use my gifts to serve the Body.
Selfish ambition, praying for blessings rather than to know the Blessor. Result- hopelessness and despair.	<b>SECURITY</b>	My inheritance is in Christ and marked by the HS (Ep. 1:13-14).	I believe that I have all I need in this life and the next. I am content.	I choose to work for heavenly treasure not earthly goods. I use the gifts from God to help others.
Bitterness, envy. Good deeds done out of "I'm better than you" or "I can earn my salvation" mentality. Result- Guilt, envy, never joyful.	<b>FORGIVENESS</b>	In Christ we have forgiveness, peace, and no condemnation (Rom. 8:1, Eph. 1:7).	I know that I am forgiven and believe that since I have all I need, I no longer need others to suffer for their wrongs.	I choose to forgive others and have compassion on those who have wronged me.

# Notes/QUESTIONS

# Lesson 7 LAW AND GOSPEL

**The Law and the Gospel co-exist as the two words of God spoken to move us from death into life.**

## I. What is the Law?

The Law is God's righteous standard. Like God, the Law is holy and good. In the OT (Mosaic Covenant) it was meant to restore humanity to flourishing and image bearing. However, the Law could never produce what it required. It could only condemn us, never perfect us.

### A. The Law as measure.

The Law provides a standard that we must live up to. "How do I measure up?" "Just tell me what to do." "What's my score?" "Am I pleasing to God?" "Am I a good Christian?"

*Romans 7:12. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

*Galatians 3:10-12. <sup>10</sup>For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."<sup>11</sup>Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."<sup>12</sup>But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."*

### B. The Law as accusation.

The Law always accuses. We love to be measured but we always eventually fall short. The Law is absolute, and so it will always absolutely condemn you. (Note: Jesus took the law even further beyond behaviors to the heart attitude - even more accusations)

*James 2:10. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.*

### C. The Law as control.

Even though we hate accusations, we love to be in control, so we will always default back to law keeping. The Law seems to offer us a way to control our own lives and destiny. "If I do \_\_\_, then I will be blessed by God." But gaining control through Law only makes you a slave to that Law.

*Galatians 3:23-24. <sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

### D. The Law as death.

The Law can never produce the desired results. Failure to keep the Law brings condemnation and death. Attempts to keep the Law makes you more controlling (relational death).

*1 Corinthians 15:56. The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

*Romans 7:10. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.*

**THE LAW NEVER BRINGS LIFE, ONLY DEATH.**

### Why the Law?

God is love and God is freedom. He created the world to operate from these two principles (laws). We were made to love sacrificially, to give, and to serve. But we must have freedom for love to truly exist. We get the first glimpse of law in the Garden of Eden. God gave a law (don't eat the Tree of Knowledge) so that we could have the freedom to love. When we chose to reject God's law and his love, Sin entered the world and our hearts. In his grace, God has been pursuing us in order to restore us to love and freedom. **God added the Law to reveal our sin and our need for grace.**

*Romans 3:20. through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

## II. What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is God's final word. It is the good news about the free gift of Christ's life by the grace of God. It is God's "one-way love." The gospel is unique and exclusive. There is only one gospel because there is only one Savior.

*Romans 1:16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

### A. The Gospel is forgiveness.

We need forgiveness for all of our sins for all of time. This is what Christ offers us in his life and death. For there to be forgiveness someone has to pay for the offense. In Gospel forgiveness, Christ (the offended) paid the penalty for us (the offender).

- The Law says you need forgiveness.
- The Gospel says you are forgiven.

*Colossians 2:13. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.*

*Ephesians 1:7. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

### B. The Gospel is justification.

The Gospel declares us to be not only forgiven, but also justified (not guilty). We are justified by the imputed righteousness of Christ, received by faith. Now we are free forever from the Law's condemnation.

*Philippians 3:9. [I don't have] a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.*

*Romans 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

### C. The Gospel is new life.

We are not only forgiven and declared not guilty (justified) we are also given a brand new life through union with Christ. The Spirit of Christ is now our controlling power, not the Law. Now we are free forever from the Law's demands.

*Romans 7:6. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*

**Christ and the Law.**

The vicarious death of Christ on the cross for our sins proves the holiness and righteousness of the Law. God did not remove the standard of the Law, rather, he met it in Christ. Just because we could never pay off our debt to the Law doesn't mean we don't still owe it. The good news is that Christ paid that debt. Thus he ended the Law for salvation and as our rule of life.

*Colossians 2:13-14. <sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

*Romans 3:21-26. <sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

*Romans 8:3-4. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

*Romans 10:4. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

**2<sup>2</sup> Discipleship Corner: The Law and Gospel.**

The Law makes us aware of our sin and our need for grace. The gospel provides that needed grace through the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Where can you see the Law at work in your life - measuring you, accusing you, controlling you, even killing you?**

**Where can you see the Gospel at work in your life - receiving grace and forgiveness, giving grace and forgiveness, trusting your union with Christ?**

<b>Law:</b> Revealed in every heart at birth.	<b>Gospel:</b> Revealed by the Spirit and new birth.
<b>Law:</b> Demands without empowering.	<b>Gospel:</b> Empowers without making demands.
<b>Law:</b> Promises blessing if we obey and curses if we disobey.	<b>Gospel:</b> Promises blessing as a gift without conditions attached.
<b>Law:</b> Reveals God's holiness and our sinfulness.	<b>Gospel:</b> Reveals the holiness and grace of God.
<b>Law:</b> Condemns and stirs up sin.	<b>Gospel:</b> Forgives and stirs up grace and faith.



### III. How to Use the Law Properly.

The Gospel has not made the Law useless. There is a proper way for us to use the Law today in pointing people to Christ. Unfortunately many Christians use the law to stir up obedience, but this is an improper use of the Law since the Law can only stir up or give knowledge of sin.

#### A. The Law and unbelievers.

The Law was given to reveal the sinful condition of our hearts and to point us to our need for forgiveness and grace from God.

*Romans 3:20. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

*Galatians 3:24. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

- Guardian: the slave that kept the children. The Law was our guardian that pointed us to Christ.

#### This is how Jesus used the Law.

Jesus used the Law to show people their sin, especially the self-righteous people.

*Matthew 19:16-17. <sup>16</sup>And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."*

*Matthew 5:20. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

#### This is how Paul tells us to use the Law.

*1 Timothy 1:5-11. <sup>5</sup>The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. <sup>6</sup>Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, <sup>7</sup>desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.*

*<sup>8</sup>Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup>understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup>the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, <sup>11</sup>in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.*

**Remember: The demand of the law is perfection.**

**To break any of the Law is to break it all.**

**This eliminates the "my good outweighs my bad" argument.**



*James 2:10. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.*

## B. The Law and believers.

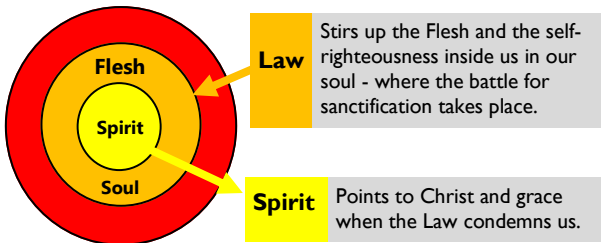
As Christians we are not under the Law, we are under grace (the Gospel).

### The Law cannot justify us, only grace can.

- The Law's standard was not nullified, it was kept by Christ as our substitute.
- Now the Law can no longer condemn us. Jesus took the curse of the Law by becoming its curse for us.
- We are justified by grace through faith in Christ's substitutionary death.

### The Law cannot sanctify us, only grace can.

- Christians often think their good works earn them favor with God.
- We are dead to the Law and its demands.
- We do not grow spiritually by law keeping.
- The Law stirs up the Flesh inside of us and battles the Spirit.



*Romans 6:14. For you are not under law but under grace.*

*Matthew 5:17. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."*

*Gal. 3:13. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.*

*Galatians 2:16. so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

*Romans 3:21-22. <sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law ...*

*<sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.*

*Romans 7:6. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*

*1 Corinthians 15:56. the power of sin is the law.*

*Galatians 5:16-26. <sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But **if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

- There is a battle inside of us of competing desires of the flesh and the Spirit (v.17)
- Paul contrasts "led by the Spirit" and "under the law." (v.18) He is equating the flesh with the law.
- Law keeping can only have two outcomes:
  - 1) You fail to keep the law and become immoral (immorality, impurity, drunkenness, etc.)
  - 2) OR you try harder and harder to obey the Law and become a moralist (strife, anger, rivalry, dissension, division, and envy).
- Law keeping will eventually make you conceited (empty) (v.26) and start envying or provoking.

# 2<sup>2</sup>

## Discipleship Corner: Little "I" Laws.

So far we have been talking about the Law of God in the Bible and how it seeks to accuse and condemn us. But there are also hundreds of "little 'I' laws" that we find ourselves trying to live up to every day which also stir up the flesh.

**What are some of the "little 'I' laws" that you find yourself under every day?**

**What are some of the ways that you put others under "little 'I' laws?"**

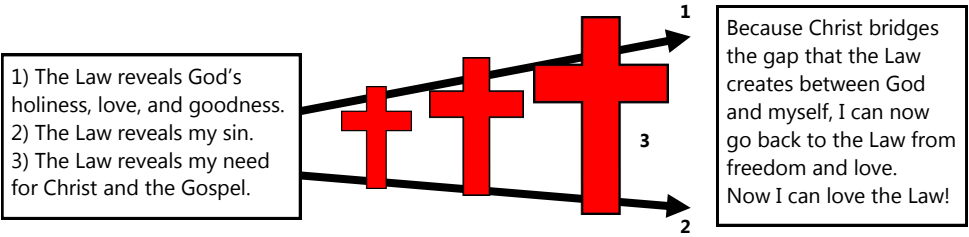
**Read back over Galatians 5:16-26 again. How have these "little 'I' laws" produced conceit (emptiness), provoking (superiority) and envying (inferiority) in your life?**

### C. Moving from Law to Gospel.

The Law still serves an important purpose in our spiritual life and growth. We are in no way trying to nullify the Law of God which is perfect. We want to use it to move our hearts toward the Gospel of grace and union with Christ.

*Romans 7:7-15; 21-25. <sup>7</sup>What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."<sup>8</sup>But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. <sup>9</sup>I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. <sup>10</sup>The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup>For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup>So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. <sup>13</sup>Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good [the Law], in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. <sup>14</sup>For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup>For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*

*<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*



## IV. The Christian and the Law.

Because we are no longer under the Law and it is not our rule for life (union with Christ is) we no longer have to fear the Law. There are many ways that the Law is now beneficial to us in our growth in Christ.

### A. The Law can teach us righteousness.

Now that the righteous requirement of the Law has been credited to us by Christ, we are free to simply learn how to be righteous from the Law without fear of condemnation.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

### B. The Law can teach us how to love.

Now that the love of God has been freely poured into us by the Spirit of Christ, we are free to simply learn how to love from the Law without fear of condemnation.

*Romans 13:8-10. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

### C. We must always teach the Law alongside the Gospel.

The Law is still God's righteous standard that reveals our need for grace. The Gospel will not be heard or understood without both law and grace. Why? Because we must believe we need grace (law) before we will receive that grace (gospel).

**Beware Mixing Law and Gospel** Mixing Law and Gospel corrupts the core belief of Christianity and the Church. It makes the Bible appear to be full of contradictions. Satan wants us to mix faith and works, law and promise, so that we don't really understand either one.

- Mixing Law and Gospel steals our faith in Christ alone.
- Mixing Law and Gospel presents law as good news, and the Gospel as something to do.
- Mixing Law and Gospel will lead to trying to experience God through moralism.
- Mixing Law and Gospel will detach blessings from Christ and attach them to your behavior.
- Mixing Law and Gospel will detach cursing from the Law and attach them to your behavior.

## 2<sup>2</sup> Discipleship Corner: From Law to Gospel.

Understanding how to use both Law and Gospel correctly is an important part of discipleship.

**Where do you think you might be in danger of mixing Law and Gospel?**

**How would you explain the idea of loving the Law without having to keep the Law?**

## Appendix: Under Law or Under Grace.

	<b>Under Law</b>	<b>Under Grace</b>
<b>View of the Law</b>	The Law is a set of detailed obligations that I must keep.	The Law describes where God is moving me by the Spirit—toward love.
<b>View of self</b>	Because I am saved I am able to keep the Law.	I am saved but I still can't keep the Law. By the Spirit I will gradually change.
<b>View of the Holy Spirit</b>	I have little practical understanding of the Spirit's ministry.	I depend on the Holy Spirit for motivation and direction.
<b>The Key to Spiritual Growth</b>	I rely on self discipline and/ or special spiritual experiences for growth.	I know that I cannot grow by self-effort. Change is slow and gradual.
<b>View of Scripture</b>	Confusing because can't differentiate Law from Gospel.	Law and Gospel are harmonized and the scriptures are making sense.
<b>Motivation</b>	I do my duty. Obey the rules	I identify with Christ and his love. I desire to love God.
<b>Reaction to failure</b>	I am surprised when I fail and I make vows to do better (sometimes blame shift).	I am not surprised when I fail. I keep going back to grace and a dependent and active faith.
<b>Reaction to success</b>	I am proud of myself. I am intolerant of other's failures.	I am humbly grateful and still see my need for growth by grace.
<b>Result</b>	Externally I look good, but internally I am a hypocrite, self-righteous, or cynical.	I am gradually becoming more loving, and seeing some victory over sin. I am not measuring my spiritual growth though, I am simply enjoying my freedom in Christ.

# Notes/QUESTIONS

# Lesson 8 INDICATIVES AND IMPERATIVES

**We grow by grace through faith by trusting in God's indicatives and by obeying his imperatives.**

## I. What are Indicatives and Imperatives?

The New Covenant Gospel is spoken to us by God as indicatives (truths about who we are IN CHRIST) and imperatives (commands that CHRIST IN US obeys). Note: do not confuse this with Law and Gospel. New Covenant indicatives and imperatives are BOTH Gospel (both flow from our union with Christ).

INDICATIVES	IMPERATIVES
Truths and promises to be believed	Commands to be obeyed
Who you are IN CHRIST	What CHRIST IN YOU does
Being	Doing from being
By grace through faith	By grace through faith
Faith as dependence	Faith as action
START HERE: we must begin with faith in God's indicatives about our union with Christ and his grace.	MOVE HERE: then we can move to obedience from grace. If we start here, our spiritual growth will become self effort.
Philippians 2:13. for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.	Philippians 2:12. work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
Galatians 5:1. For freedom Christ has set us free	Galatians 5:13. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
Romans 5:5. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.	Romans 12:9-10 <sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection.

**GOD'S IMPERATIVES ARE ALWAYS EMPOWERED BY HIS INDICATIVES**

2<sup>2</sup>**Discipleship Corner: Indicatives and Imperatives.**

The Gospel speaks in both indicatives and imperatives. Both flow from grace and require faith.

**Practice:** for each scripture circle the indicative and underline the imperative.

**Example:** Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you.

1. 1 Jn 4:11. *Beloved, if God so loved us we also ought to love one another.*
2. Eph. 5:1-2. *Be imitators of God as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself for us.*
3. Phil. 2:12-13 *Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*
4. Rom. 12:1. *“Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God”*

**II. Position and Condition**

Understanding indicatives and imperatives gives us another way to view our spiritual growth: Position and Condition.

**A. Position**

When you receive Christ’s life, your position changes from guilty to innocent. Your standing before God is forever perfect. The trajectory of your life has been altered for eternity and you are deemed a new creation in Christ. All spiritual life and growth is based upon our position in Christ. Jesus is the source of our position before God. Because our source (Jesus) is perfect, our position is perfect.

*Ephesians 1:4-6. <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

*Romans 5:1. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Colossians 2:9-10. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have been filled in him.*



*Galatians 3:26-27. <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

*Romans 8:1-2. <sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

*John 8:36. So if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

## B. Condition

God's indicatives reveal that our **position** in him is eternally secure. We are and will always be loved, accepted, and saved. Jesus doesn't just want our position to change, he wants our **condition** to change. He wants to live through us. He wants us to live for him and through him. He wants us to not only BE righteous and full of love, he wants us to DO righteousness and love as his ambassadors.

The problem is that because of the sinful Flesh (lesson 4) we are often not acting righteous and loving. Our **condition** does not live up to our **position**. But the imperatives of the New Covenant command us to live in such a way that our condition is **consistent** with our **position**.

*1 Peter 1:15-16. <sup>15</sup>but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

*Romans 12:1. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

The Christian life can become very discouraging when we focus only on our **condition** without trusting in our **position**. This is what discipleship is: learning and guiding others to focus on their **position** in Christ in order to see change in their **condition**.

# 2<sup>2</sup>

## Discipleship Corner: Position and Condition.

Position: who we are in Christ. Condition: our ongoing experience of Christ.

**In your own life do you tend to focus more on your Position or Condition?**

**Think about a recent spiritual conversation you've had. Did you talk more about the person's Position or Condition?**

<b>By Grace Your Position...</b>	<b>By Grace Your Condition...</b>
Never changes.	Is always changing.
You have a new nature.	You are free - to serve God or to serve the Flesh.
No longer under condemnation of sin.	Your flesh still battles against sin.
You have a new desire to love and obey God.	You experience Godly sorrow over sin.
You are fully sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2; 1:30; Col. 2:10; Heb. 10:10).	You are being sanctified (1 Th. 4:3; 2 Th. 2:13; John 17:17; Heb. 10:14).
God's love for you cannot change.	Your love for God is deepening daily.
You are crucified with Christ	Yet you live by faith.
Abiding in the Vine.	The fruit of the branch.
The Holy Spirit reminds you of your position.	The Devil reminds you of your condition.
Righteousness imputed to us.	You put on the breastplate of righteousness.
You are perfected by Christ.	You are being perfected by Christ.
You rest in God's finished work.	You strive to do Christ's good works.
You are in Christ and Christ is in you.	You are being transformed into Christ's image.
<b>Focusing on your Condition first...</b>	<b>Focusing on your Position first...</b>
Will not change your position.	Will change your condition.
Results in pride or discouragement.	Results in gratitude and humility.
Your failures will destroy you.	You realize God uses failure to transform you.
Desperation leads to self effort - faith in my life.	Desperation leads to faith in Christ's life.
You try harder and harder to "please God."	You learn to rest in Christ.
You make countless resolutions and vows - growth is focused on "rededication" and experiences.	You trust solely in your co-crucifixion with Christ. Growth is focused on faith in Christ's life and work.
Focuses on being like Christ.	Focuses on Christ.
Prays for victory, peace, power, and blessing.	Believes you already have victory, peace, power, and blessing.
If "doing well," may be unaware of sin and the flesh. Feeling good about efforts.	Has an ever increasing awareness of God's holiness, your own sin, and need for grace.
Seeks to cover up sin and weakness.	Although painful, desires for God to bring out the worst in you.
Trying to die daily to sin.	Believes the old man has died once (like Christ).
Disciplines used to achieve love and grace.	Disciplines used to receive love and grace.

### III. Know. Consider. Present.

Romans 6 offers us the most useful instruction about how indicatives and imperatives work together to bring spiritual growth into conformity to Christ. How do we move from indicatives to imperatives? From position to condition? From In Christ to Christ in us? We KNOW. We CONSIDER. We PRESENT.

*Romans 6:1-14. <sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?<sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?<sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

*<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup>Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.*

*<sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

#### A. Know

To KNOW means learning what the Bible says about your new identity in Christ and understanding it. We must know the positional truths, the indicatives, of our salvation.

*Romans 6:6. **We know** that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

- When Jesus died you died.
- Our old sin nature is dead.
- Sin no longer has any power over you. You are free to sin or not sin. Sin cannot condemn you.

We must KNOW that Jesus not only died FOR us, but that we also died WITH Jesus. Many Christians would say they are forgiven but there is still no change in their lives. Why? Because they don't know the fullness of their union with Christ. If we don't also know that we are dead to sin and free from sin's control, we will continue to live under its demands. This knowledge is based on a fact: Jesus died and rose again. The old you died with Christ and the new you was raised with Christ. This is a fact that you must know before you can be free.

"Let me tell you, You have died! You are done with! You are ruled out! The self you loathe is on the Cross in Christ. And 'he that is dead is freed from sin' (Rom 6:7). This is the Gospel for Christians. Our crucifixion can never be made effective by will or by effort, but only by accepting what the Lord Jesus did on the Cross."

- Watchman Nee

## B. Consider

Consider is an accounting term (*legizomai* - to reckon, count, impute). We must choose by faith to affirm the realities of our union with Christ - We are dead to sin! And alive to God in Christ Jesus!

*Romans 6:11. So you also must **consider** yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

This profound verse is a summary of our salvation. Our CORE NEEDS (lesson 5) find their satisfaction here. But we must choose to **consider** (trust, have faith in) our new reality.

If a large amount of money was added to your bank account it would be important to add it to the ledger and operate from this new bottom line, regardless of what your feelings, memories, or others might say. Our ledger of sin debits is blank, it's full of Jesus' credits. God operates with us as if we are righteous and debt free. We must **consider** ourselves the same in two ways:

- 1) We are dead to sin.** The power of sin's condemnation and control has been removed from inside of us.
- 2) We are alive to God in Christ Jesus.** We are not only free from sin's control, but we have a new controlling power - Christ's own resurrected life!

Many Christians fail to live and make daily choices from our position of being dead to sin and alive to God. We must let God expose false identity beliefs inside of us. We must help our spiritual friends to identify these lies. We must see that we now can change because we are free from sin and free to love.

This is faith -- to believe that you have already got it. Only that which relates to the past is faith in this sense. Those who say 'God can' or 'God may' or 'God must' or 'God will' do not necessarily believe at all. Faith always says, 'God has done it'. When, therefore, do I have faith in regard to my crucifixion? Not when I say God can, or will, or must crucify me, but when with joy I say, 'Praise God, in Christ I am crucified!' - Watchman Nee

## C. Present

Following our knowing and considering, we must stop presenting our lives to sin and rather present ourselves to God for righteousness. If considering is the dependent side of faith, presenting is the active side of faith. Our actions must fall in line with our beliefs.

Romans 6:13-14. <sup>13</sup>Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members [body] to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

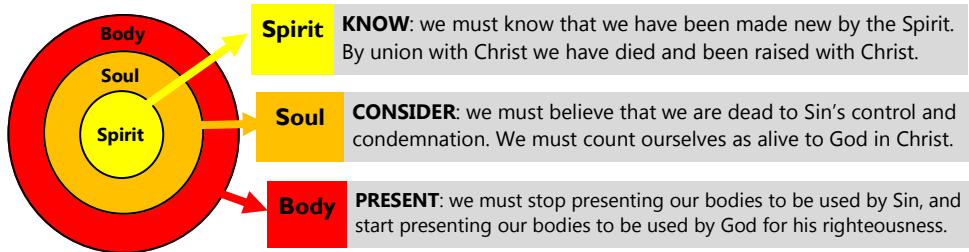
- "Do not, but do" - Paul uses this formula often (put off and put on; stop start). We must stop using our bodies for sin and start letting God use them for his righteousness. Notice the pattern in the scriptures below:

Ephesians 4:28. Let the thief no longer steal [do not present your members to sin], but rather let him labor [present yourself to God], doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

2 Timothy 2:22. So flee youthful passions [do not present your members to sin] and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, [present yourself to God] along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Colossians 3:5-14 <sup>5</sup>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry... <sup>8</sup>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator... <sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

It is a great thing when I discover I am no longer my own but His. If the ten shillings in my pocket belong to me, then I have full authority over them. But if they belong to another who has committed them to me in trust, then I cannot buy what I please with them, and I dare not lose them. Real Christian life begins with knowing this. How many of us know that, because Christ is risen, we are therefore alive "unto God" and not unto ourselves? - Watchman Nee



2

## Discipleship Corner: Know, Consider, Present.

Spiritual growth occurs through knowing, considering, and presenting. Use the next page to think through your answers to these questions.

- **Know:** do you know your identity in Christ? What false identities still control your life? Can you name them?
- **Consider:** how can counting yourself dead to sin and alive to God allow you to battle these false identities?
- **Present:** how specifically can you present yourself to God in this area?

# Notes/QUESTIONS

# Congratulations!

You have completed the **LIFE** study. You have worked really hard and hopefully learned much. But the reality is the best way to learn the truths of the Gospel is to teach them to someone else.

That's why this is called **2 Squared** Discipleship. Our prayer is that you would use this study to disciple someone else. Have you been praying for who that person would be? Do you have someone in mind?

There are many resources you can use to disciple someone. This book is just one of them. Discipleship can be done in many different ways too. Some more formal, and some very informal. If you need help getting started just let us know and ask for help.

You can email Pastor Brady at [bwolcott@gbcbowie.org](mailto:bwolcott@gbcbowie.org)

We will be praying with you that you will take the time to invest in someone else's life. We want to stand by you to equip you to do this as well– that is the point of this book.

May God grant you the great joy that comes through obeying the Great Commission. May you be able to say about someone at the throne of Christ:

*1 Thessalonians 2:19-20. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.*

Grace and Peace,  
The GBC Pastoral Team