

# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION I

### BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

#### LESSON ONE

### INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELING

#### INTRODUCTION

Counseling has become one of the greatest money making professions of our time. The cost of psychiatric services reached 136 billion dollars per year in 1991. Treatments for alcohol and substance abuse cost an additional 160 billion dollars. Psychological counseling is thought to be the answer to almost any need in our society. If a person has a sin problem, take him to a psychologist; if a family is dysfunctional, take them to a psychologist; if a man's work ethics are bad, take him to a psychologist; if a person does not like himself, take him to a psychologist; if a person has to trust in God for anything, take him to a psychologist; and the list goes on.

Counseling has become a part of nearly every organization in our country--schools, colleges, churches, police departments, fire departments, government agencies, hospitals--just to mention a few. These organizations must offer some form of counseling or they will be rejected in our society and possibly even be held liable by their employees for questionable actions. In many cases the company is legally forced to provide "proper" counseling. Most people recognize the need for counseling, but do not understand that the main issue about counseling is from *who, where, and what* source they get counsel?

#### I. WHAT IS COUNSELING?

- A. Webster defines counseling as the "giving of advice; to recommend; or to urge the acceptance of an action."
- B. Strong's Concordance defines counseling as "giving advice; to deliberate or resolve; to speak a matter; a consultation, a session; to sit down together; to give guidance or a plan.

- C. Proverbs 8:14, "Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength." Biblical counseling is to give forth the counsel that belongs to wisdom as proclaimed by this verse. Counsel should always be based on wisdom and not on personal thoughts or desires. When a Christian gives advice, he should first seek the wisdom that comes from God through the Bible. James 3:17, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

## II. WHO SHOULD GIVE COUNSEL?

- A. Everyone gives counsel. Every time a person gives advice to someone else he is counseling. There is no biblical position or office of "counselor". Counseling is a part of every position the New Testament Christian holds. The major issue is not **who** is counseling but from **what authority** did the person doing the counsel get his information. A wise person will always evaluate the person giving the counsel and establish his credentials. It is amazing how everyone seems to have the answer to another's problems, but very seldom produce in their own lives what they so freely advise others. The old adage, "do as I say, not as I do" disqualifies the person from being a source of wise counsel. **Don't forget ensample!!!**
1. Psalms 1:1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."
  2. Psalms 33:10-11, "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."
  3. Proverbs 12:5, "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit."
  4. Job 38:1-2, "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?"

- B. Proverbs 12:20, "Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy." One of the primary qualifications for counselors is that they be at peace. When a Christian seeks counsel from someone who does not have or produce peace, he is not wise.
- C. Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Jesus was prophesied as **the** Counselor. Everyone who knows Christ and has a personal relationship with Him should represent Christ and know Him as Counselor.  
Isaiah 11:1-2, "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;"

### III. WHY DO PEOPLE NEED COUNSELING?

- A. For salvation. Ninety-nine point ninety-nine percent of those who get saved do so because someone counseled with them. Evangelism is a form of godly counseling because it is the action of a wise man advising someone else to follow Christ. Romans 10:14, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"
- B. For wisdom.
  - 1. Proverbs 1:5, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:"
  - 2. Proverbs 12:15, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."
  - 3. Proverbs 19:20, "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."

- C. To establish God's purposes. Proverbs 15:22, "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established." Proverbs 20:18, "Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war." In the multitude of counselors the **purposes** of God are established. This does not mean that a Christian should go to many different counselors until he finds one who agrees with him. It means that when there are many counselors, the **purposes** that God has established will be accomplished. When a person establishes his life on the Bible he should be willing to share this wisdom and advice with others.
- D. To continue in the work of God. Proverbs 11:14, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety". God has always used others to teach and encourage those who follow Him. His plan has not changed and when there are no counselors, the people of God fall.
- E. To help a person correct wrong actions in his life. The Bible gives three sources of wrong action.
1. **Personal sin.**
    - a. Sin is a spiritual problem and should be dealt with as spiritual. The person giving counsel should always seek a spiritual solution to the sin problem. It is imperative that the person giving counsel understand that sin is the problem in the majority of cases.
    - b. A person sins because he chooses to. When a saved person has wrong actions and he sins, it comes from the same source as a lost person--the carnal, earthly flesh. The ensuing sin action is not caused by circumstances but choice. Everyone tries to justify (innocent of any wrong action) their sin by blaming it on circumstances or other people. Many times a Christian fails to recognize his wrong action as sin and labels his action as sickness.
    - c. No saved person **has** to sin.  
I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." To correct a

sin problem, a Christian must recognize it as sin and deal with it as a self-willed act of rebellion against God, no matter who committed the sin.

2. **Organic illness.** There are many behavioral control substances that alter a person's actions and all the counseling in the world will not change them. Most of the time the problem is due to self-induced substances such as drugs (alcohol included). There are a **few** instances in which a deficiency of chemicals or over-production of chemicals cause behavioral problems. Many times psychiatrists **say** there is a chemical imbalance but no tests are run to **substantiate** the disorder. Therefore, they are making a diagnosis based on presumption. They then prescribe drugs which actually cause behavioral disorders and eliminate the person's ability to properly change with counseling. Certain drugs prevent the input and/or retention of knowledge given through counseling. Never! Never! Never! try to counsel someone who is taking a behavioral control substance. In this situation, the only counsel that should be given is how to get off these kinds of drugs.
3. **Demonic activity.** There are several different ways satanic forces cause behavioral problems.
  - a. Possession. Possession means ownership or lordship. Many times people use the two words "ownership" and "indwelling" interchangeably, but they mean two different things. The question often asked is "can a Christian be possessed" and the answer is definitely **NO**. He has already been bought and paid for by Jesus Christ and Christ is the owner.

However, under certain **extreme** and unusual circumstances, a Christian may be temporarily controlled or even indwelt by a satanic force. If a Christian gives up his will, he loses his control until he reinstates his will. Once the will is reinstated, the Christian is back in control. The following are ways a Christian gives up control.

- (1) By activating his self-will over the Holy Spirit of God (rebellion). A Christian gives up his will by being very "hard

headed". I Samuel 15:23 , "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

- (2) By willfully placing himself under the control of someone who is not a true representative of God. Proverbs 2:12-15, "To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:" Proverbs 16:17, "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul."
- (3) By willfully placing the control of his actions under the control of a substance. Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Isaiah 28:7, "But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment." The Christian should be very cautious and know what reactions a substance can cause. The English word "witchcraft" comes from the Latin word "pharmacia", the same word in which we get the word "pharmacy" or "drugs".
- (4) By allowing extreme anger or wrath (loss of temper) to temporarily control him instead of submitting to God. Matthew 16:21-23, "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and

scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan:** thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

- b. Oppression. Oppression comes from someone else through a **governmental** structure which may be an individual (for example a husband, father, mother), a company, a country, or even a church. When a person is forced down by some outside governmental force it is oppression and the true source could be satanic. An example of this would be a communistic government.
- c. Influence. Acts 13:6-12, "And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him. And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord." This type of influence comes from an **individual** source (a good example is a gang). Many people have been fooled by others who were directly or indirectly under the control of a demonic force.

A Christian seeking help may have good intentions and a genuine submission, but to the wrong person or the wrong god.

#### IV. WHAT GOOD COUNSEL PRODUCES.

- A. Godly counsel is sweet.
1. Psalms 55:14, "We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company." If the counsel given does not bring people into the house of God, then godly counsel has not been given.
  2. Proverbs 27:9, "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel." Godly counsel is hearty or healthy.
- B. Proverbs 20:5, "Counsel in the heart is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out." Christians should give counsel from their heart, with caring and loving. Counsel should be drawn out and given because of an understanding heart. The world gives out counsel for earthly gain; but Christians should give counsel because they love God.
- C. II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Luke 9:62, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." A Christian needs to understand he can live a new life in Christ. The greatest reason a Christian does not become what God intends is because he looks back at the past and not forward to the future. Every time a Christian looks back, a negative action will come from it. It may be condemnation or it may be pride. A Christian cannot re-live the past nor change it.

Worldly counsel deals with the past; godly counsel deals with the future. II Peter 2:20-22, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it

had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." A Chinese proverb says that a person's disposition is determined by his attitude about the future.

D. II Peter 1:3, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" The knowledge of God, from the Word of God, provides direction for **real** change. When a Christian properly uses the Word of God to direct another person's life, the counsel is absolutely correct. Psychology and other forms of counseling, which might even have the word "Christian" attached to it, do not have the authority for change. They can only help people conform. Only the Word of God-not watered down or mixed with anything else-has the power to really change lives. Colossians 2:8-10, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" II Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." The Bible commands us to change.

1. I Peter 1:14-15, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;" A Christian is not to fashion counsel, or govern his life according to the former lust he had while living in ignorance. There are many counselors in a Christian's life who are ignorant of the Word of God. They try to help with worldly counsel, specifically psychology, with all its different forms. When a Christian goes to another Christian for counsel, it is very important to look at the fruit of his life, not just what he says. **The reality and effectiveness of inputting**

**God's word into life must be seen in the one giving counsel.**

Sometimes a Christian will counsel others and say "this is what I think" or "this is what the Bible says", but if it didn't work in his life, something is wrong. The problem usually is how that person incorrectly applied (or did not apply) the Bible to his life. Romans 15:14, "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another." II Timothy 3:10-11, "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me."

2. Ephesians 4:17, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind," Do not walk as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their minds (psycho). Lost people base their lives on what **they** think, not what **God** says. So-called Christian psychology ("of Christ and of the mind?") is based on what someone **thinks** about God. All the thoughts of the carnal man are vain and self-centered. I Corinthians 3:18-20, "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."
3. II Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." All of the growth in the life of a Christian should be based on the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.



# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION I

### BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

#### LESSON TWO

#### PEOPLE NOT EVENTS

##### INTRODUCTION

There are events in every person's life that cause distress, which may lead to sin and self-centeredness. Everyone has to face these difficult events; people will die, sickness will come, people mistreat others, accidents occur, children grow up, adults grow old, and many other things happen that are a part of life. How each individual deals with the problems of his life is the issue.

Contemporary counseling tries to change the circumstances and events in a person's life to enable him to cope with his life. Some counselors take the position that events in a person's life are what caused him to be what he is. The Bible's position is that a person is what he is because of his **internal** character and will cope with the situations of life according to his internal resources. When counseling with any person, the issue is the person, not the circumstances or the problem. It is impossible to change the events a person has experienced or most of the things he will encounter.

However, it **is** possible to change the person, enabling him to deal with the past and future correctly and effectively. Biblical counseling should always be directed toward the person, not the problem or event. In Mark 7:18-23, the Bible explains it is the things in a man's heart that defiles him, not the external things. God deals with a person's heart and does not justify his wrong actions because of circumstances.

##### I. A CHRISTIAN SHOULD NOT HAVE RESPECT OF PERSONS.

It is very easy to fall into the trap of respecting a person because of their job, position, education, race, socio-economic level, sex, age, or any other area of their life. Respecting a person can cause the counselor to give preferential treatment when determining the advice to

give. The Bible states very clearly that a person should be dealt with according to what is in his heart, not who he is in society.

- A. The New Testament Christian is instructed not to have respect of persons.
1. James 2:1, "Brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons." A Christian should always base his actions toward others from faith and from the instructions of Jesus Christ, in both every day life and in counseling.
  2. James 2:9, "If ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin." Not only does God instruct the Christian not to have respect of persons, but specifically says it is a sin to have respect of persons. Sometimes it is very difficult to treat everyone the same when counseling, but when a counselor varies his advice several things come into effect.
    - a. The one doing the counseling is determining the correct action instead of God and His instructions.
    - b. The one doing the counseling is placed in a vulnerable position and could be accused of lying because he is giving different counsel to people.
    - c. The one doing the counseling places himself in a damaging position because he must remember everything he tells everyone to make sure he does not contradict himself.
  3. Jude 14-16, "Having men's persons in admiration because of advantage." According to this passage, the motive for having respect of persons is to gain some advantage. A Christian who counsels must give a beggar or the president of the United States the same advice, and it must be from the Word of God.
- B. The Old Testament instructed the followers of God not to have respect of persons.
1. Deuteronomy 1:17, "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as he great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it."

2. Deuteronomy 16:19, "Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise and pervert the words of the righteous."
  3. Proverbs 24:23, "These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment."
  4. Proverbs 28:21. "To have respect of persons is not good: for a piece of bread that man will transgress."
  5. Job 32:21, "Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man."
- C. God is not a respecter of persons.
1. The Bible clearly states that God is not a respecter of persons.
    - a. Romans 2:11, "For there is no respect of persons with God."
    - b. Acts 10:34, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."
    - c. Deuteronomy 10:17, "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward."
- D. Jesus was not a respecter of persons. Matthew 22:16, "And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men."

## II. HOW TO IDENTIFY AN EVIL MAN.

- A. He is a *vain* person. (Empty or worthless)
1. Ecclesiastes 1:2, "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." The whole book of Ecclesiastes address vanity.
  2. Psalms 10:4-7, "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them. He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be

in adversity. His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity."

3. Ephesians 4:17, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind."
4. II Peter 2:18, "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error."

B. He is a **froward** person. (to turn aside; crooked).

1. Proverbs 2:12-15. An evil man is froward in his paths. "To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:"
2. Proverbs 3:32, "For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous."
3. Psalms 101:4, "A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person."
4. Proverbs 8:13, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

C. He is a **naughty** person. (to be ruined)

1. Proverbs 6:12, "A naughty person, a wicked man," walketh with a froward mouth."
2. Proverbs 17:4, "A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue."

D. He is a **wicked** person. (morally wrong)(to be wrong)

1. Psalms 52:7, "Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness."
2. Psalms 7:11, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day."
3. Psalms 37:32, "The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him."

4. Proverbs 3:33, "The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just."
  5. Ephesians 6:16, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."
  6. II Peter 3:17, "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."
- E. He is a ***mischievous*** person. (to make a plan - in a bad sense)
1. Psalms 38:12, "They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long."
  2. Proverbs 24:8, "He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person."
  3. Psalms 28:3, "Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts."
  4. Proverbs 6:14, "Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord."
- F. He is a ***scornful*** person. (to mouth off; to scoff)
1. Proverbs 15:12, "A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise."
  2. Proverbs 22:10, "Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease."
  3. Proverbs 24:9, "The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men."
- G. He is a ***vile*** person. (infamy; disgrace)
- Romans 1:26, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature."

### III. COUNSEL FROM THE WORD OF GOD IS FOR THE SAVED PERSON

#### A. He must have God's blessing

1. Psalms 32:2, "Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."
2. Psalms 84:12, "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."
3. Psalms 94:12, "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law."
4. Psalms 112:1, "Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments."
5. Romans 4:8, "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

#### B. He must be able to understand the things of God.

1. I Corinthians 2:11, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."
2. Galatians 6:1, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a **fault** (a side-slip), ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

## CONCLUSION

There are two divisions of people in the world - the saved and the lost. Trying to counsel a lost person with biblical direction is a waste of time, except when pointing the person to Christ. When counseling a saved person, the person doing the counseling must realize they are both equal, no matter what circumstance has

happened in the life of the person being counseled. Remember, except for the grace of God, anyone would be in that same condition and possibly in the same situation. Deal with the person being counseled as a brother or sister in Christ. Christians should build, not judge or tear down. A person should always be counseled from what the Bible says no matter who he is in this world.

## HOMEWORK

Read Ecclesiastes

Explain specific characteristics the Bible teaches to identify the following types of people:

vain: \_\_\_\_\_

froward: \_\_\_\_\_

naughty: \_\_\_\_\_

wicked: \_\_\_\_\_

mischievous: \_\_\_\_\_

scornful \_\_\_\_\_

vile: \_\_\_\_\_

# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION I

### BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

#### LESSON THREE

#### CHANGE NOT CONFORMITY

##### INTRODUCTION

In today's society, the word "change" is used several different ways with a variety of definitions. The following is a sample of a few uses of the word change.

(1) Change - denotes a making or becoming distinctly different and implies either a radical transmutation of character or replacement with something else; such as to change clothes.

(2) Change - alter - implies a partial change, as in appearance, so that the identity is preserved; such as to alter a garment.

(3) Change - vary - suggests irregular or intermittent change; such as to vary one's reading habits.

(4) Change - modify - implies minor change, often so as to limit or moderate; such as to modify the language of a report.

(5) Change -transform - implies a change in form, usually in nature or function; such as to transform matter into energy.

(6) Change - convert - suggests more strongly change to suit a new function; such as to convert a garage into a den. There are several other ways the word change can be used, such as coins (money). In this lesson the word change is used only to imply a putting on of a new character or becoming a different person, to be converted or transformed.

There are many people who accept the idea that nothing can be transformed. This thinking comes from the skeptic who says "why try, nothing can be changed anyway"; or from the counselor who says "once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic"; or from the religious teacher who says "God predestined everything so why resist". It is a fact that a person cannot change or escape the bondage

of sin without God. The world cannot offer a change of life. It can only offer a relocation of circumstances or conformity to a person's surroundings. The world system is very destructive in teaching there is no hope for permanent change. The world tends to adhere to defeat because of this teaching. In a time when Christianity should be growing rapidly, because of the change it offers, it is failing because the majority of Christian teachers accept this false concept of no change.

Bible-believing Christians should realize that the development of godly character and a godly life comes from the underlying truth of change. In reference to the Christian, the Bible says "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17. Every person on the face of the earth can have a transformed or changed life, but only through Jesus Christ the Lord.

#### I. CHANGE BEGINS AT SALVATION.

A. Without Jesus Christ, a person is still the same inside, bound by sin to the world system. There is no escape without change. The world system works backward from what the Bible teaches. They try to save themselves by earning salvation from God. The Bible teaches in Matthew 16:25, Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, and Luke 17:33 that a person must lose his life to save it. People in need will spend thousands of dollars and extensive time in counseling trying to gain change, not knowing that change only comes when a person gives up his life for the new life in Christ.

1. Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." There is no other way of being saved than through Jesus Christ the Lord. Salvation is not only being rescued from the lake of fire (which is the penalty for sin) but also a severing from the world system. Sin is the connector that binds a person to the world system. Salvation removes sin and breaks the connection. John 3:16-18, 36.
2. Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes it. There is no salvation outside of the gospel of Jesus

Christ (the death, burial and resurrection of Christ). I Corinthians 15:1-3.

3. Romans 5:10, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Before salvation, the lost are referred to as the enemies of God and consequently cannot experience the working of Christ in their lives. The lost are without God until they accept Him as their Savior. Psalms 35:9.
- B. The lost person cannot know the things of God because they do not possess the Spirit of God. I Corinthians 2:11. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." This verse says that **no** man knows the things of God without the Spirit of God. God promises that He would make man a new creature and change him, but that change must be through Jesus Christ.
  - C. The lost person glories in his progress and apparent changes in life, but sees the changes as self-produced. This shows that there is no real change at all, only acts of conformity to help them into the world system. When a person accepts Christ, he is crucified (dead) to the world and the world is crucified (dead) unto him. Galatians 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."
  - D. The saved person experiences something that is called regeneration (to give again the period of a person's life) which cannot be explained by anything in this world system. Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" The lost person's life is of no use because of the sin attachment to the world system, but by regeneration a person's life is changed and he becomes a "new generation".

## II. CHANGE REQUIRES A RECOGNITION OF GOD'S WORK.

- A. Before salvation, a person must recognize that God did the work that produced salvation. After salvation, a Christian must continue the recognition process of God's work or the change will not take pre-eminence.

1. Romans 10:3, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Israel was ignorant of the righteousness of God and sought to establish a righteousness of its own. Much of the teachings and counseling of today try to establish a righteousness that originates with man and not with God. This places the work load on the person and his abilities--not on God. Man is unrighteous and can never do enough good works to change unrighteousness into righteousness.
  2. John 8:47, "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." People who are not of God do not hear the words of God and, therefore, seek change without God. Consequently, they are condemned to conformity and burdened with their sins for the rest of their lives and into eternity.
  3. Romans 4:1-8. (verse 4) "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. (verse 5) "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Those who do not recognize the work of God try to do all the work themselves, seeking to gain favor with God. They see their importance based on their works not God's grace. Righteousness comes from the works of God; justification comes by receiving the righteousness of God by faith, not by any works of man.
- B. After salvation, a Christian must continue to recognize the works of God in his life or he will revert back to works of his own and, once again, violate the grace of God by trying to keep the law. (to fall from grace)
1. I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." A Christian must abound (to be present in great quantity) in the work of the Lord and avoid getting caught up in the world system of self-importance based on personal works. When a Christian's works are based on his salvation and relationship with God, then his works are not in vain.

2. Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" The work that God began in a Christian at the point of salvation will continue, and God will perform His work until the end **if** the Christian will hold steadfast with confidence in Christ. The action in the life of a Christian which produces a need for counseling comes from failure to adhere to God's word working in his life. By adhering to self-works, sin again connects a person to the world system and produces defeat and condemnation.
3. Philippians 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." God works in the Christian to do the will of God in accordance to His good pleasure. A Christian should never fight God and try to go his own direction, but submit himself to God and rejoice in God's direction.

### III. CHANGE TAKES PLACE BY CHOICE.

- A. Rom 12:1-2, "and be ye transformed (changed) by the renewing of your mind." Until a person's mind is changed by choosing salvation and the Word of God, his life will not experience change. A Christian must see himself as forgiven by God and **know** that he has a new life in Christ. A lost person is guilt-ridden and controlled by the condemnation that comes from sin. A Christian will experience the same feelings of condemnation until he renews his mind and sees himself as a new person, washed clean by Jesus Christ and free to live his new life in peace with God.
  1. Colossians 3:10, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:" When a Christian puts on the new man and sees his life as released from the bondage of sin, he will seek the knowledge of the Word of God and be renewed after the image of God.
  2. Ephesians 4:17, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind," Ephesians 4:22-24, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the

old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." When a Christian turns from the way of sin and follows the way of Christ it results in a renewed spirit in the mind.

3. II Corinthians 4:16, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." The outward man (the body) will perish, but a Christian should not faint. He should be renewed day by day in the inward man (the new spiritual man).
- B. A Christian should desire the new life that God has provided for him and choose to reject the old sinful man that had control in the past.
1. Psalms 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." David (a man after God's own heart) went to God after sinning and asked God to create in him a clean heart and to renew a right spirit. A saved person who has fallen into the control of sin should seek to be renewed and not go back into the way of the world. Luke 9:62.
  2. Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; ...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua (the leader of Israel and the man that would not leave God) stated that he and his house chose to serve the Lord and placed the challenge to everyone else to choose whom they would serve.
  3. Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." When a Christian chooses God's way and waits upon the Lord, he shall be renewed by God and his strength will return to him.

#### IV. CHANGE HAS TO BE PRACTICED TO HAVE LONGEVITY.

A. After a Christian chooses to put on the new man and follow the instructions of the Word of God, it is necessary that he continue in his new life or he will revert back to the world system because of his sin nature. When a Christian chooses to be negligent in practicing his Christianity, he is choosing the old man and old way of life.

1. Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." The Lord will keep a Christian in perfect peace as long as his mind is dwelling on Jesus Christ. Most of the internal turmoil in a Christian's life is the result of failing to trust in God and not keeping his mind on Christ.
2. Luke 8:4-15. Verse 15 "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." In the parable of the sower, the crop that produces is the one that keeps the Word of God with an honest and good heart.
3. Luke 11:27-28, "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." A woman came to Christ and said blessed is the woman that gave Him birth and nursed Him, but Christ said to bless the person that hears the Word of God and keeps it.
4. James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Pure religion is when a Christian keeps himself unspotted from the world.
5. Jude 20-21, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God,

looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude instructs the Christian to build himself up in the faith and to keep himself in the love of God.

- B. God will keep those who keep their minds and hearts on Christ their Savior.
  - 1. Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, will keep the Christian's heart and mind through Jesus Christ the Lord.
  - 2. II Thessalonians 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." The Lord who is faithful will establish the Christian and keep him from evil.

#### V. CHANGE IS PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD.

- A. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he puts off the old man and becomes a new man. If the saved person does not continue seeing himself as the new man in Christ, he will never become the Christian God wants him to be.
  - 1. Galatians 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Everyone who has been baptized into Christ has put on Christ. It is essential that the Christian put on Christ and show Him to others. It's somewhat like wearing a new coat and letting everyone see the new garment.
  - 2. Ephesians 4:23-24, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." When a Christian has put on the new man and renewed his mind, others will see the righteousness and true holiness of God for which the new man was created to show.
  - 3. Colossians 3:14, "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." The Christian should put on charity which is the bond

of perfectness and that will cause him to live a godly life.

- B. The saved person should put on the armor of God because it is his protection as well as his appearance.
1. Luke 11:21-23, "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." If someone who is stronger takes away the armor of a Christian, the loss is great and the Christian loses his trust. Christ said that whosoever is not with Him is against Him. When a Christian has lost the armor of Christ, the counselor's responsibility is to help him put it back on and then face the strong man with the strength of God.
  2. Romans 13:12, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." The Christian should put off the works of darkness (world) and put on the armor of light (Jesus Christ). In counseling, success or failure will be determined by what the person being counseled "puts on" in his life. If the person being counseled continues to wear the world and sin, (which is easily identified by his selfishness) the counselor cannot guide him in a new life. The person must change his identity.
  3. Ephesians 6:11-18. A Christian must put on the whole armor of God and wear it continually to be what God wants him to be.
- C. I Samuel 17:1-58. When David went against Goliath, he chose not to use the armor of the king but chose to trust in the things God had given him.

## CONCLUSION

There is nothing greater in the life of any person than to be given regeneration and a new life. So many times a person will look back and recognize that they have wasted their life. When a person is given new life, he should look forward to what he is going to produce and understand the real reason to live. It is very easy for a Christian to go back to the old life if he does not understand the new life's benefits and privileges. Any time one Christian helps another by giving him advice, he should always point the person in need to his new life in Christ.

## HOMEWORK

Read Isaiah

How do people really change? Give detailed answer of the process of changing

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION II

### BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

#### LESSON FOUR

### LOVING WITH THE LOVE OF GOD

#### INTRODUCTION

There is a lot of talk and teaching today about love, most of which is done with little or no understanding of what God intended when He used the word "love" in the Bible. In the Greek language, there were several words that translated into English as love, each one having a different meaning. There was a word used for motherly love, another used for fatherly love, another for loving an animal, another for brotherly love, another for physical love, and a special word for godly love, which is *agape*'.

Most of the time, the word love (as it is used in American culture today) would not be translated as love from any of the Greek words describing love. Instead it would be translated as covet, desire, or lust. In America, the concept of the word love has come to mean a conditional relationship based on circumstances rather than character. Many times parents will tell their children that they will not love them if they are not good. Husbands conditionally love their wives and wives conditionally love their husbands. This so-called love is based on the other person's action instead of the internal character of the person doing the loving. The implication of this love is that it will only last as long as the other person does what is expected or gives what they are expected to give. God loves because He is God and it is His character to love. It is crucial that Christians learn to love as God does with His character and His love.

- I. **GOD GIVES LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY.** There are many who believe that God does not love a person until he gets saved, but the way a person gets saved is through God's love for him. The greatest love that has ever existed is the love that God has for a lost person.

- A. John 3:16-God loved the world. God sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay for the sins of everyone on the earth. In John 15:13 the Bible explains that there is no greater love than to give one's life for another. In Romans 5:8 the Bible says that, "God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
- B. I John 4:8-God is love. God is a person--not just an idea. He is the source of love because love is the first attribute of God. Without God there is no love. In verse seven of this passage, the Bible states that love is of God. Also, in Galatians 5:22 the first thing listed in the fruit of the Spirit is love. In II Corinthians 13:11 God is referred to as the God of love. God is a real person with the ability to love because it is His character to love. Without Him there would be no love; there would only be the earthly, selfish concept of covetousness.

II. ONLY THOSE WHO ACCEPT THE LOVE OF GOD POSSESS HIS LOVE. The Greek word agape' can be used as a noun or a verb in the Bible. As a noun it shows possession and as a verb it shows action. God possesses love for the lost man and His action of love towards him provides salvation through Jesus Christ. A person does not possess or have the love of God until he accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. At salvation, a Christian is given the love of God as a possession and then he has the capacity to love others. A lost person cannot love others with the love of God because he does not possess it. It is impossible for a person to give what he does not have.

- A. I John 4:19, "We love him, because he first loved us." The person who has accepted the love of God and is saved has the capacity to love God because God first loved him. In I John 3:16 the Bible states, "he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." A lost person does not have the ability to love God with godly love. There are many lost people who appear to love God, but they do not possess the unselfish love of God and their love is from a selfish desire that wants the things of God. In some way they hope to gain favor with God through their actions which they consider to be love.

- B. John 5:42, "But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you." When Jesus addressed the Jews in John chapter five, He identified their position with God by stating they did not have the love of God in them. The possession of the love of God is given to each saved person and, along with it, the privilege to be called the sons of God. I John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."
- C. Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Once a person has the love of God in him it is impossible for that love to be removed. God's love is permanent and maintained by Jesus Christ the Lord.

III. THE CONTROLLING FACTOR OF LOVING OTHERS IS LOVING GOD. Those who love God **will** love others. Many times Christians will set goals in life to learn how to love others, when loving others is accomplished by simply loving God. As a Christian loves God, he will love others. When a Christian is not loving others, he is not loving God. I John 5:1-2, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments."

- A. Mark 12:30-31, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." There are two commandments by which a New Testament Christian is to live his life. The first is to love God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second is to love his neighbor as himself. A Christian should build his life on these two actions.
- B. John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye

are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The disciples of Jesus were given the new commandment to love one another, and by this love men would know that they were the disciples of Christ. For the last two thousand years Christians have been known or identified by the love that they have for each other. Any saved person who wishes to identify himself as a follower of Jesus Christ must show love to others. The only way he can show love to others is to genuinely love the Lord Jesus Christ.

- C. I Corinthians 2:9-14. Verse 9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Verse 12, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." God has prepared many things for those who love Him. A carnal man will seek the things which come from God and never understand the reasoning or purposes of God. When a Christian loves God he will understand the Bible, the principles of God's way, and the direction for his life.

David was referred to as a man after God's own heart. Acts 13:22. There is no greater testimony that can be given of any person than for God to refer to him as a person who loves God and affects the very heart of God. ***The question every Christian must answer and deal with is whether or not he loves God.***

- D. I Corinthians 8:3, "But if any man love God, the same is known of him." Those who love God are known by Him. The Bible informs the Christian that God knows him by the love he has for God. John 14:21. When a Christian loves God, God not only knows the Christian but also knows what he will do. A Christian's actions are controlled by his love for God and, consequently, are godly.
- E. I John 4:7-8, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Everyone that loves with the love of God is born of God because He is love. Since God is love and He gave that love to Christians, it is an easy thing for Christians to love each other.

- F. I John 3:11-14. Verse 11, "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." Verse 14, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." If a Christian does not love his brothers and sisters in Christ, he abides in the lost life he was in before salvation. The deciding measurement which determines whether or not a person is a Christian is his love for other Christians. If there is no love present in a person's life, he may be saved, but he is still living the life of a lost person (the worldly life) and is a worldly person. The word Christian means "little Christ" or a person who lives like Christ.
- G. I John 3:16-18, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." The saved are to love with more than just words; they are to love with action and in truth. It is not enough for a Christian to say, "I love you". He has to show that love with his life.

IV. LOVING OTHERS WITH THE LOVE OF GOD IS CHARITY. Charity is giving while expecting nothing in return. A Christian can possess love without giving it to others. This will result in selfishness and will keep a Christian from growing to maturity. Charity is love in action and a Christian who has love must also give that love to others.

A. I Corinthians 13:1-13. A Christian is nothing without charity. There are many things that are emphasized in the development of a Christian's life, but without charity all the work is useless. I Corinthians 13 lists the following things that are worthless unless they are used with charity.

1. Speaking with the tongues of men and angels.
  2. The gift of prophecy (preaching).
  3. Understanding all mysteries.
  4. The possession of all knowledge.
  5. Having all faith so that mountains could be removed.

6. Giving all of one's possessions to feed the poor.
  7. Giving one's body to be sacrificed.
- B. I Corinthians 8:1, "Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." It is charity that edifies (builds up). There are many programs and discipleship ministries that claim they will build people. Without charity none of them work. This is one reason why the modern media ministries do not build Christians and do not equip them to build others. When a Christian uses the media to develop his own life, he gains only knowledge. It is important to have knowledge of the Bible, but *what a Christian does with that knowledge is the important issue*. Does he take knowledge and use it to build others with the love he has, or does knowledge cause him to think he is better than others, consequently, puffing him up with pride. If there is no action (charity) there is no love.
- C. I Corinthians 16:14, "Let all your things be done with charity." **The motive for everything a Christian does should be charity**. It is very easy to fall into working for the Lord with wrong motives. Some of these wrong motives are: numbers, money, approval of men, personal praise, pride, to gain favors from others, and many more. Two people can stand before a congregation and sing or preach with different motives. God will bless (endorse) the one who is motivated by charity and suppress the one who is working for a reason other than charity.
- D. Colossians 3:14, "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Charity is the perfect bonding agent. The Christian who builds his marriage with charity as the bonding agent will stay married. Churches who build the congregation with charity as the bonding agent will also last. From the inception of mankind, the world has tried to improve on what God established, but always with a negative result.
- E. I Peter 4:8, "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." When a Christian loves another Christian he doesn't notice his sins and shortcomings like he did before charity was established. When a married couple starts "nit-picking" at each other they are departing from

charity.

- F. I Peter 5:14, "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen." Christians should greet each other with charity. Every time two Christians meet they should greet each other by showing charity between them. In other places in the New Testament, Christians are told to greet each other with a holy kiss. Romans 16:16, I Corinthians 16:20, II Corinthians 13:12, I Thessalonians 5:26. This is still practiced in most of the European cultures, and the principle is definitely still in effect in the churches today. Carnality within Christianity has caused this practice to be dropped in most churches today.
- G. Ephesians 5:25-33. Verse 25, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" Husbands are to love their wives. In many homes today, Christians, and particularly husbands, forget that they are to represent Jesus Christ. Husbands should love (charity) their wives as Christ did the church. Colossians 3:19, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."
- H. Titus 2:4, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," The older women are to teach the younger women to love their husbands. Women are to love their husbands because they love Jesus Christ and love them with the love of God.

V. **LOVING OTHERS WITH THE LOVE OF GOD IS NEVER BASED ON THE OTHER PERSON OR HIS ACTIONS.** The Bible teaches Christians to even love their enemies. Loving others is based on a Christian's love relationship with God. When a Christian says he does not love another Christian, he is saying he does not love his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **The basis for loving others is loving God.**

- A. Matthew 5:43-46, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have

ye? do not even the publicans the same?"

Christians are to love even their enemies. Many times Christian husbands or wives will say they no longer love each other because of some action the other did against them. God does not give permission for one Christian not to love another Christian even when sin is present. If an individual Christian stops loving another Christian, it is not the other person's fault but the one who stopped loving.

- B. John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." If a Christian loves God he will do what Christ commanded him to do, which is to love others. There are only two commandments for the New Testament Christian, so there should be an exerted effort to fulfill them. When a Christian does not love others, **he has disobeyed God.** John 14:23, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." If a Christian loves Christ, he will keep His words. If a person loves Christ he will love others because God told him to.
- C. Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Loving others with the love of God is an action that comes from the heart not from circumstances. Love comes from the inside of a Christian, not from what others do on the outside. A Christian cannot gain love from someone else, nor can he lose it because of someone else.
- D. Romans 13:8-9, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." The only thing a Christian is to owe another is to love him. God said that Christians owe others their love. Any time a Christian fails to love another he becomes indebted to them. Galatians 5:13, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." A Christian is not to use his liberty to turn to the flesh and the world system, but as his calling to love and serve one another.

E. Romans 12:9, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." A Christian is to love without dissimulation. Dissimulation is to put on a false pretense or outward action that is not internal. A Christian should not show an act of love unless he is sincere. He should not be a hypocrite. This does not give the Christian the right not to love, but fix the problem internally and then love externally.

VI. FAILURE TO LOVE IS A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM, NOT AN EARTHLY RELATIONSHIP PROBLEM. Every Christian needs to realize that failure to love others is a spiritual problem. Many times Christians do not love others and fail to realize that they are disobeying God. For a Christian to be everything God instructed him to be he must realize that love is not an option, but a command.

A. Luke 7:42-43, "And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged." The reason a person loves Christ or anyone else is based on being forgiven by the other. **When a person has sinned against another, there is an interference in their love relationship. When forgiveness is exchanged, not only does love prevail but it is strengthened.**

B. John 15:9-17. Verse 12, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." God absolutely commanded Christians to love one another. Failure to love is sinning against God. If a Christian lies, steals, gets drunk, or commits any other outward sin he should go to God for correction. Many times, what the Christian fails to realize is that the command to love is just as much a commandment as "thou shalt not kill". A Christian should be sensitive to God's commands and seek to fulfill them at all cost.

C. Galatians 5:6, "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Faith works by love, and love works by faith. **When a Christian fails in love, he is failing in his faith and his Christianity.** Sin is sin.

- D. II Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." I John 4:18, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." Fear is what keeps a Christian from loving, and fear did not come from God. Every Christian should cast away any destroying fear that keeps him from loving others.

## CONCLUSION

Christians are commanded to love God and also share that love with others. If a husband and wife will love each other with the love of God, they will build a home that will last through all the trials and tribulations of this life. Until a Christian is loving as God instructed him to, he is not what God commanded him to be in his Christian life. It is impossible to please God in a home until love becomes the bonding agent that connects the home to God and the husband to the wife.

## HOMEWORK

Read I John five times

Explain how a person can **consistently** love others with a correct type of love?

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION II

### BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

#### LESSON FIVE

### GOVERNMENT OF THE HOME

#### INTRODUCTION

Every organization on the earth must have some form of government or it will cease to be an organization. Businesses, churches, and homes are organizations that must function using some form of government. The form of government an organization chooses plays a major part in its success or failure. One of the greatest causes of failure in a home is its government or lack of government. There are four basic forms of government used in all organizations. The four forms of government are:

1. Democracy - A government of the people. In a democracy, each member of that organization has **equal** representation in making decisions and determining direction.
2. Dictatorship - A government run by a single force. In a dictatorship, one person or a small group of people makes the decisions and determines the direction of the organization. Their thinking becomes the authority.
3. Anarchy - A government in when each person functions independently. In anarchy **every individual** does what **he thinks** is right; therefore, the basis for authority is in each individual.
4. Theocracy -A government with God as its head. A theocracy is when the organization follows the instructions of God and **allows His word to become the authority**.

There are homes that follow each of the above forms of government, with predictable results. In a democracy, the children will end up being in control of the home. This will cause the

home to become weak and carnal, and because of this, the peace that God intended for the home is never seen. From a Christian perspective, a democracy will not work in a home because it removes stewardship (the home belongs to God) and replaces it with people rule. The home will then follow the world system because it falls into conformity and does what its members determine to be best, instead of what the Bible says.

A dictatorship is always oppressive and will push people down. It keeps them from becoming all that God intended. Those who function under a dictatorship will either cower down and fail, rebel and run, or attack the authority. One of the greatest identifying statements in a dictatorship is "as long as you put your feet under my table, you will do what I tell you". When a family uses this form of government, it fails because the children either depend on their parents all their life, or as soon as they are able, they leave the home and find another source of influence and teaching.

Anarchy is chaotic, disruptive, and usually destructive. In anarchy each person is his own god and free to worship his self-god as he pleases. Almost every teenager goes through a period of time when they try to govern their lives by anarchy. Those who succeed in accomplishing a life governed by anarchy become misfits to society and outcasts from their home. When a home is governed with anarchy, it is doomed to fail before it even gets started. Anarchy is always associated with rebellion, and according to the Bible, rebellion is identified with witchcraft. God rejects anarchy more than any other form of government. Anarchy is described in II Peter 2:10 as relating to those who despise government.

The only form of government that God intended is theocracy. Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." When God is the head of a home, it has an established course to follow and a guaranteed success from God. Christians today need to realize that **God's way still works**. Christianity does not need a new system but a revival of the system established by God. The Christian home of today does not need Dr. Spock but it needs Dr. Jesus. It does not need psychology, but it needs theology. More knowledge of man is not the issue; more knowledge of God is the issue.

In a theocracy, God is the authority with **His** representatives in **His** positions to execute the actions of **His** government. This form of government does not allow its earthly leaders to make

independent decisions about a course of action. If the government is a true theocracy, it has to follow the instructions of the Bible, the Word of God.

The best passage of scripture that teaches how a theocracy works is I Corinthians 11:3-16. The following study is taken directly from this passage and is dealt with in depth to help Christians know how God's government works for the home.

I. GOD IS THE HEAD. I Corinthians 11:3, "But I would have you know, that the **head** of every man is Christ; and the **head** of the woman is the man; and the **head** of Christ is God." The word head, as it is used in this passage, means the part you hold on to. The meaning is used the same as in the head of a nail or the head of a pin. This passage is saying that God is the part of Christ the man holds on to, Christ is the part of a man that the wife holds on to, and the husband is the part of the wife that others hold on to.

It does not show dictatorship or ownership. God the Father did not force Christ to do what He wanted and Christ does not force man to do what He wants. In every case there is a choice of whether or not to hold on and follow the head. Christ followed His head, which was God the Father, and Christian men should follow their head, which is Jesus Christ.

Many times women are placed in a position of subservient obedience, instead of being allowed to choose to follow her head. Just as men are given the right to follow Christ, women should be given the right to choose to follow her husband. Women should choose to follow her husband because that is what God wants and not use her will to choose to disobey God.

A. The head of Christ is God. In every action of Christ's life He followed the will of His Father. Jesus, the example for all Christians, never turned loose of His head for a single moment. Many temptations will come into a person's life that will try to convince him to turn loose of his head and place someone else in that position. Every Christian should follow Jesus' example. No matter what happens, the Christian should hold on to his head.

1. John 5:30, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." Jesus sought the will of his father which sent Him.

Jesus never chose His own will against the will of His Father. Jesus honored God the Father by placing Himself under His leadership and never violating the Father's position. No matter what happened to Him, He held on to God His Father.

2. John 14:28, "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I." Jesus said that His Father was greater than He. In Hebrews, the Bible says that Jesus was made lower than the angels when He took upon Himself the body of a human being. God the Father never lowered Himself to this position and Jesus recognized that His Father was greater than He. God the Father was not limited by a physical body that was made of earthly substance.
  3. Luke 22:42, "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Jesus asked His Father if He was willing to remove the cup from Him but, nevertheless, He submitted to the will of His Father. Jesus recognized that His Father was His head even to the point of death. Jesus was willing to die if that was what His Father lead Him to do. He did die as a result of this submission to His head.
  4. Ephesians 1:17, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:" Even though Jesus was God, He recognized the authority of God the Father, and though He had a will of His own, He chose to submit His will to God the Father and referred to Him as God.
- B. The head of the man is Christ. Christ's relationship with God the Father is the example given to the Christian man to establish his relationship with Jesus Christ. As Christ submitted Himself to His Father, a Christian man should submit himself to his Lord, Jesus Christ. God is the part of Christ that **every** Christian should hold on to and specifically, in this case, referring to the husband. The greatest deterioration of Christianity in the home today is that the men are not holding onto Christ and his lordship.

1. Matthew 21:42, "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" Throughout most of the Old Testament the Jews were the representatives of God and were responsible for building a kingdom for God. They failed when they tried to build that kingdom on their own wisdom, knowledge, and works. When God sent the Stone (Christ) upon which the kingdom was to be built, they rejected the Stone. Christianity was and still is built upon that Stone. For a Christian, Jesus is the head, not a rejected stone. He is the Stone on which everything depends if it is built for God.
2. Christ is the head of all things. When Jesus went to Heaven and sat down at the right hand of God, He was placed in the position as head of all the earth. He is head for everything that exists, not just for Christians.
  - a. Ephesians 1:22, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church," Put all things under His feet. All Christians are to recognize that Jesus is Lord over all. He is the head that every Christian can hold on to in every area of life. Husbands should understand that any time there is a need or problem they should go to and hold on to Christ, their head.
  - b. Ephesians 4:15, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" The objective of every Christian should be to grow up in Christ and be everything Christ intended for his life. Every husband should understand that **everything in his life should show forth Jesus as his reason for existence.**
  - c. Colossians 2:10, "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" Jesus is the head of all principality and power. Jesus is the head over the governments of the world, and even over the satanic forces of the spirit world. The husband can depend

on Jesus and hold on to Him no matter what happens, even when Satan and his world system attacks.

3. Ephesians 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Christ is the head of the church. For a Christian husband to understand the right relationship with his wife, he must understand the relationship of Jesus and His church. Every New Testament church has access to the power and authority of Jesus Christ. Christ loved the church enough to die for it. He does not persecute or dictate to His church. Christ is the head of the church, but a church is given the freedom to execute its will in determining whether or not it will follow Christ.
  - a. Colossians 1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." A local church is a body of Christ and functions to represent Him here on the earth. The Christian husband should understand that Christ is his head, and he is responsible to represent Christ here on the earth, especially in his home.
  - b. Colossians 2:17-20, Verse 17, "...The body is of Christ." Verse 19, "And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God." As the head is the top part of the physical body, (leading and controlling the movement of the body) so is Christ to His earthly body. Too many times the body (church) does not want to follow the head and tries to go its own way. When it does this, it loses four of the five senses and only has one sense left (feeling). It cannot see, hear, taste, or smell.
- C. The head of the woman is the man. The part of a man that the woman should hold on to is her husband's head (Jesus Christ). God established the organizational structure of the home with the husband as it's earthly head. The wife should identify herself with her husband (her head) and cause others to identify her with her

husband. When a Christian husband has the correct authority in his life (which is Jesus Christ) and follows that authority, the Christian wife should not have a problem following (or holding on to) her head. This does not mean the husband has the rights of dictatorship or possession over his wife, but should be the type of man she can hold on to. The Bible says in I Peter 3:7 that the husband is to dwell with the wife according to **biblical** knowledge. He should not go by feelings, emotions, or personal desires.

1. I Peter 3:7, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." The woman is the weaker vessel. A vessel is a container which holds the contents, not the contents itself. When the Bible makes reference to the woman being the weaker vessel, it is referring to her body, not her soul, mind or spirit. A Christian man should always treat his wife as the weaker vessel and protect her from carrying a physical load greater than her ability.
2. I Peter 3:7. A man is to honor his wife or his prayers will be hindered. If a Christian husband does not show proper honor to his wife, the Bible says that his prayers will be hindered. God felt the position of the wife being the weaker vessel was of such importance that He attached hindrance to prayer to the man who violates this instruction.
3. Galatians 3:28-29, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Husbands and wives are heirs together of the grace of God. The Christian woman is just as much an heir of Jesus Christ as her Christian husband. When both husband and wife get to Heaven, they will receive their rewards individually from Christ, according to how they served Jesus Christ.

4. James 3:11, "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" James 3:14, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth." A Christian husband is not to be bitter against his wife. Webster's dictionary explains bitterness as "to be sharp and harsh or unpleasantly pungent (sharp critical language)". A Christian husband should never blame his wife for his sin action or reaction. Each person's actions or reactions come from within and are a result of choice. A husband should control his actions when dealing with everyone, particularly his spouse, children, friends, and relatives. **There is no excuse for being bitter and messing up the relationship a Christian has with Jesus Christ.**

## II. THE MAN SHOULD NEVER **COVER** HIS HEAD (Christ).

I Corinthians 11:4, "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head." Christ is the head of the Christian husband, and verse four says that he is never to cover Christ. Anytime a man of God does not hold on to Jesus Christ and show the Lord (his head) to others, he is violating God's instructions. Many times a Christian man will make himself the purpose of the actions he takes. When a man covers Christ, or does not have Christ as his motive, he is showing himself. Many times even a pastor or preacher will cover Christ by preaching the Word of God for a selfish or personal reason.

A Christian husband never has the right to depart from his Christianity no matter what the reason might be. The place where he is most prone not to represent Christ is in the home with his wife and children. The best place to see if a man is a true Christian is in the home. Paul's desire was "To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen." Galatians 1:16. If Christian husbands would just learn to reveal Christ at all times, especially in their homes, the whole Christian world would be changed.

## III. THE WOMAN SHOULD NEVER **UNCOVER** HER HEAD (her husband). I Corinthians 11:5-6, "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered

dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." The wife knows more about her husband than any other person on the face of the earth. When problems develop in a home, many times the wife (because she is the weaker vessel) will use the only defense she has to get even with her husband. That defense is her tongue. Wives have destroyed many husbands simply by telling others about their husband's problems or shortcomings. **Remember that charity covers a multitude of sin.**

Often a wife might say, "I just have to talk to someone about my husband". When the problems are no longer private they become public, and the results are destructive to both the husband and his ministry. If a Christian wife feels she needs to talk with someone, she should seek godly counsel from someone whom God has placed in a position of authority and **able to give godly advice**. If the person receiving this information is not someone God has placed in this position, advice will probably be given based on prejudiced opinions rather than unbiased truth (due to the personal relationship). Remember, family will almost always side with the family member no matter what the circumstance.

The main thing to watch for in placing women in ministry, whether it be discipleship, teaching, praying, or privately working with other women, is **do they uncover their husbands or can they refrain from speaking about certain matters**. In Titus 2:4-5 the older, mature women are to teach the young women to be **sober** (in control) and to be **discreet**.

- A. Genesis 2:18-22, Verse 18, "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." To quote another writer, "behind every good man there is a good woman." That "good woman" is to be the husband's help meet. The term "help meet" means to surround, protect or aid. When God created Eve, one of His purposes for her life was that she protect and aid her husband. The Christian wife's purpose is still the same, to protect and aid her husband, assisting him in becoming everything God instructs him to be. A help meet is one who advises her husband to "change your tie", "have a mint", "zip up your pants", etc.

1. There is a lot of teaching today about a wife building up her husband's ego. The word "ego" is a psychological term that means self or individuality. Many times wives are told to make her husband feel like the "best around" or that he is "the greatest". When a wife deals with the "self" of her husband, she is working on his carnality and will get a selfish or individual response. Anytime a man's ego shows up he is out of the authority of his head and is not acting like Christ. Remember, "Not my will but thine be done". The wife should appreciate her husband and his Christian life, but always remember that Christ is the one to be glorified and the husband only to the extent that he is the servant of Christ.
2. A wife should have proper respect for her husband because of Christ. When she realizes that God established the home and accepts the responsibility God gave her to help build a home for Christ, she will not have a problem helping her husband in building the home for the glory of God. When the wife accepts her husband as the head, she will spend her life helping him and avoid being destructive to him.

B. Ephesians 5:22, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." The woman is to be submitted to her husband. Submission is when a person gives himself to another person by choice, motivated by a personal desire and drive. A woman should never **have** to obey her husband; she should be submissive to him, as he should be submissive to Christ. It is the man's responsibility to **give his wife a person that she can submit to**. This is simple to accomplish by the husband being Christ-like and living his life for Christ.

IV. THE MAN IS THE IMAGE AND GLORY OF GOD. I Corinthians 11:7, "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man." When God created Adam, he made him in the image of God and proudly rejoiced. Genesis 1:26-27. The word "image" means a representative

figure. It is the same word that is translated idol when used in making a false god. Man was made in the image of God, and the woman was made in the image of man. The term woman means "man with a womb". Man was made from the earth and attached to the earth by his material body (which God does not have) and has the physical appearance of what God looks like spiritually.

The man is also the glory of God. The glory of God means that when God created Adam He praised the work He did and said that it was good. Genesis 1:31. Man chose to sin and messed up God's glory by attaching sin to it. When a man accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, his sin is removed and he, again, becomes the glory of God. When a man follows God's plan for his life, he is glorifying God with his earthly body, which is the image of God.

- V. THE WOMAN SHOULD HAVE POWER ON HER HEAD (husband) FOR THE ANGELS' SAKE. I Corinthians 11:10 "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels." (the angels referred to in this verse are the messengers of God). Since the man was created in the image of God, he also carries the authority of God when dealing with human beings, animals and spiritual beings. When a woman marries, her authority changes from her father, brother, or any other person or thing to her husband. When a wife takes the position of another man (or angel) against her husband, she's departing from God's plan and places herself in the position of authority with the responsibility for making decisions on her shoulders alone.

Remember, the husband is to be submitted to God and following Christ as his head. If the husband does not follow Christ, the wife then must choose between him and Christ. If this happens, and the wife has to choose a different authority, **she should make sure the authority she chooses is of God**. Angels are not given a position of authority by God, they are only messengers. The woman is to keep the power on her husband for God's angels sake.

In the Bible, angels are always male beings and many times mistakenly thought to be men. In Genesis 6:1-4, the sons of God, which are angelic beings (Job 38:1-7), took the

daughters of men to be their wives and produced children with them. It is evident by these verses that angels are capable of making choices and even violating God's instructions. As seen in this passage, they took human wives and had sexual relations with them. Angels can sin, but they cannot be saved.

In Genesis, chapter nineteen, the two angels that went to Sodom to deliver Lot were sought after by the men of Sodom with the intent of having a homosexual relationship with them. These angels chose to follow God and not get involved with men.

Angels are still being mistaken as men today as is evident by Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." This verse implies that angels are mistakenly thought to be human beings. If an angel has a relationship with an earthly woman, he has disobeyed God's authority and consequently, loses his position. Jude 6, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." When a Christian wife does not keep the power on her husband, she becomes susceptible to another authority, limiting God's care for her and places restrictions on God and his messengers.

The same is true with earthly relationships as well as angelic relationships. Men still respect men and when a wife keeps the power on her husband, the men she meets in her daily life will probably not make sexual advances toward her because of respecting her husband. If she removes the power from her husband, (by belittling or lowering his authority and power) she then becomes susceptible to sexual advances from other men, because they have lost respect for her husband.

VI. IN THE LORD THE MAN AND WOMAN ARE EQUAL. I Corinthians 11:11, "Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord." In Christ Jesus there is neither bond nor free, Jew nor Greek, male nor female, but all Christians are considered children of God. In the physical world God did not create men and women equal in every aspect. Christians are different in physical strength and positional authority, but not spiritually with God. All Christians are equal in God's eyes.

VII. IT IS A SHAME FOR A MAN TO HAVE LONG HAIR. I Corinthians 11:14, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" There have been many sermons preached declaring it is a sin for a man to have long hair. But seldom, if ever, do they explain why. When a man has long hair, it implies an exaltation of self. It draws attention to the man and not Christ. In verse four the Christian man is instructed not to cover his head. It is a shame for a man to show or glorify himself and cover his Christ. Also in verse fifteen it says that a woman's hair is given her for a covering. When a man has long hair it also becomes a covering.

VIII.A WOMAN'S HAIR IS HER GLORY. I Corinthians 11:15, "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." When the man is representing Jesus Christ, the wife is never to uncover her head (husband). A woman's hair is given to her for a covering and her hair becomes a representation of her relationship with her husband.

- A. I Peter 3:3-5, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:" A woman should be adorned with the hidden man of the heart. A woman's external appearance shows the internal action of her heart. Her hair is a primary part of her appearance and her relationship to her husband is manifested by her outward appearance.
- B. I Timothy 2:9, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;" **The word "modest" means appropriate or applicable for proper use.** A Christian wife should dress to show others the proper respect for her husband and their relationship.
- C. Isaiah 61:10, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a

bride adorneth herself with her jewels." The primary dress that every Christian should wear, whether male or female, is their salvation and personal trust in Jesus Christ.

IX. THE MAN IS THE GLORY OF GOD, AND THE WOMAN IS THE GLORY OF THE MAN. I Corinthians 11:7. In verse 7, we saw that the man was the glory of God, but it also says that the woman is the glory of the man. At any given time, a Christian husband is glorified through his wife. The man should not dress extravagant or in any way attract self-recognition. But on the other hand, his wife should always be attractive and neat because she is her husband's glory. In verse fifteen, a woman's hair was given to her for her glory. The first thing that makes a woman attractive and glorious is her hair. When a woman does not care about her hair, it is often an indication there is a spiritual problem, which many times is connected to a problem with her husband.

## CONCLUSION

In a Christian home, it is absolutely essential that each member function in the position in which God placed them. The husband is to represent Jesus Christ, and the wife is to represent the husband as well as Jesus Christ. Christian couples should remember that **Jesus is the issue, not themselves**. Every Christian should live a life that glorifies Christ, especially in the home. The place that will determine whether or not a saved person is a practicing Christian is in the home.

## HOMEWORK

Explain in detail how a Christian household should be governed and why. Write out all 51 verses below which are found in I John. Each verse contains the word "love" in one of its forms. When the verse is repeated, write it out as many times as it appears.

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. I John 2:5   | 30. I John 4:11 |
| 2. I John 2:10  | 31. I John 4:12 |
| 3. I John 2:15  | 32. I John 4:12 |
| 4. I John 2:15  | 33. I John 4:16 |
| 5. I John 2:15  | 34. I John 4:16 |
| 6. I John 3:1   | 35. I John 4:16 |
| 7. I John 3:28. | 36. I John 4:17 |
| 8. I John 3:10  | 37. I John 4:18 |
| 9. I John 3:11  | 38. I John 4:18 |
| 10. I John 3:14 | 39. I John 4:18 |
| 11. I John 3:14 | 40. I John 4:19 |
| 12. I John 3:16 | 41. I John 4:19 |
| 13. I John 3:17 | 42. I John 4:20 |
| 14. I John 3:18 | 43. I John 4:20 |
| 15. I John 3:21 | 44. I John 4:20 |
| 16. I John 3:23 | 45. I John 4:21 |
| 17. I John 4:1  | 46. I John 4:21 |
| 18. I John 4:7  | 47. I John 5:1  |
| 19. I John 4:7  | 48. I John 5:1  |
| 20. I John 4:7  | 49. I John 5:2  |
| 21. I John 4:7  | 50. I John 5:2  |
| 22. I John 4:8  | 51. I John 5:3  |
| 23. I John 4:8  |                 |
| 24. I John 4:9  |                 |
| 25. I John 4:10 |                 |
| 26. I John 4:10 |                 |
| 27. I John 4:10 |                 |
| 28. I John 4:11 |                 |
| 29. I John 4:11 |                 |

# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION II

### BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

#### LESSON SIX

## HUSBAND AND WIFE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

When God created the human race, he created them male and female. God intended for the male and the female to be different in structure and to be different in how they function. Today, there are many people who do not accept God's way and rebel against God by choosing a perverted way of life. Any time a person denies God's creative choice, they are denying God. Homosexuals are perverting God's creation and rejecting God's plan for male and female. He said in Romans 1:21-32 that they are worthy of death. No matter what society believes or accepts, God has rejected them.

Knowing that God did create mankind male and female, the next questions are why did he create mankind as He did, and why did He create them with the capacity and desire to have sexual relationships. In Romans 1:20 the Bible explains that God uses the visible earthly things to explain the invisible spiritual things of God. When God created Adam and Eve, they were created to show the plan of God. Adam was created in the image and glory of God and Eve was created from Adam. The intimate and personal relationship of a husband and wife was given to mankind as an earthly example of a saved person's relationship with Jesus Christ. Every part of a marriage relationship is an example of a Christian's relationship to Christ.

#### Positive Examples

The bride takes her husband's name.	Christian
Husband and wife give to each other.	Charity
Husband and wife trust each other.	Faith
Husband and wife produce children.	Evangelism
Husband and wife establish a home.	Church
Wife gives sexually to her husband.	Submission
Husband and wife spoil each other.	Friendship

Negative Examples

Husband and wife fuss and fight.	Enmity
Husband and wife neglect each other.	Selfishness
Husband or wife chooses someone else.	Fornication

The list could go on and on but the examples are to enable Christians to understand their relationship with Christ. To help understand this comparative relationship I Corinthians 6:13-7:5 will be studied in this lesson.

- I. THE HUMAN BODY BELONGS TO THE LORD AND IS IMPORTANT TO HIM.  
I Corinthians 6:13-14. "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power."

The Bible says in verse thirteen that the body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God cares enough about the body of a Christian that He is going to take it to Heaven someday. Romans 8:11, "he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies." Romans 8:23 states, "even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

God took the time to explain the body of a Christian and how the body cannot immediately go to Heaven. The body does not go to Heaven at the point of death because of the sin nature that dwells within it. This does not mean God thinks the body is not important, but quite the contrary. He battles with the old sin nature for the control of the body during the whole life of a Christian.

- A. Mark 9:41, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." A Christian belongs to Christ. How others treat a Christian will determine how Christ will treat them. When a person gives even a drink of water to a Christian (one which belongs to Christ) He will reward them. **It is very important for Christians understand that the bodies of other Christians, as well as their own, belong to Christ.** When a saved husband physically abuses his wife it is very important that he

- understands the body he is abusing belongs to Jesus Christ.
- B. Matthew 6:25. "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" The body is more than raiment. The body is a lot more than something a Christian puts on and wears. **The body is a holy vessel in which God lives**, and at the same time an unholy vessel in which the sin nature lives. Jesus wants the body of a Christian totally submitted to Him **to use as He sees fit**. The sin nature wants the body to be in obedience to it so it can be used for selfish purposes. The body does not sin and no part of its function is sin. It is the sin nature which dwells within the body that uses it to sin. (Romans 7:13-23) Christ will use the Christian's body to do the works of God, or sin will use it to do the works of sin. Christ always works through hearts and minds. The sin nature will do whatever it can to cause a sin action, even bypassing the heart or mind.
- C. Romans 6:12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." To reign means to rule or control. The Bible tells the Christian not to allow sin to rule his body. Instead, he is to place his body under the authority of Jesus Christ. As long as a Christian is here on Earth, there is a battle between Christ (through the Holy Spirit) and the old sin nature. It is important to understand that this battle goes on inside the Christian's body for the use of the his body. **The Christian's soul is what controls the direction his body will take and is controlled by the choices he makes.**
- D. Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." The body has life because Christ is in the Christian. Christians should show Christ to others by walking in a newness of life. Romans 6:4, "That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
- E. II Corinthians 4:10, "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." The life of Jesus is made manifest in the body of a Christian. Many times the world does not see Christ

because Christians do not manifest Christ. In too many Christian homes everything is manifested but Christ. I John 3:10, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

- F. Philippians 1:20, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." **Christ is to be magnified in a Christian's body.** Magnify is to make larger and easily seen. Every Christian should make Christ larger and cause Him to be easily seen, especially with those in his own household. Psalms 34:3, "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together." Psalms 69:30, "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving."

II. EVERY MEMBER OF THE BODY IS A MEMBER OF JESUS CHRIST. This includes the sex organs. I Corinthians 6:15-16, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh."

- A. Deuteronomy 23:1, "He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off." The Bible makes it clear that the sex organ is a member of the body. The sexual organs of a Christian belongs to Jesus just as much as the hands, eyes, mouth, or any other part of the body. A Christian tends to give part of his body to the Lord but fails to realize that it should be all or none, from the top of the head to the bottom of the feet.
- B. I Cor. 12:12, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ." I Cor. 12:14, "For the body is not one member but many." A complete and fully functioning body has all of its members and each part doing what God designed it to do. God gave the body the ability to hear, to see, to smell, and to have sexual intercourse. The body is not sinful; it is what a person does with his body that is sin.

- C. I Cor. 12:27, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." A Christian is the body of Christ, and members in particular. The body is for Christ and every member of the body belongs to Jesus Christ. God will use every member to glorify Jesus Christ when the body is submitted to God.
- D. Romans 6:13, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." A Christian is not to yield his members to unrighteousness. A Christian will do with his body according to what he yields his members. If he yields his members to sin, he will lead a life of sin. If he yields his body to the ministry of God, he will have a life of righteousness. The Christian life is much easier to understand than most people think. **It is not a matter of winning, but a matter of yielding.**

III. HE THAT IS JOINED TO THE LORD IS ONE SPIRIT. I Cor.6:17, "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." The word joined used in this verse is the same word that shows sexual relationship between a husband and wife. This joining together is spiritual and not physical. The intimacy of the physical sexual relationship is used to help the Christian understand the spiritual intimate relationship of a saved person and his Savior.

- A. Matthew 19:6, "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder." God is the one who joins a man and woman together at the point of marriage and the marriage should go forth to glorify Christ from that point on.
- B. Ephesians 5:31, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and the two shall be one flesh." A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined unto his wife. In Genesis 2:24 the word "cleave" is used instead of join. The word cleave is the base word for the word cleavage which means "the valley between or the point which two are join or attached." When a man cleaves to his wife, he is joined together or attached to her. When a person is saved he is joined or attached to Jesus Christ and should live his life accordingly.

IV. FORNICATION IS SINNING AGAINST A PERSON'S OWN BODY.

I Cor. 6:18, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." Fornication is sexual sin in any of its forms. Adultery is just one of the many sexual sins along with homosexuality, incest, and other sexual acts even when there is not an act of intercourse. God said that all other sins a person commits is not against the body. Only sexual sin is sinning against the body itself.

- A. James 4:4, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Friendship with the world is enmity with God and those who commit this sin are referred to as adulterers and adulteresses. This is spiritual fornication or, to help understand the significance of this statement, it is idolatry.
- B. I Thess. 4:3, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:" God wants every Christian to be sanctified (set apart). The primary way sanctification is recognized is when the Christian keeps himself pure in sexual matters.

V. A CHRISTIAN'S BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST. Glorify God with your body as well as your spirit. I Cor. 6:19-20, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Christians should realize that the **Holy Spirit of God dwells in the body of each saved person and is a part of everything the body does**. Verse twenty states that a Christian is to **glorify God with both his body and his spirit**. It is not enough for a Christian to just go to church on Sunday and worship God with his spirit. A Christian should show the action of Christ at all times with his body, including sexual relationships.

- A. I Thess. 4:4, "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;" Every Christian should know how to possess his vessel (body) in sanctification (set apart) and honor (good name).
- B. II Timothy 2:21, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good

work." Every Christian should depart from iniquity and be a vessel unto honor, suited for the Master's use.

#### VI. TO AVOID FORNICATION, GET MARRIED.

I Corinthians 7:1-2, "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." The only specific statement in the Bible for why a man and woman should get married is in this verse--to avoid fornication. Sexual sin might be accepted in the society of the United States, but God has not changed His mind. A mockery is made of marriage every time a person commits sexual sin. Single Christians need to understand that sexual sin is not only sinning against God, but against their future marriage. The driving force that takes a man and woman to the altar for marriage is the sex drive. God knew what He was doing when he placed the sex drive in each individual. God started marriage and intends for it to continue, with His blessing.

#### VII. THE HUSBAND AND WIFE SHOULD RENDER TO EACH OTHER DUE BENEVOLENCE. I Cor. 7:3-4, "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife." Benevolence, as it is used in this verse, means conjugal duty (which is sexual intercourse). The husband is to give his wife the sexual gratification that she needs, and the wife is to give her husband the sexual gratification he needs. Remember that God put the need in each person's body and He had a purpose and objective.

The sexual need in the life of the man is different than the sexual need in the life of the woman. The man's need is primarily physical; the woman's need is primarily emotional. The primary emotion that is filled is security. God made man and woman this way for the purpose of having each one fill the other's need. No matter how far the world turns from God's plan, they will not find complete satisfaction through any other way except the way God established when He created mankind.

### VIII.A HUSBAND AND WIFE SHOULD NOT DEFRAUD EACH OTHER.

I Cor. 7:5, "Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency." Fraud is the act of stealing by deception something which lawfully belongs to another person. The Bible clearly lists fraud as a sin in both the Old and New Testaments.

- A. Leviticus 19:13, "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor".
- B. I Thessalonians 4:6, "No man defraud his brother in any matter: because the Lord is the avenger of all such."
- C. James 5:4. Do not keep back the pay for laborers by fraud.

When a husband or wife withholds sexual relationship with their spouse, they are committing fraud. Verse four states that the spouse has power over each other's body. Many times a spouse will withhold sexual relationship from the other, then feels guilty and never associates the act of withholding sex as a sin. God said in the Bible that He would avenge all sin. God did allow one exception for a married couple to withhold sex and that is when both the husband and wife agree that they will refrain from sex for the purpose of prayer and fasting.

Separation is not found in the Bible but divorce is. Divorce is the ending of a marriage. Separation is an act of sin that makes a mockery of marriage. God does not approve of separation or agreeing to be unmarried without legally ending the marriage. (for further explanation see *Building Christian Counselors, Lesson Eleven, "Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage"*).

## CONCLUSION

God created men and women with the ability to have sexual relationships. Outside of marriage any sexual relationship is sin and carries with it a much greater consequence than most realize. Inside of marriage it is a holy act that God established to show His intimate spiritual relationship with the bride of Christ. Sexual relationship is either a horrid act of sin or a glorious act of holiness. There is nothing in-between. God also intends that Christians have an intimate spiritual relationship with

Jesus Christ. **Many times in the life of a Christian the two intimate relationships are directly attached and physical intimate problems indicate spiritual intimate problems.** Every Christian should commit to keeping his body pure and avoid any and all sexual activity which does not glorify Jesus Christ.

### HOMEWORK

How important is the human body to God and how can that importance be reflected in caring for the human body? \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain each statement below and how the word "love" is used.

1. I John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

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2. I John 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

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3. I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.

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4. I John 2:15 if any man love the world,

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. I John 2:15 the love of the Father is not in him.

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6. I John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

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7. I John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

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8. I John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

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9. I John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

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10. I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.

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11. I John 3:14 He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

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12. I John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

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13. I John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

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14. I John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

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15. I John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

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16. I John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

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17. I John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

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18. I John 4:7 Beloved,

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19. I John 4:7 let us love one another:

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20. I John 4:7 for love is of God;

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21. I John 4:7 and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

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22. I John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God;

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23. I John 4:8 for God is love.

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24. I John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

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25. I John 4:10 Herein is love,

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26. I John 4:10 not that we loved God,

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27. I John 4:10 but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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28. I John 4:11 Beloved,

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29. I John 4:11 if God so loved us,

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30. I John 4:11 we ought also to love one another.

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31. I John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us,

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32. I John 4:12 and his love is perfected in us.

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33. I John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.

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34. I John 4:16 God is love;

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35. I John 4:16 and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

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36. I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:  
because as he is, so are we in this world.

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37. I John 4:18 There is no fear in love;

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38. I John 4:18 but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.

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39. I John 4:18 He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

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40. I John 4:19 We love him,

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41. I John 4:19 because he first loved us.

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42. I John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:

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43. I John 4:20 for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen,

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44. I John 4:20 how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

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45. I John 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God

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46. I John 4:21 love his brother also.

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47. I John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that  
loveth him that beget

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48. I John 5:1 loveth him also that is begotten of him.

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49. I John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God,

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50. I John 5:2 when we love God, and keep his commandments.

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

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION II

### BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

#### LESSON SEVEN

## HUSBAND AND WIFE PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

God created man and woman with the ability to have a sexual relationship. Before Adam and Eve sinned, God told them to multiply and replenish the earth. Sexual relationship was in place **before** sin came into the world. When God created Adam and Eve He made every part of their physical bodies as He wanted, including the erogenous zones, and equipped them for sexual activity. The ability to perform sexually was God's idea, with His blessing. God established the sexual relationship between a husband and his wife and He knows everything that their bodies experience. Once Christians understand these facts, they should seek to know exactly what God's intentions are in this area and how to accomplish His wishes in their physical relationship.

What are the rights and wrongs of a physical relationship and how does a Christian please God by having sex? In the Bible, the Song of Solomon gives directions in this area of life. The Song of Solomon was written to the young virgins of Israel who desired to become one of Solomon's wives. If God dedicated this much scripture to the subject of physical relationships, then it should be of great importance to every Christian.

In a recent trip to several different secular bookstores, it was observed that there were a great number of books (over two hundred in one store) on how to have sexual relationships. On that same trip it was observed that there was only one or two books on that subject in the Christian bookstores, and those books were very vague and unreliable. **The world is teaching the Christians and their children how to have sexual relationships based on the world's standards with its sin.** Most Christians avoid the subject of sex and severely neglect the teaching of this subject.

## I. PROPER ATTITUDE ABOUT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

- A. Between a husband and a wife there should be more to intimacy than just having sex. There are three different Greek words used in the Bible to show love and all three should be a part of a husband and wife relationship.
1. "Agape"- I John 4:8. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." It is the unconditional love that God has for His children.
  2. "Phileo"- Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loveth at all times." The love that binds two people together and is the basis of relationships.
  3. "Eros"- This is physical love or becoming sexually aroused. The Greek word that translates into English as erotic.
- B. Sexual needs and feelings between a husband and a wife should be discussed. A husband and wife must learn to communicate in this area, which teaches each other how to listen and to be unselfish.
1. Proverbs 15:1. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger". A husband and wife should avoid contention when discussing anything, especially sexual feelings and desires. The word contention is used to show that two are contending **against** each other to gain some reward. There is no reward to be won from contention between a husband and wife. Unity is lost. Proverbs 13:10. "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom". **Sexual relationship is a similitude of unity not conflict. There should be internal unity before sexual unity or God's purpose will be lost.** Genesis 2:24b "and they shall be one flesh".
  2. Ephesians 4:26. "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:" A husband and wife should never allow division to continue into the night or the sexual relationship will suffer the brunt of the wrath. There should never be an issue between a husband and wife so important that it violates God's instructions. Ephesians 4:15, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving

one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you". Colossians 3:13, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

3. The language to use when discussing sex. The Bible uses a lot of different words to describe body parts and the action of sexual relationships--some good and some bad.

In Ezekiel 23 two sisters and their whorish acts are described. Some of the descriptive words used in this chapter are: breasts, teats, doted (panted) on her lovers, desirable, lovers, inordinate love (amorousness; strongly moved by sexual love), clothed most gorgeously (dressed splendidly or showily brilliant), portrayed in vermilion (bright red and piercing to the sight), bed of love, played the harlot, doted upon their paramours (gigolo), whose flesh (the pudenda of a man; external genital organ) is as the flesh of asses, whose issue (a gushing of semen) is like the issue of horses, and paps (the breasts of a woman; swelled up).

If God chose to put into print sexual language, it is not a sin for husbands and wives to use sexually explicit language with each other. This language is wrong when it is taken out of the private life of a married couple, placed in public language and used to express sinful actions or desires. Sexual language should not digress into carnal street language, even between husbands and wives.

- C. A sexual relationship between a husband and a wife is healthy, holy, and has God's blessing. Many Christians look upon sex as something that is dirty or sinful. The Bible makes it very clear that when a sexual relationship is according to God's instructions, it is right and good. It is sinful or dirty **only when it violates God's instructions and becomes an act of selfishness and carnal desire.**

1. Hebrews 13:4. "In marriage the bed is undefiled". A sexual relationship is correct and good within a marriage. Outside of marriage it is condemned and seen by God as idolatry because it is elevated above God. In the Old Testament (under the law) there was explicit instructions to put to death

those who had sexual relationships against God's instructions. Deuteronomy 22:22-29

2. Genesis 2:25, "They were both naked and were not ashamed". A husband and wife should not be ashamed of their bodies or embarrassed by their sexuality. Psalms 139:14, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well". God created the male and female as He chose, and He did not make a mistake.

D. A husband and wife should understand their partner as God instructed and treat them accordingly. Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus". God does not deal with Christians as male or female, but as His children. In this earthly life it is evident in many ways that a man and woman are different, but should treat each other as God instructed.

1. I Peter 3:7. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." The female is the weaker vessel. This does not mean that the woman has a weaker IQ or is weaker emotionally. It means that her body (vessel) is weaker than the man's. Webster's dictionary defines weak as "not able to sustain or exert much weight, pressure, or strain". The husband should not treat his wife like another male but as a person with a softer, more tender and delicate body.

The physical structure of the female is different than the male in softness and strength. For example, a male's fatty tissue is on the inside of the muscle which places the hard tissue next to the skin. The female's fatty tissue is on the outside of the muscle next to the skin. This makes the female softer and more sensitive when she is touched. In I Peter 3:7 God even says that a man's prayers will be hindered if he does not give honor to his wife as

the weaker vessel. This shows that God expects husbands to treat their wives properly.

2. Ephesians 5:25. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" The husband is told to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. In Ephesians 5:27 the Bible says that He will present the church to Himself having no spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. The husband is to see his wife the same and present her to himself without blemish. The husband who finds fault with his wife's size, looks, age, or sees her in any other derogatory way is not following God's instructions.
3. Ephesians 5:22, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord". The meaning of the word submit is to arrange oneself in the proper order by placing oneself underneath the designated person of authority.
  - a. A wife is instructed by God to submit herself to her husband. Just as the husband will answer to God for his leadership, the wife will answer to God for her submission. Submission is when the wife chooses to follow her husband by the action of her own will, not by external force. When a wife places herself under the authority of her husband and follows his directives (**by her own choice**) she becomes responsible for her actions. If she follows her husband by obedience (**against her own choice**) she will blame her husband for his demands and separate herself from being responsible. This places all the burden on the husband. A marriage with the wife under obedience instead of submission is weak because only one person is carrying the load. This relationship will never fulfill what God intended for a fulfilled marriage.
  - b. Physical submission is also a part of a husband and wife relationship. In I Peter 3:7 the Bible says that the wife is the weaker vessel (body) and because she is weaker the husband should assume the

responsibility of being the stronger. A wife should allow her husband to be in the stronger physical position and show it by placing herself underneath his strength. The sexual relationship of a husband and wife should also follow the understanding that the man's body is stronger than the woman's. The wife should never be forced to have sexual relationship with her husband, but at the same time she should be willing to submit herself to his sexual needs. There are many legal cases regarding a husband "raping" his wife. There are many who say that a husband cannot rape a wife. The Bible makes it clear that a husband should never force his wife to have sex. This is taking advantage of her weaker body and neglecting God's intention of tenderness and care.

4. I Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". A husband and wife should be thankful for each other at all times and realize that God is working in each of their lives. When husbands and wives are thankful for each other, they find sexual activity not only regular but also exciting and fulfilling.

If a husband or wife feels that they deserve someone better, they are into self-centeredness and carnality. They are questioning God and exalting themselves above God's instructions. Remember there is a reason why "The

grass is greener on the other side of the fence." Usually the grass is greener because there is more manure there.

## II. PROPER PRELIMINARIES TOWARD SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

- A. Ecclesiastes 3:5, "A proper time and place". There are many problems with life today and one of these problems is misplacing sexual actions. Married couples should always be discreet when making sexual advances towards each other. Work is not the place for sexual action. Neither is school, church, social activities, sports, or any other public area. Sexual activity should be placed in its proper priority with

proper discretion and location.

If a married couple is having difficulty with sex and needs advice, they should seek counsel from a qualified authority and then only in a private session. Also, **never** discuss sexual problems or brag about sexual fulfillments to others.

1. Proverbs 23:7, "As he thinketh in his heart so is he." **The motive for sexual relationship must be correct.** If sex becomes just a physical act of pleasure (the same as the pleasure of eating a piece of cake) then it has lost its meaning and fulfillment. Sex without love is degrading and missing God's intent. Sex is what a person determines it to be, sin or holiness. **For a Christian, it should be a holy act of unification and expressing the fulfillment and joy of being one with their spouse.**
  2. Sexual activity is the manifestation of unity which must start at the beginning of the day and last all day. There can never be proper meaningful sex between a husband and wife if there is not consistent godly unity.
  3. Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
- B. The husband should look upon his wife with appreciation as the person God created her to be. Love is an action of the heart that filters the vision of the external and changes it into the glory of God. Song of Solomon 2:2, "As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters". A person once wrote that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. How true this statement is, and it is the heart that determines this beauty. If a person's heart is wrong, it will influence his sight. Genesis 12:11, "And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:"
1. Song of Solomon 7:6-10, (He) "How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights! This thy stature is like to a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes. I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of

thy nose like apples; And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak. (She) I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me."

2. Song of Solomon 4:9, (He) "Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck." Ravish is to seize and take away by emotion with the joy or delight of scenic beauty. He was seized and taken away by her beauty.

C. The wife should see her husband as the man God gave her. Song of Solomon 5:10-16, "My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand. His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven. His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set. His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh. His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl (topaz): his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires. His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

### III. PROPER ACTIONS IN SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

Genesis 4:1, "Adam knew Eve and she conceived". The word know or knew as it is used in the Old Testament means to discover by seeing. The word is also used many times to imply sexual relationship. Adam knew Eve which shows more than just sex because he discovered her by seeing her. For a husband and wife to have a godly, meaningful sexual relationship, the need to discover each other and really see the other person is important.

A. Visual stimulation. Song of Solomon 4:7, "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." A major part of becoming sexually aroused on the part of the male is visual stimulation.

B. Kissing. Song of Solomon 1:2, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth." Kissing is a showing of attachment and mutual submission to the action of sex. There are different kinds of kissing including the "holy kiss" of the New Testament

- that is to take place between brothers or sisters. Every adult knows the difference.
- C. Hugging. Song of Solomon 2:6, "His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me." Hugging is also an important part of sexual activity because it shows closeness. There are many kinds of hugs, but the one shown in this verse is one in which the wife's breasts are pressed into the husband's chest, causing him to become sexually aroused.
- D. Physical stimulation. Proverbs 5:19, "Let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love." A woman's breasts are erotic to the male and are a major part in the sexual fulfillment of a husband and wife. Proper massaging by hands, as well as oral stimulation, is very fulfilling to both the husband and the wife. Song of Solomon 4:5-6, "Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies. Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense".
- E. Foreplay. Genesis 26:6-11, "Isaac was sporting (playing, in pleasure) with Rebekah his wife. Sexual relationship includes the rubbing of nearly every part of the husband's and wife's bodies in erotic foreplay.
- F. French kissing. Song of Solomon 4:11, "Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon." The husband knew what his wife's mouth tasted like and specifically under her tongue. This is generally referred to as French kissing (an open-mouth kiss involving tongue-to-tongue contact). This type of kissing is a similitude of sexual intercourse being very personal and intimate.
- G. Visual stimulation. Song of Solomon 4:12-15, "A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices: A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon". The word "garden" in this passage is making reference to the vagina or the female sex organ. It is evident that the husband is visually stimulated by the female sex organ. Showing again the lack of shame or awkwardness with the sex

act.

- H. Oral stimulation. Song of Solomon 4:16, "Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits." This verse indicates that before actual intercourse took place there was some oral sex or activity between the husband and his wife. Nowhere in the Bible is oral sex forbidden or even mentioned except in these verses in Song of Solomon.
- I. Sexual fulfillment. Song of Solomon 5:1, "I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved". The sexual fulfillment has taken place and the result is joy and happiness.
- J. Sexual orgasm. Song of Solomon 5:4, "My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him." The hole of the door is the wife's sex organ. The husband brought her to a sexual climax by stimulating her with his hand on the vagina in the location of the clitoris. Medical doctors have stated that the only purpose for this little muscle is for sexual stimulation. Remember, God put it there.

## **CONCLUSION**

The physical relationship of a husband and wife is important to God. He saw it appropriate to give the Christian the whole book of Song of Solomon to discuss and explain sexuality. God created the sexual relationship and gave it to married couples who should honor Him with their sex life. Sexual relationships outside of marriage is dishonoring to God and the people involved. Inside of marriage it is a holy act as directed by God. Sexual relationships can be one of the greatest acts of blessings or one of the greatest curses placed on physical actions. What makes the difference is the instructions given in the Word of God and God's approval.

## HOMEWORK

### Read I Kings

Look up in Strongs Concordance the following words found in Song of Solomon and write out their definitions.

Song of Solomon 2:15

Foxes (8168) \_\_\_\_\_

Spoil (2254) \_\_\_\_\_

Vines (3754) \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Solomon 4:1

Fair (3302) \_\_\_\_\_

Love (7474) \_\_\_\_\_

Doves' (3123) \_\_\_\_\_

(3196) \_\_\_\_\_

Flock (5739) \_\_\_\_\_

Goats (5795) \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Solomon 4:9

Ravished my heart (3823) \_\_\_\_\_

Sister (269) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse (3618) \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Solomon 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Love (1730) \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Solomon 4:12

Garden (1588); (1598) \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Solomon 5:2

Heart (3820) \_\_\_\_\_

Beloved (1730) \_\_\_\_\_

Open (6605) \_\_\_\_\_

Undefined (8535) \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Solomon 5:4

Hole (2356) \_\_\_\_\_

Door (6607) \_\_\_\_\_

Bowels (4578) \_\_\_\_\_

Moved (1993) \_\_\_\_\_

What should the sexual attitude of a husband and wife be toward each other and how can their sexual relationship be properly fulfilling? \_\_\_\_\_

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION III

### PRACTICAL BIBLICAL COUNSELING

#### LESSON EIGHT

#### FORGIVENESS

##### INTRODUCTION

Forgiveness is the lesson most taught in dealing with relationships. Forgiveness is one of the strongest powers a Christian has within himself, and it can have some of the greatest effect on another person's life.

Everyone has faced the need to forgive another person at some time in their life. Every person on the face of the earth has been wronged by someone. Most people have experienced this numerous times and with many different people. Many times when a Christian is wronged by someone else, he responds in a worldly fashion, attaching himself to the sinning person by his worldly actions. The worldly response to being sinned against can vary in many different ways. For example, there can be the fear of being robbed, fear of having a wreck, or fear of any numerous events where others have committed wrongful acts. Ephesians 4:30-32. The following are five different ways a person can respond toward the wrongdoer in a worldly sense:

1. Misdirected Anger - Luke 15:28 "And he was angry, and would not go in"; Proverbs 14:17 "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly"; Proverbs 29:22 "An angry man stirreth up strife."
2. Bitterness - Hebrews 12:15 "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." James 3:8-16 Verse 8 "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." Verse 14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in

your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth." Proverbs 13:10 "Only by pride cometh contention" (Contention is doing battle with the tongue).

3. Speaking evil of others - Titus 3:2 Servants are instructed to "speak evil of no man". II Peter 2:10 those who walk after the flesh are "not afraid to speak evil of dignities." II Peter 2:12 Those who walk after the flesh "speak evil of the things that they understand not."
4. Hatred in the heart(malice) - I Corinthians 5:8 When the New Testament church took the Lord's Supper they were not to allow the leaven "of malice and wickedness" to be present. I Peter 2:1 Christians are instructed to "lay aside all malice" and desire the sincere milk of the Word. I Peter 2:16. When a person gets saved they are set free from sin and its penalty, but Christians are instructed not to "use your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness."
5. Clamor(speaking out to cause uproar)-Mark 7:21, the Bible says that "from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts". It is what is on the inside that defiles a person. Evil thoughts come forth as words and clamor. The Jews clamored against Pilate when he chose to release Jesus and, consequently, caused him to agree to the crucifixion of Christ. John 19:12 "And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar." When Stephen preached the gospel to the Jews they clamored against him. Acts 7:57. "Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord."

There are other worldly reactions to sin such as vengeance, withdrawal, depression, fear, and many more. These reactions connect the Christian to the sinning person because of a worldly response instead of a Christian response. Because of this response, the Christian takes his eyes off Jesus Christ and his Christian life and places them on the sinner or the sin. This causes the Christian to fail in completing his objective of living a Christ-centered life. One of the best ways for Satan and his world system to destroy a Christian's ministry is to have someone sin against the Christian and then have that sin control his life. Once a Christian becomes aware of this controlling force, God has given him a way to break the control of the world system. That way is forgiveness.

Ephesians 4:30-32 "forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." When a Christian forgives another person of the sin committed against him, the worldly control is broken and the Christian is free to again live a Christ-centered life.

Forgiveness is "when the person who is owed pays the debt for the one who owes the debt." Luke 7:41-50. Forgiveness is basically an accounting term dealing with debt being removed from the books of a creditor by the creditor. Until the debt is removed from the books, the creditor is placed in the position of a "bill collector" which becomes time consuming as well as life consuming.

There are two things necessary for forgiveness to take place. The **first** is the **ability to pay the price of the debt**. A creditor cannot forgive another person's debt if he does not have the **means** to pay the price of the debt. A lost person can forgive a financial debt that is owed to him, but he cannot forgive one simple sin because he does not have the means or ability to forgive sin. Therefore, he cannot pay for one single sin. Christ paid the debt for all sin when he died on the cross and only He has the ability to forgive any and all sin. Colossians 1:14. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." After a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, the Christian also has the ability to forgive sin, but only through Christ, his salvation. Colossians 3:13. "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

The **second** necessity is the **willingness to forgive**. A creditor could have a million dollars in the bank and not be willing to forgive a one dollar debt. Jesus is also willing to forgive all sin as declared in II Peter 3:9 by the statement that "He is not willing that any should perish."

There is another area of forgiveness in the life of a Christian and that is when the Christian does the sinning. Sin always carries with it condemnation toward the Christian who sinned and, consequently, controls him. Many times a Christian lives under self-condemnation for the rest of his life after committing a sin against another person and never again serves Christ with a clean heart.

How can a Christian break this sin control and resume his life of service to Jesus Christ? The Christian must realize that he sinned against his Lord, but Jesus Christ has already forgiven him by paying for all of his sins when He died on the cross. The Bible tells the Christian in I John 1:7 that Jesus has paid for all his sins with His shed blood, and that His blood continually cleanses the saved person. I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one

with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Once a Christian understands that God has **totally** forgiven him of **all** his sin (past, present, and future), he is able to serve God again with his clean heart.

Confession, as it is used in I John 1:9 ("If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.") is the **act of salvation, not an ongoing demand**. Remember, there is **no action of man** that can take away a person's sin or can keep his salvation. If man's actions controls his salvation, then when a saved person has one sin which has not been confessed or forgiven, he would again become lost and on his way to Hell. How many times daily would this process have to take place?

The person to whom the Christian sinned against is another issue. If the person sinned against is another Christian, he also has the ability to forgive and is instructed by God to forgive his brother. Matthew 18:21-35. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" A Christian should always go to the one he has sinned against and ask for forgiveness, allowing the person he sinned against the privilege of granting forgiveness.

If the person sinned against is a lost person, that person cannot forgive sin because he does not have the ability to do so. A Christian should still go to him, realizing that the lost person will demand payment in some form or another. Sometimes just the confession of wrongdoing gives the lost person the sensation of winning and boosting his pride, providing sufficient payment. At other times he may require worldly payment. A Christian should be willing to pay for his sins by making restitution to the lost man if possible.

Many times the Christian is more concerned about his earthly possessions and attributes than his Christian responsibilities and, consequently, will not make restitution. This is adhering to the world system's control and will cause the Christian to fail in ministry. The world's way is to always "weasel out" of a situation without paying the consequences or accepting the responsibility of sin. **Remember, a relationship is more important than the sin.** A Christian should never let anything stand in the way of a proper relationship with another person. What is the value of a relationship?

## I. GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO MAN.

- A. God has the **authority** to forgive sin. Mark 2:1-12, verse 5, " When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Jesus told the man who had been let down through the roof that his sins were forgiven. The scribes who were there questioned Jesus' authority to forgive sin. Jesus gave the man back his physical strength to prove that He had authority to forgive sin. The scribes stated that only God had the authority to forgive sin and Jesus proved Himself to be God. The saved person has been given a new life that only comes through forgiveness. Colossians 2:13-14. "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"
- B. God has the **means** to forgive sin. Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." The process of God forgiving sin is through grace. Grace (unmerited favor) is when a person who deserves to be punished is given a release or has someone else pay the debt. **Grace is God's means and man's accessibility to forgiveness.** Without grace there could be no forgiveness, but God's grace is sufficient to supply forgiveness for all sin. Romans 5:20-21 "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."
- C. God not only forgives sin, but **removes** it. Psalms 103:12, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." God removes the Christian's transgressions as far as the east is from the west. Therefore, no other corrective action is needed between Himself and the Christian. When God forgives sin it is permanent and lasts forever. Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."
- D. God forgives sin and He also **cleanses** the saved person of his sin. Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as

scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Sin makes a person dirty and separates him from God. When a person comes to Christ and accepts Him as Savior, his sins are washed white as snow. God cleanses with the Word of God and only when the Word is applied will the cleansing of God take place. John 15:3, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." Ephesians 5:26, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." It is the shed blood of Jesus that enables God to cleanse a person from his sins. I John 1:7, "and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

## II. A CHRISTIAN'S FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS.

- A. The Bible instructs Christians to forgive others. Ephesians 4:17-32. Every saved person has the **capacity** to forgive others through **the Holy Spirit of God who dwells in him**. If a Christian refuses to forgive another, he is disobeying God and not following Christ. When a Christian adheres to anger or any other wrong action towards others, he is choosing the old man and the world system over Christ. After a Christian is shown the mandate to forgive and still chooses not to forgive, he is rejecting Christ and the biblical way. Because of this action he is separating his life from Christ and choosing the way of sin.

This is just as true for a person who has been sinned against as the one who did the sinning. Before a Christian can have the action of forgiveness, he must first make sure he has a heart of forgiveness. A tender-hearted person who is more concerned about Jesus Christ and His name than worldly possessions, positions, or pride will forgive as Christ instructed. The Bible instructs the Christian to turn his vengeance over to Christ who has established ministers for the purpose of carrying out the vengeance of God. Romans 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Romans 13:1-4. "...he is the minister of God to thee for good...for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

- B. Forgiveness allows Christians to love each other. Colossians 3:12-17. "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." The bond of perfectness is love out of a clean heart and anytime a Christian allows **anything** to replace this love he has taken his eyes off God and placed them on something earthly. The only way a Christian can maintain a loving relationship with others is to continually have a heart of forgiveness.
- C. Forgiveness shows Christ to others. Colossians 3:12-17. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." A Christian should show Christ to everyone he comes in contact with, including those who sin against him. God gives the Christian direct instructions in the Bible on how to deal with those who sin against him.
1. Romans 12:14. "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not."
  2. I Peter 3:9. "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."
  3. Colossians 3:13. "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."
  4. Matthew 5:44. "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."
  5. Luke 23:34. "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

For a Christian to be a leader, he must have a heart of forgiveness. Christian leaders must exhibit the character of Christ which includes grace and forgiveness. Forgiveness is a characteristic of the heart.

- D. Forgiveness and the power of God in the life of a Christian are connected. Mark 11:24-26. When a Christian is not willing to forgive others, God will not honor his prayers. A Christian must realize that sin in the heart prevents God from blessing his life. God cannot place His endorsement on a Christian whose heart and motives are wrong. When a Christian does not forgive those who have sinned against him,

God cannot use him in ministry because he has chosen sin over God, **even though it is someone else's sin.**

A Christian should always separate himself from sin even when a Christian is sinned against. The Christian is instructed to forgive the sinner just as God forgave him of his sin. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus included the part about forgiveness. Luke 11:1-4, verse 4 "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

### III. A CHRISTIAN AND SELF-FORGIVENESS.

- A. The world teaches a false concept of self-forgiveness. Psychology teaches that self-forgiveness is one of the foundational needs in the life of every person. This statement is an oxymoron (a combination of contradictory words) because it is impossible for a person to pay himself for his own debt. It is not an issue of forgiving one's self, but **seeing oneself as forgiven by the one to which he is indebted.** A person often states "I can't forgive myself", but there is not one place in the Bible that says a person is to forgive himself. For a person to forgive himself he has to place himself in the position of God, because only God can forgive sin. Self-forgiveness is a product of humanism and has no connection to Christianity.
- B. There is a proper biblical concept of personal forgiveness. Psalms 32:1, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." When a Christian realizes that he has been forgiven, he then realizes that he is blessed. One of the greatest directives for peace in the life of a Christian is when he realizes God does not hold him accountable for his sin. Knowing that forgiveness has been given by God breaks the bond of the world system with its condemnation and guilt. God sent His son Jesus into the world to remove the condemnation which comes from the world and its sin. John 3:17, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." **The greatest source of strength in any**

**Christian's life is knowing that God has forgiven him of his sin.**

- C. The consequence of a Christian not seeing his sin placed under forgiveness. Galatians 5:4, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." When a Christian does not see his sin as placed under forgiveness, he reverts back to the world system and, again, sees himself as condemned and separated from God. If a Christian does not see himself under the grace of God, he will revert back to some law and the law will condemn him. He will then think that he is separated from God and will live a condemned life controlled by sin, not submitted to Christ. The Christian that does not condemn himself is a happy man.

The number one thing people say they want in life is happiness. God said that happiness comes when a Christian does not condemn himself. Romans 14:22, "Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." When a Christian condemns himself he will not have any confidence in God. I John 3:20-21, "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." The Christian who trusts in Jesus Christ will not come into self-condemnation unless he chooses to revert back to the world system. John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

- D. A Christian should see himself as God sees him. II Corinthians 7:1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior he is washed clean by the blood of Jesus. The problem comes when he does not recognize himself as clean. In this verse the Christian is instructed to cleanse himself. This does not mean he has the power to cleanse himself, but rather to go to the source of cleansing and recognize Christ's cleansing. **Jesus is the only one who can cleanse anyone of sin.**

When a Christian sins he must trust in the Word of God recognizing that Christ cleansed him at the point of salvation, or he will continue to see himself as a dirty, rotten sinner for the rest of his life. **A Christian must see himself as God sees him and not as the condemning world system sees him.**

## CONCLUSION

In Genesis 50:17 Joseph was sold into captivity by his brothers, but when they asked for forgiveness he wept and forgave them. **Joseph was more concerned about God and his relationship with his family than vengeance over what had happened to him.** Every Christian needs to remember that God and the family of God is more important than any sin or sinful event that has ever happened or ever will happen. Every Christian should see himself forgiven by God, trust in the Word of God, and go on to live a victorious Christian life absent from sin. If a Christian adheres to forgiveness and transmits it to others, he will never be defeated by the world system. He has already won.

## HOMEWORK

Read II Kings

Define forgiveness and explain how it works in your life.

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION III

### PRACTICAL BIBLICAL COUNSELING

#### LESSON NINE

#### FINANCES

##### INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest destroyers of a Christian's development is problems with money and finances. A major number of divorces are provoked by financial problems. A large number of children become rebellious because of financial or material desires. Churches are destroyed because people choose the world and its wealth above God and His wealth. People are more concerned about what kind of car they drive than whether or not God is pleased with their lives. Christians will pray more about their jobs and income than lost souls or failing Christians. Many times Christians separate finances from the spiritual and think they can exist with two separate lives.

God is concerned with the earthly lives of Christians and He wants to be glorified by the material things as well as the spiritual. God does care about a Christian's car, house, food, television, fishing rod, golf clubs and everything else. If a saved person chooses to live the Christian life, he should place **everything** under God and follow the instructions that the Word of God lays down for his life. The Bible has much to say about finances and how a Christian should handle them. This lesson is a study of what the Bible says about finances and how it should be dealt with in the life of a Christian.

##### I. STEWARDSHIP NOT OWNERSHIP.

- A. Everything belongs to God. Psalms 50:10-12, God said "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not

tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." The first thing every Christian should realize is that **everything** he has belongs to God. He needs to deal with financial issues which arise in his life from a point of stewardship not ownership. When deciding whether or not to buy a car or any item, the question is "what does God want". One of the easiest mistakes for any Christian to fall into is choosing ownership over stewardship.

- B. Every Christian must give account to God. Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." There will be a time of judgement for every human being that has ever lived on this earth and an account for how God's possessions were handled. Once a Christian understands this, he will deal with his finances differently and seek to follow God's instructions. Many Christians never come to the realization of stewardship and fail in the battle for control of money. This causes money to become the destroying force that keeps the Christian from ever maturing as God intended.
- C. A Christian cannot trust in himself. Proverbs 28:26, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." Many times a Christian believes that the controlling power of his life is himself, not God. God has given every human being a free will, or the ability to choose, but retains the ownership of his life. There is a great movement today toward self-control which means self-ownership and self-trust. When a person turns to self-trust, he no longer trusts in God and makes his choices based on the reasoning of man.

Gambling and get-rich-quick schemes are in society because many seek worldly gain at the expense of someone else. This is taking place because mankind is departing from stewardship and replacing it with ownership. Proverbs 28:22, "He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him."

- D. Matthew 6:31-33, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do

the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." God will give to the Christian if he will put the kingdom of God first. God is very specific about a Christian putting the kingdom of God first and living his life for God. A Christian should never be side-tracked by money and the gain of the world system.

1. God will give good things to His children. Matthew 7:11, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he becomes a child of God, and God wants to give good things to His children.
2. In due season the Christian will reap if he faints not. Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." A Christian must continue the direction that God has set for his life and never turn to "keeping up with the Joneses."
3. A Christian must be faithful with money before God can commit to him the true riches. Luke 16:11, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" What a Christian does with his finances determines much more than whether or not he will have earthly possessions. How can God trust a man to minister the spiritual things of God if He cannot trust him with the material things of this world.

## II. GOD'S USE OF MONEY IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN.

### A. False concepts about wealth that have been handed down through folklore.

1. Poverty is next to spirituality. Proverbs 10:15, "The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty." No one in the Bible

was ever impoverished by God. Even Job, who lost all his possessions, had it all given back to him by God.

2. Money brings happiness. I Timothy 6:17, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" God gives the Christian everything to enjoy, but the rich will tend to become high-minded and trust in their riches, not in the things of God.
  3. To be wealthy is a sin. Psalms 35:27, "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant." God has pleasure in His servants that prosper. God wants every Christian to have earthly prosperity, but He will not give prosperity if it will be a destructive force to the Christian.
  4. Money is the root of all evil. I Timothy 6:10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." It is the "love" of money, not money itself, that is the root of all evil. Evil comes from the heart of man, not material things.
- B. God does not use money to control a Christian's life.
1. God does not want the Christian to worry about his earthly needs. Matthew 6:25, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" God will supply the needs, not use them to control.
  2. God does not use riches to build the Christian's ego. James 1:10-11, "But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it

perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways." Money or earthly wealth can vanish in a single moment. A Christian should never think he is important or special because he has earthly wealth.

3. God knows that too much wealth or too little wealth can tempt Christians into a life of sin. God wants the Christian to serve Him. Proverbs 30:8-9, "Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain." Psalms 49:10-11, "For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names."

### III. FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES FOR A CHRISTIAN.

#### A. Seven major money mistakes.

1. Indebtedness. Romans 13:8, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." Proverbs 22:7, "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." A debt is something that is owed to another, whether it be money or favors. This does not mean that a person cannot rent someone else's money. Debt is when a person cannot or will not pay the payments on money he has rented. When a Christian is indebted to another, he becomes a servant to that person. This can restrict his Christian service by causing him distress, which produces discouragement, and could destroy godly priorities.
2. Failure to wisely use the resources that God has given to the Christian. Luke 19:11-26, Matthew 25:14-30. A Christian should avoid impulse buying and carefully manage the money and property that God has placed in his charge.

Proverbs 24:30-34, "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man."

3. Having a money-centered life. Luke 12:15, "And he said unto them, take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." The earthly things that a Christian holds precious will all be eliminated when the Lord comes back. II Peter 3:10-11, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness," When a Christian lives his life for the things of this earth, all his works will produce no rewards from God at the time of judgement.
4. Get-rich-quick schemes. Proverbs 28:22, "He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him." When a Christian tries to get rich quick by some unethical means, he is a poor steward of God's money and is subject to loosing all of his stewardship. Gambling is a quick way to poverty. I Timothy 6:7-10, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the

root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

5. Selfishness. Luke 6:38, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." When a Christian becomes stingy and withholds the stewardship that God has given him (from being used by God), he will never experience the joys of being God's minister. A Christian that does not give is self-centered, his actions are earthly, and he is a failure in loving others as God instructed. James 2:15-17, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."
6. Cheating or bribing. Proverbs 11:1, "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight." Proverbs 20:23, "Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good." A Christian should never drop his Christianity in order to produce earthly gain. When a person gets involved with cheating and bribery, he is doing business with crooked people who will also be a crook to him. Remember what Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. said, "It is never right, to do wrong, to do right."
7. The job or business-controlled life. II Timothy 2:3-5, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." A Christian should not center his life around his job or business, but center his job or business around his Christian life. It is very easy to allow the job to control everything that is

done in life. II Peter 2:3, "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." This does not mean that a Christian should be a poor servant. He should be the best employee that he can, as unto the Lord.

B. Making financial decisions.

1. Avoid speculation. Proverbs 23:4-5, "Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." When making financial decisions avoid pyramid franchising, multi-level marketing systems, and unregistered stock deals. These speculation ventures can cause the Christian to lose his testimony, lose his credibility, and lose his money. Think what the motive is of each business venture. **Remember that God is not the only one who produces business ventures.**
2. Build on reality, not wishing. Luke 14:28-29, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him," James 4:13-15, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." A Christian should always keep his finances current. He should never borrow money that he knows he cannot repay. He should never borrow money that will jeopardize his future. He should buy with his existing income, not what he hopes he will have next year.

3. Glorify Christ in money matters.  
I Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." A Christian should always consider his testimony when spending or borrowing money. He should always ask himself "how will Christ's name be effected by this transaction."
4. Do not become responsible for someone else's debt. Proverbs 19:19, "A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again." Proverbs 6:1-3, "My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend." Bankers consider co-signed notes as the most vulnerable of all loans to default. When a Christian becomes responsible for another person's debt, the assets that God has placed under his stewardship become subject to another person's stewardship and may be lost because of someone else's poor judgement.
5. Make financial decisions based on the peace of God, not forced or quick decisions. Proverbs 10:22, "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." A Christian should never follow a choice if he does not have the peace of God. When a high-pressure salesman tries to force a Christian to make an immediate decision, you can be 99% sure God is not in it. Take time to pray and seek God's direction.

#### IV. FREEDOM WITHIN THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE.

Testimony of Fred Allen. "Over the years I have tried several methods of controlling finances. I have advised many families and investigated numerous types of budgets. I have personally written out ten to twenty different budgets and never stayed with one for more than three months. I know there are many people who use a budget and stick to it and I

applaud them. However, for those of us who will not stick to a budget, let me suggest another alternative. This is the only system that I have been able to keep and have also seen it successful when others apply it to their financial management. I call it the "free money system."

A. Allowances work with children, so why not with adults? It is a common practice for parents to give their children a certain number of dollars each week for them to spend as they see fit. Once adulthood takes over, the normal practice is to remove all the free money and live under restrictions and condemnation that makes managing money miserable. How can Christians get back to the joy they experienced when they were given money as children and had the freedom to spend it like they did then. Christians can give an allowance to themselves and not be burdened by guilt. This is how the system works.

1. Establish the home as a personal corporation (in the mind) that functions just like a business.
2. Determine a specific amount that each employee (member of the home) is to receive each pay period. When the pay check arrives, divide it into corporate money and personal money.
3. Place the corporate money in the corporate account, but realize that no one person has the right to remove any part unless it is approved by the **corporate officers**.
  - a. Husband - President.
  - b. Wife - Executive Vice-President.
  - c. Children - Employees.
4. Give the "free" money to each member as predetermined. This money has to be accounted for only by the person who receives it. He should realize that he will give account to God for what he does with it, but should never be intimidated by other members as to how they spend their free money. In other words, the wife does not have to give account to the husband, and the

husband does not have to give account to the wife. It is their money to do with any way they like. That's between them and God. Each member should not go back to the corporation for money until the next pay day. If you run out--tough.

5. The corporate money goes to pay all the bills and operating expenses for the home, and the free money for the operation of the individual's life.

B. Benefits of this method.

1. It gives the individual the opportunity to learn management of money and also freedom of spending. If a person goes out and spends his money the first day, he doesn't get anymore until the next pay day. This also gives the person the freedom to spent it all the first day if that's his choice (but must live with the commitment to the corporation). If any money is taken out of the corporation, it has to be accounted for to the other officer of the corporation.
2. It allows the joy of giving to take place. The regular church giving should come from the corporate account, but what about special projects or needs. When each individual can give "her" or "his" money it greatly increases the joy of giving. What about giving birthday presents or Christmas gifts? When gifts come out of the corporate account it eliminates the sacrificing and personal giving and decreases the joy of giving.

- C. When this system is adhered to, the corporate account will almost always end up with more money in it than it has ever had before.

V. RETIREMENT.

- A. Retirement, as it is known today, is a modern concept and has produced many problems as well as benefits. In times past, a person worked as long as they were able and then they became the responsibility of their family. In Luke chapter twenty there was the challenge of a brother producing children with the widow for the

purpose of having children to care for her. In I Timothy 5:3-9 it is mandated that the children are to take care of the widows. If the children cannot, the church is to take on that responsibility.

- B. Savings for retirement should be more for the purpose of being able to serve God than to accumulate wealth. Much of the money accumulated might possibly end up in taxes when you die or transferred to your children's stewardship.

## VI. SAVINGS

A good guideline for regular savings should be to have enough corporate money set aside to be able to cover at least one month's living expenses.

## CONCLUSION

Money and finances have destroyed many Christians and caused them to fail in their ministry for Christ. It is imperative that each Christian get his finances under control and keep them as God instructed. He should never be controlled by money or earthly gain but commit his life to doing the will of God. When a Christian meets God he will have to give account for all the stewardship God placed under him. For a Christian to receive great earthly stewardship he must first take care of what he has. God wants His servants to take care of the world, but many times He cannot trust them with the things of God because of their poor stewardship. Money and worldly possessions are very important and should be dealt with in accordance to God's instructions.

## HOMEWORK

Real I Chronicles

Explain what stewardship is and how to properly control the items and money God places in your care. \_\_\_\_\_

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION III

### PRACTICAL BIBLICAL COUNSELING

#### LESSON TEN

#### RAISING CHILDREN

##### INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest deficiencies in Christianity today is how Christian parents are raising their children. Parents have the tendency to raise their children the same way their parents raised them. Many times parents reject things they do not like about their parents' actions and will not apply those actions to their own children. In recent years, Christians also tend to add psychological and secular humanistic teachings to their ways of raising children.

Once a Christian couple starts to apply the teachings of God to raising their children, their tendency is to go to a bookstore and purchase some of the thousands of books on how to raise children. They then switch their understanding of child raising to religious teachings, many times with adverse effects. A person may not be correct on child rearing just because he writes a book on the subject. One of the best known writers and lecturers on how to raise children in today's Christian circuit is not married and has not had the privilege of raising children. A very wise old preacher once said, "Parents should never brag on their children's success until they see their grandchildren." Before a Christian looks at a writer as the authority, **he should look at the success of the author.** Hebrews 13:7, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, *considering the end of their conversation.*"

There is one book written by a father that gives his instructions for raising children and should be examined in light of the life of his son. That book is the Bible. When a Christian looks at

Jesus Christ and the life He lived, he is assured that when God's instructions are followed, they will produce children like the author produced. For a Christian, the Bible should be the book to use as his authority and to learn how to raise children from its words. God knew that Abraham would command his children after the way of the Lord, which was one of the reasons God chose Abraham to be the father of many nations. Genesis 18:19, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

In many homes today, the children rule the home and the parents become frustrated, discouraged, and afraid. Isaiah 3:12, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths." In this passage the children became the leaders and with it came oppression. Anytime the children rule a home it is doomed to failure. Every adult Christian should grow up, not be childish, and lead his home as God instructs in the Bible. I Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

It has been said that seventy-five percent of a child's values will be established by the time he is five years old. Ninety-five percent of these values will come from the parents or the people caring for the child. When disciplining a child under five, reasoning is of little or no value because the child has not yet developed the reasoning process. The child simply follows the direction that is least painful. One of the first things a child learns is "no" because he associates that with pain. Spanking is the method God instructed Christians to use and is still the most effective way of training a child under five. By the time a child reaches five he will know seventy-five percent of the things he **should or shouldn't** do (steal, hurt others, lie, etc.). Once a child reaches school age, reasoning has to be added and gradually used. By the age of nine, spanking is of little or no use and reasoning should become the controlling force in the training of a child.

Children go through different stages in life and they are best identified by the child asking "Why".

1. At around three, children ask why because they are simply wanting to know where the lines are drawn in what they can or cannot do. During this time "because I said so" is very effective and teaches the child to follow authority.
2. Once a child is in grade school, the why turns to seeking understanding (in a general sense). They want to know that God made it that way and that it is OK.
3. At the junior high age, the why is usually rebellious because they are asking, "What makes your way right and mine wrong." They want to exalt their ways above the ways of parents and even God. It is imperative that at this stage parents direct them with reasoning and logic why the ways of God and Christianity are right.
4. At the age of fifteen or sixteen, the young adult wants to know why as they seek the answers to life. This is the time to share philosophies and motivations for living for God.

**Under no circumstance should parents argue with children.** When a parent argues with a child, he has placed the child on the same level with the parent. This is not good for the child or the parent. In doing this, the parent loses the position of authority which God has given him. Also, the child no longer has this authority to follow with his life.

#### I. ESTABLISHING GOALS, PURPOSES, AND A VISION FOR A CHILD

- A. Psalms 144:11-12, "Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:" Parents should have specific visions for their children and help their children to reach these goals. Many times parents are told not to push or cause their children to excel. When parents do not push their children to excel, it is a sure thing that they will not excel. They were born with a sin nature and when left alone, they will turn to sin. Proverbs 29:15, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

Parents should picture their child graduating from school at about the age of eighteen. The parents should pray and ask God what the child should be when he is eighteen. When the parents have the vision and understand it, they should divide the vision into three sections (1-physical; 2-social, educational, emotional; 3-spiritual) and then write it out. Remember, the parents are the ones who will determine the direction of their child's life. They should set goals and lay out directions following God's instructions and plan.

1. Even a child is known by his actions. Proverbs 20:11, "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." When a child establishes a reputation, a parent should listen and understand that the child is following that direction. A Christian can tell the direction a child is taking at all times. Pay attention to what a child is doing and what others are saying about him. Many times parents ignore what others say because they do not want to believe that their child could do such things.

The best time to deal with children and problems is when they are small children--not when they are teenagers. When parents do not deal with their child's problems, it becomes harder and harder to correct the problems as the years pass.

2. A wise child turns out to be a wise adult. Ecclesiastes 4:13, "Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished." God recognizes the value of a wise child. How does a child become wise? What part does a parent play in his wisdom? How does a child know that real wisdom is following God? Someone has to teach him and parents are the main source of teaching.
- B. Parents should know what to give their children. Parents give to their children what is important to the parents. Parents can give negative things such as greed, anger, contention, lust, envy, and many other wrong actions. The parents should give the

important things which come from God such as visions, stories from the Bible, lessons on good character, stewardship, love, care, and many more. The question that parents should ask themselves is "what is important to me?" The important things that parents give to their children should deal with living a godly life, and not one of not materialism.

1. You know how to give good gifts unto your children. Matthew 7:11, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"
2. Parents should leave an inheritance for their children. II Corinthians 12:14, "Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children."
3. Parents are to command their children to do the things of God. Deuteronomy 32:46, "And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law."
4. The sins of a parent remain for four generations. Exodus 34:7, "Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." When a father teaches his children to sin, it is passed down for four generations before the descendants depart from it. This does not mean that God is punishing the sin of a man for four generations, but visiting it. A parent can break bad teaching by teaching the things of God. **The bad does not have to continue.**
5. The lineage of Christ will not fail if parents pass on the things of Christ to their children. I Kings 2:4, "That the LORD may continue his word which

he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel." The character of a church can be determined by the actions of the children in the church. Even the church is affected by the failure of parents to raise their children for God.

- C. The elders in the church are to rule their children as God instructs them.
1. Bishops (pastors) are to have their children in subjection with all gravity (a serious situation or problem). I Timothy 3:4, "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;"
  2. Deacons are to rule their children. I Timothy 3:12, "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well." Children are not equal to their parents. The parents are to tell their children what to do instead of the children telling the parents what to do. There are thousands of examples that can be seen daily of incorrect family structure. The problems can be seen by observing parents and children in restaurants, churches, grocery stores, etc.

## II. DISCIPLINE IS THE MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING THE VISION

- A. Correction is a biblical mandate used to keep a child on course to reach the vision. If there is no correction in a child's life he will do what he wants. He will be totally selfish and become what the carnal world leads him to be.
1. The rod (a branch of a tree) shall drive foolishness out of the heart of a child. Proverbs 22:15, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
  2. When parents apply the rod to a child, he will not die. Proverbs 23:13, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die."
  3. The parent that spares the rod hates the child. Proverbs 13:24, "He that

spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

4. Parents are to chasten their child while there is still hope. Proverbs 19:18, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
  5. Parents are to correct their children and they will give them rest. Proverbs 29:17, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."
  6. Who the Lord loves He chastens, as a father does his child. Proverbs 3:12, "For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." Hebrews 12:7-8, "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."
- B. Rebuke should be administered to a child. Rebuke is chastisement or strong corrective instructions. The Bible instructs that adults are to be rebuked by the elders and certainly children should also be rebuked. Who can be rebuked? Everyone who loves someone can be rebuked by the person he loves. A one year old cannot be rebuked because he cannot understand corrective instructions. Nor can he understand love. He can only understand affection.
1. Open rebuke is good. Proverbs 27:5, "Open rebuke is better than secret love."
  2. The person who rebukes will find favor, Proverbs 28:23, "He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue".
- C. Instructions for the children.
1. God holds children responsible for their actions. II Kings 2:23-24, "And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there

came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them." The age of accountability is when a child understands the meaning of wrong because a law says it's wrong; but because of rebellion, he chooses to disobey. Romans 7:8-9, "But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died."

2. Children should obey their parents. Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."
3. Parents are not to be put to death for the sins of their children. Deuteronomy 24:16, "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin." Parents are accountable to God for how they raise their children--not for their children's sins.
4. Do not be weary of the Lord's chastening. Proverbs 3:11, "my son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:"

### III. TRAINING IS THE PROCESS OF EDUCATING A CHILD

There are some people who teach it is the parents' responsibility to **make** a child spiritual. The Bible says that a parent should **train** a child (which means to teach). Only the Holy Spirit of God can make a person spiritual.

- A. Teach (to show or to guide). Teaching is the showing, not the making. The parents' responsibility is to show and guide their child in the things of God. This teaching is not necessarily family devotions. Often parents set aside a small time each day

called "family devotions" used to teach their children. The Bible does not teach parents to have "family devotions" but to have "devoted families". The teaching should be all day long.

1. Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt **teach** them diligently unto thy children, and shalt **talk** of them **when thou sittest** in thine house, and **when thou walkest** by the way, and **when thou liest down**, and **when thou risest up**. And thou shalt **bind** them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt **write** them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."
  2. Deuteronomy 11:18-20. The Bible repeats itself to show the importance of teaching the children.
- B. Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The word train used in this verse is translated as train only one time in the Bible. It is translated four times as dedicated. The word means to make dedicated to the way he should go. Parents need to dedicate their children to the vision they determine as described in this lesson. The Bible teaches that when a child is dedicated he will not depart from what he is dedicated to. There are some people who teach that this verse says, "Even if a child departs from the faith he will come back before he dies." That is **not** what it says nor is it implied in any way. The verse says "he will not depart".
- C. Instruct. The word instruct means the giving of orders by someone in authority for the purpose of building. Parents should not turn their children over to an educational system to instruct them. Schools are for the purpose of giving knowledge--not character!!! This includes Christian schools as well as secular. Parents have the responsibility of instruction.

1. The book of Proverbs gives God's advice about instructions.
  - a. Children that despise instruction are fools. Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."
  - b. Children are to hear the instruction of their fathers. Proverbs 1:8, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:"
  - c. Children are to attend to understanding. Proverbs 4:1, "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding".
  - d. Children are to take fast hold on instruction. Proverbs 4:13, "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life".
  - e. Children will die without instruction. Proverbs 5:23, "He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."
  - f. Children are to be wise and not refuse instruction. Proverbs 8:33. "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not".
  - g. Children are to love instruction. Proverbs 12:1, "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish."
  - h. Children who are wise hear their father's instruction. Proverbs 13:1, "A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."
  - i. Children that refuse instruction despises their own souls. Proverbs 15:32, "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding."
  - j. Children are to apply their hearts to instruction. Proverbs 23:12, "Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge".

2. II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" The scripture was given for instructions. Parents should instruct their children from the scriptures, not with worldly or religious education.

D. Nurture and admonish (to put in mind; caution; call attention to; warn)

1. Bring up the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

2. Teaching and admonishing children in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

3. Admonish children with goodness. Romans 15:14, "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another".

4. What to teach children narrows down to their relationship with God. Ecclesiastes 12:10-13. "The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

#### IV. CHILDREN ARE NOT TO BE NEGLECTED

A. Christ did not neglect the children. Matthew 19:13-14, "Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the

disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Sometimes children are very irritating and become a great consumer of the parents' time. Children were given to the parents by the Lord and they are to raise the children for the Lord. A parent should never be resentful or distraught because of their children. This is sin and failure to recognize the ministry that God has given.

- B. Do not be negligent to cause the children to remember the things of Christ. II Peter 1:12, "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." When parents do not teach their children the things of Christ, they are negligent in their responsibilities as Christians. James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

## V. CHILDREN ARE NOT TO BE WRONGED BY THE PARENTS

- A. Parents are not to provoke their children to do wrong. To provoke is to cause a child to do wrong by pushing or arguing with him. Provoking is to tease, make mad or keep "jabbing" on purpose. When a parent spans a child as an act of discipline, it is not provoking the child. The difference is the heart condition of the parent. Spanking is for the purpose of changing the child, not to provoke him to anger. If the child becomes angry, the spanking should continue until he changes from self-defense to godly sorrow which leads to repentance. II Corinthians 7:9-10, "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."
1. Parents are not to provoke their children to anger. Colossians 3:21, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."
  2. Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath. Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye

fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

- B. Parents are to be blameless, harmless and without rebuke in this wicked world. Philippians 2:14-15, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

## CONCLUSION

Children are a heritage of the Lord according to Psalms 127:3-5 and the man that has his home full of them is happy. It is a privilege and honor to have the Lord place children in a person's care. The children do not belong to the parents. They belong to God. When Christian parents are given children, **they should take the necessary actions to cause the children to grow into adulthood and be what God intends for them to be.** The greatest privilege a Christian will ever have in ministry is to become a parent of one of God's children. If a Christian is not training the children that God has placed in his care the way God has instructed, he will never become the elder God intends him to be.

## HOMEWORK

Read II Chronicles

Explain training a child and how you can know he will turn out the way God wants.

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION IV

### CONTROVERSIAL BIBLICAL TEACHING

#### LESSON ELEVEN

### MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE

#### INTRODUCTION

One of the most controversial teachings of Christianity is divorce. There are great extremes in different religions with many different conclusions in regard to recognition of divorce.

The Catholic church does not recognize divorce for any reason and any person who is divorced cannot partake of communion. Yet for a price designated by the priest, a person can obtain an annulment (saying that a person was never married) and then be accepted back into active participation in the church.

There are legalistic Baptists who teach that divorce is a sin and if a person remarries, he has committed an unpardonable sin. A divorced person can attend church, give his money, or possibly sing in the choir. However, many times he can never serve in any office of the church or even teach a Sunday School class. To enforce this stand, the Scriptures are misused and even perverted to make them mean things the Bible never says. These people often refer to themselves as "fundamentalists" but may forget one of the basic principles of fundamentalism--that is the Bible says what it means and means what it says.

The Bible says in I Timothy 3:2 that a bishop was to be the husband of one wife. It is addressing the issue of polygamy and in no way makes reference to divorce. Even today, polygamy has to be addressed in foreign countries where this passage is to be used for leadership in the churches. Unfortunately, this verse still becomes the basis for a doctrinal stand that a divorced person can never be a pastor. If divorce is a sin, why didn't God say it is a sin, and why didn't He

place a penalty upon it, causing it to be rejected by the followers of God? Divorce **itself** is not a sin, but it is always **caused by the sin** of either one or both parties in the marriage.

Divorce is not something that should be taken lightly or entered into without understanding the consequences of the action. Divorce is the willful putting to death of one of God's institutions--the home. Divorce should only be entered into when there is no alternative, realizing that sin has conquered and the home has lost. There are so many flippant statements made today in regard to getting a divorce. Some of these statements are, "I don't love him anymore so I am getting a divorce"; "We are not compatible so I am getting a divorce"; "Our marriage just isn't exciting anymore so I am getting a divorce"; "Because I am married I have lost my individual identity so I am getting a divorce"; "I just don't want to be married anymore so I am getting a divorce"; and many more frivolous excuses to turn away from God and His instructions for life. Many times Christians are more concerned about self than they are God.

## I. GOD ESTABLISHED MARRIAGE.

A. God performed the first marriage in the garden of Eden. Genesis 2:21-25, "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

1. God saw that it was not good for a man to dwell alone. Genesis 2:18, "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." There are questions that arise about I Corinthians 7 when Paul says that it is not good to marry. That statement was made because of the circumstances in which this book was written. During that time period, the church was under the rule of Nero, the most destructive

Caesar in history in regard to Christianity. In the beginning, God said that it is good for a man to have a companion. The first reason given in the Bible for a person to have a spouse is for companionship.

2. God created them male and female and blessed them. Genesis 5:1-2, "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." God intended for mankind to be male and female.

3. God chose the male and female relationship as His way of reproduction. Genesis 1:27-28, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Reproduction is the natural process of a male and a female uniting, but marriage is not how reproduction takes place. People do not have to be married to reproduce. When sin came into the world it removed the sexual relationship exclusively from marriage and brought about sexual sin. If there had never been sin, there would never have been any reproduction outside of marriage, because there would never have been sex outside of marriage.

B. The law of marriage. Romans 7:1-6. A husband and wife are bound to each other until one or the other dies. Divorce is a specific event which takes place to sever a husband and wife by some act of man. God did not intend that man should ever destroy a marriage. Every time a divorce takes place, it is because man has overridden the decrees of God. If man did not have sin, then there would be no divorce.

## II. GOD DEALS WITH DIVORCE.

A. The first time divorce is mentioned in the Bible. Deuteronomy 24:1-4. God chose to

regulate divorce and placed it in the Bible, giving credence to God's **allowance of divorce**. (if the act of divorce was a sin, would God allow it and regulate it?)

1. Verse 1. The **divorce must be in writing**. By requiring a written document, this made divorce a legal matter. Once a person had the written document they could prove to others they were free from their spouse and free to marry again. By requiring the divorce to have a written decree rather than just a verbal decree, it eliminated a person to act out of anger and made divorce a deliberate and premeditated act.
2. Verse 1. The **divorce decree must be personally delivered**. Divorce had to take place between the two married people and not by the act of a third person. They had to meet face to face to complete the divorce.
3. Verse 1. There must be a **separation of dwellings**. The actual disintegration of the home was to formally occur. The conditions of companionship were to be broken down to keep the broken home from becoming a placebo that artificially satisfied the needs of a husband and wife.
4. Verse 2. **When the divorce was legal and final, the people had the freedom to remarry**. The Bible specifically states that a divorced person has the freedom to marry again and is not attached to sin in any way.
5. Verse 3-4. Once they remarry they can never go back to their first spouse. It was an abomination for them to remarry after they had been married to another.
6. The following is a historical example of a bill of divorce that shows how an Israelite divorced his wife:

On the \_\_\_\_ day of the week \_\_\_\_ in the month \_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_ from the beginning of the world, according to the common computation in the providence of \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_ son of \_\_\_\_ by whatever name I may be known, of the town of \_\_\_\_ with entire consent of mind, and without any constraint, have divorced, dismissed and expelled thee \_\_\_\_ daughter of \_\_\_\_ by whatever name thou art called, of the town of \_\_\_\_ who has been my wife hitherto; but now I have dismissed thee \_\_\_\_ the daughter of \_\_\_\_ by whatever name thou art called, of the town of \_\_\_\_ so as to be free to thy own disposal, to marry whomsoever thou pleasest, without hindrance from anyone from this day for ever. Thou art therefore free for anyone who would marry thee. Let this be thy bill of divorce from me, a writing of separation and expulsion, according to the law of Moses and Israel.

\_\_\_\_, son of\_\_\_\_, witness

\_\_\_\_, son of\_\_\_\_, witness

B. Christ dealt with divorce in the gospels.

1. Jesus consented to divorce under the condition that fornication had been committed. Matthew 5:31-32, "It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." Divorce was approved by Christ under the conditions of fornication. He acknowledged divorce itself was not a sin, but a correct action **under certain circumstances**.
2. The Pharisees used divorce in trying to deceive Christ, attempting to trick Him and cause Him to condemn Himself. Matthew 19:3-11, "The Pharisees also came to him, tempting him and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given."

He challenged them with their knowledge of the Word of God by

repeating what God said in Genesis chapter two. (Remember this was before the fall of man). Then the Pharisees asked Him why Moses wrote the bill of divorcement. Christ's response was because of the hardness of their hearts, which is the result of sin. Christ then told them that anyone who divorced his wife, except for fornication, and married another was committing adultery. Christ did not approve divorce for every reason under the sun, only for sexual misconduct. His disciples then questioned Him and said that if this was the case it would be better for a man not to get married. Remember, Jesus is talking to the Pharisees and the application of spiritual fornication was the challenge to the Jews who had traded God for another wife, without proper reason.

3. Divorce is again connected to the fulfilling of the law. Luke 16:16-18, "The law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail. Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." The implication here is that no one could be joined to Jesus (the new wife) until the law (the old wife) was divorced.

C. Paul deals with divorce in I Corinthians.

1. Remarriage. I Corinthians 7:8-9, "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn." Paul deals with a divorced (unmarried) or widowed person and states that he should not remarry unless he must because of the sexual desire of his body. "It is better to marry than to burn." The word unmarried used in this verse is a combination of two Greek words, "alpha" (a negative particle) and "gamos"

meaning marriage or wedding. When you place the two together they mean to *undo a marriage*.

2. Paul repeats what Christ said in the gospels. I Corinthians 7:10-11, "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." A person is not to get a divorce except for the cause of fornication. If they should get a divorce, they are to remain unmarried.
3. Paul **adds** to what Christ said to the Jews. I Corinthians 7:12-17, "But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, **let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.** For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches."

The Gentiles have a different situation to deal with than the Jew. In the New Testament church, those who were saved were sometimes married to spouses who were not saved. The nation of Israel is not the issue now; the Kingdom of God is the issue because the Gentiles were not a part of the Jewish law. Paul tells the believers to stay with the lost person if the lost person is pleased to dwell with them. Paul also made it clear that if the unbelieving spouse departed, they were to let him depart.

The word unbeliever is defined as a person who is without Christian

faith, or a disbelieving Christian. Paul also states that the believer is not under bondage in such cases. See Romans 7:1-4.

D. God divorced Israel.

1. God divorced Israel, even though He hates putting away or divorce. Jeremiah 3:7-8, "And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery *I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce*; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also." Malachi 2:16, "For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously." Divorce could not be a sin because that would make God a sinner. Divorce is **caused** by sin, but nowhere in the Bible does it say or even imply that the act of divorce is a sin.
2. God had given Israel a bill of divorcement and put it in her hand. He put her away. Isaiah 50:1, "Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away."

III. GOD ALLOWS REMARRIAGE.

- A. Do not listen to old wives tales. I Timothy 4:1-7, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **Forbidding to marry**, and commanding to

abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

Refuse to listen to old wives tales and *supposed* doctrines of the Bible that are taught by men who do not hold the Word of God as the final authority. Every Christian has been taught something about divorce and remarriage, but usually with little or no biblical reference. One of the reasons that this issue becomes such a great controversy is because of legalism. Divorce is the first issue to determine whether or not a person adheres to the laws he has been taught more than the Bible and what it teaches.

- B. Widows were allowed to remarry and even **encouraged** to remarry. I Timothy 5:11-14, "But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." Remarriage is not a sin and is right under the conditions God laid down. I Corinthians 7:39, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." A woman whose husband had died was given the freedom to remarry whomever she pleases, as long as it is in the Lord.
- C. The Bible tells those who cannot control their sexual desires to marry. I Corinthians 7:8-9, "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to

- burn." This is not just a suggestion, but a directive.
- D. Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9. These verses imply that if a person gets a divorce based on fornication, and he remarries, he does not commit adultery. Jesus Himself did not state that remarriage was a sin if the divorce was one approved by God.
- E. The Bible specifically says that it is not a sin if a person remarries, who has put away (divorced) his wife. I Corinthians 7:27-28, "Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But and **if thou marry, thou hast not sinned**; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you."
- F. Regarding God and the nation of Israel; He removed the law as stated in Deuteronomy 24 about a husband and wife remarrying after they have been another's spouse. Jeremiah 3:1, "They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD." God is willing to take Israel back and will take Israel back during the tribulation period.

## CONCLUSION

Marriage, divorce, and remarriage is one of the most talked about subjects in religious circles. It is also one of the most controversial. It is difficult for many to accept the Bible as the Word of God and follow its teachings. Divorce was given by God because of the sin of mankind, making a way to escape the destruction of sin. When a person is attached by marriage to one who rejects God and places the other in a position of having to choose between him or God, a Christian has no choice but to choose God. God said that with every temptation He would make a way to escape and divorce is that escape in this situation. I Corinthians 10:13. God never intended for man to have to divorce, but sin has taken its toll.

## HOMEWORK

Read Amos, Obadiah, Lamentations

Explain what divorce is and under what circumstances it is approved by God.

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION IV

### CONTROVERSIAL BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

#### LESSON TWELVE

#### SELF-ESTEEM

##### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the teaching of self-esteem has arisen permeating the churches and every part of Christianity, and being taught as biblical truth. The fact is, it did not originate from the Bible or Christian theology. Its origin is from outside Christianity. It has come from psychology. Psychology is based on the accumulation of counseling cases, the evaluation of the statistics involving these cases, and then using them to determine solutions for a person experiencing problems in life. There are other terms used in the self-esteem concept such as self-love, self-image, self-reliance, self-actualization, self-worth, and others. Notice the base word in all of these terms is "self" and consequently connects self-esteem to the humanist movement of today.

Humanism teaches that all truth is God's truth even though the source may come from the world, Satan, or some man-originated teaching. Humanism assumes the position that everything the world determines to be truth comes from God, even if a man established it. Because of this belief, humanistic psychological teaching is accepted as truth. Many times even psychologists will attempt to use the Bible to prove their teaching is of God. They use a few scripture verses which appear to add God's validity to their teaching, though the verses are many times misused or even used maliciously. This causes immature Christians to accept their teachings without questioning or verifying their teachings. **When seeking truth, Christians should never go outside the Bible to find truth.** Christians should never use psychological teachings to find truth, but instead go to the Bible and base all truth out of God's Word. John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

Christianity merged with psychology has produced the concept that without self-love there can be no love for others. That teaching states that a person must love himself before he can love

his neighbor or even God. A very well-known "Christian" author wrote in regard to this belief, "Self-love is the prerequisite and criteria for our conduct towards our neighbor...without self-love there can be no love for others.... You cannot love your neighbor and you cannot love God unless you first love yourself." This teaching goes so far as to say that a person's ability to love God or others comes from his ability to love himself. Some teach that a person gets the ability to love himself from those who love him. They teach that the ability to love yourself comes from parents, teachers, religious leaders, and others loving you. As a result of this teaching, others can be blamed for a person's inability to love. Every Christian is faced with the choice of which teaching to follow--humanistic psychology or the Word of God--**they cannot choose both as a combination.**

I. TWO NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS TO LOVES, NOT THREE. There are **only two** directions to love in the Bible. The Bible does not add "love thyself" as a third commandment. Matthew 22:36-40.

A. Verse 36-37 (the first commandment). "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." With all thy heart, all thy soul, and all thy mind means that a Christian is to love God with all he is and all he has. It means to love God genuinely, sincerely and wholeheartedly as he **already** loves himself.

B. Verse 38-40 (the second commandment). "This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Self-image teachers use this verse to say that you are to love yourself. They emphasize the **escalation** of loving self with counseling and teaching. They exalt and encourage Christians to **strengthen** this love of self, instead of what the Bible teaches. They take the position that mankind did not truly understand this verse for nearly two thousand years, but just recently the real truth has been revealed by psychological teachers.

1. Jesus approaches the issue of loving your neighbor from the understanding of God that man **already** loves himself. Jesus did not say that a Christian must love himself--**he already does**. Most of the sins committed by Christians are a result of loving self.

Why does a person commit suicide? He loves or cares **more** about himself than anyone else and chooses the easy way out of some difficult situation. If he loved others, he would consider what effect his suicide would have on them.

If a person loves others as he loves himself (notice the action of loving himself, which is **not** what the Bible says) he would encourage his neighbor to not only do good things, but to do injurious and sinful things just like he does himself (such as adultery, lying, stealing, eating too much, and, yes, even committing suicide). **The things a Christian does for himself is not the criteria for loving others.**

A recent compiling of aptitude tests given by college boards to high school seniors included how they feel about issues and how they compare themselves with others of their own age. In leadership ability, seventy percent rated themselves above average with only two percent below average. Sixty percent viewed themselves as better than average in athletic ability with only six percent below average. In their ability to get along with others, zero percent of 829,000 students rated themselves below average. Sixty percent rated themselves in the top ten percent and twenty-five percent see themselves in the top one percent. Does this indicate there is a problem with self-esteem in the United States?

2. Ephesians 5:28-29. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it*, even as the Lord the church:" Paul stated that every man **already** loves himself. This is an absolute Bible statement. What is right? The Bible or a person's feelings.
3. Luke 10:29-37. Jesus used the story of the good Samaritan to explain loving a neighbor. There were three men who saw a wounded man in great need. The first was a priest(those who had the responsibility of representing God) but he cared *more for himself* than the wounded man, neglected him and passed by on the other side of the road to keep from getting involved in the

situation. The second was a Levite (those who were responsible for performing the work in the house of God) and he also cared *more for himself* than the wounded man. He looked on the wounded man and passed by on the other side because he had no compassion for him. The third was a Samaritan (the descendants of half Jews and half Gentiles and rejected by the Jews) who stopped and took care of the wounded man, giving his money to provide for medical care and housing until the wounded man was able to travel. He was the one who loved his neighbor as himself. The first two already loved *themselves too much and loved themselves more* than their neighbor, **and did not transfer that love to others**. They were self-centered and did not follow the commandment of God.

**Loving self is not the issue, but the issue is transferring the love of self to others.** This commandment demands of a Christian the most difficult action he will ever try to fulfill. Christians should stop worrying about how important self is and start directing that concern and love toward others. **The more a Christian loves self, the less he will do for God and the more he will do for his own self.**

## II. THE WORTHINESS OF A CHRISTIAN.

- A. Genesis 1:26-27 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." I Corinthians 11:7, "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man." Man is the image and glory of God. If a man were to show another man the picture of his wife and the second man took the picture, spit upon it and cursed it, the first man would be very offended and may seek some form of defensive action. Why would a man get so upset about a simple picture? The reason is because the picture is an image of his wife. Man is the image of God and

every Christian should realize the response of God when His image is defamed. **Being the image of God is what makes a man important.** Without God man is nothing and totally worthless.

- B. Matthew 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Humanism tries to make a person important without God, but that is not possible. A man can only be important in Christ--not in making himself important. Self-image is making a person's own self important without the value of God.
- C. Romans 3:10-18. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes." No matter what a person thinks of himself and no matter how much he loves himself, he is still unrighteous. There is no understanding of God's way without placing the value upon God.
- D. Galatians 6:14 "But God forbid that **I** should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." **The only thing that makes a Christian important is the salvation that came from Jesus Christ.**
- E. James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:10. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." To become important to God requires humility, not pride. Those who think they are important because of their improvement of self are only deceiving themselves.

### III. DYING TO SELF.

- A. Romans 6:1-23. The Bible informs the Christian that there is nothing in the old self that is pleasing to God. The old man is dead.
1. Verses 1-4. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." The Christian is buried with Christ and instructed to live a new life. **Self is no longer the issue but Christ.**
  2. Verses 5-8. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." The old man is crucified with Christ that the body of sin might be destroyed. When a Christian realizes he is dead, he is freed from sin (self). After salvation a Christian is to live with Christ, not with the old self (behold he stinketh).
  3. Verses 9-11. "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Jesus defeated death and it has no more reign over Him. He died unto sin but He lives, and He lives unto God.
  4. Verses 12-16. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of

righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Christians should not let sin reign in their mortal bodies because they are no longer bound to obey the sin of the old self. They are instructed not to yield themselves to sin, but to yield themselves to God. As long as a Christian is seeking to improve self with its sin, he is placing himself under laws (living his life according to rules and regulations) and not under grace (living his life according to a relationship with Christ). If a counselor places a person (Christian or not) under the mandate to improve the love of self, the action of correction is to simply apply rules and regulations for him to follow. Consequently, the person is being placed under the **control of the person making the rules**. He is doomed to fail in his relationship with God because he accepted the world's methods and has "fallen from grace". Galatians 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

5. Verses 17-22. "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." The Christian is saved because he obeyed from the heart the doctrine of salvation. With salvation came servanthood to

righteousness, not servanthood to self. A Christian should yield his body as much to God as he previously did to the loving of self.

6. Verse 23. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This is the best verse in the Bible to explain salvation. It is also the best verse in the Bible to show that loving self will produce death, and not a victorious Christian life.
- B. Colossians 3:1-25. In this passage the Bible teaches the Christian to seek the things of God, not the things of self. A Christian should recognize that self is dead and continue to put self to death (separation from) on a daily basis.
1. Verses 1-4. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Seek the things that are above and set your affection on them. Self is earthly and carnal with physical and material objectives. In promoting self one does not seek the things "above". The Christian should get his mind off the things of this world and put his mind on the things of God.
  2. Verses 5-6. "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:" Mortify is to put to death the earthly members. The members which are upon the earth are fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness (which is idolatry). When a Christian places his objectives on the old self and the things of the world, he is committing idolatry. When a teacher is teaching people to have a strong self-image, they are teaching them to commit idolatry.
  3. Verses 7-11. "In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy

communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." Put off the things of the old man. There is nothing in the old man that will make a Christian important to God or enable him to be a better servant to God. When a Christian emphasizes self, he is directing his life toward arrogance and pride and not toward servanthood. When a Christian places Christianity above everything else there is nothing in the old life that will make him important.

4. Verses 12-15. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." The things God tells the Christian to put on are the exact opposite of the things most humanistic counselors will tell him to put on. God said to put on bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, to forbearing one another, to forgive one another, and above all these things put on charity, the bond of perfectness.
5. Verses 16-25. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be

discouraged. Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

The Christian should let the Word of God dwell in him and do all things in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **It is not an issue of how important an individual Christian might be, but how important Christ is.** When a Christian allows the Word of God to dwell in him, the things of the Bible will be manifested in his life. He will have wisdom, he will teach and admonish others, he will give thanks to God, and he will do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. Husbands will love their wives the proper way, wives will submit to their husbands, fathers will not provoke their children to anger, children will obey their parents, and servants will obey their masters. Christians will do what they do heartily unto the Lord, and not unto men, and will receive the reward of the inheritance of God.

- C. II Corinthians 5:15. "And that he died for all, that they which live should **not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them**, and rose again."
- D. Matthew 16:24-25. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will **lose his life** for my sake shall find it."
- E. Galatians 6:3. "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."

#### IV. THE STRENGTH OF A CHRISTIAN.

- A. Romans 5:6. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." The Bible is clear that the ungodly do not have any strength. This is not

referring to physical or even emotional strength, but spiritual. When it comes to being what God wants for man, it has to be in Christ and no other place.

- B. II Corinthians 12:9. "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." The strength of humanistic teaching is based on the actions of man himself and promotes more self-control to make a person strong. Again the problem is not secular humanism, but secular humanism in the life of a Christian, teaching him that in order to be what God wants him to be he must work on self and make himself strong.
- C. Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me." **It is Christ that strengthens, not self.** Those who fall into the trap of building self to become a greater servant of God lose all their ability to serve God.
- D. The psalmist understood the true source of power in a person's life.
  1. Psalms 18:1-2. "I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."
  2. Psalms 27:1. "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"
  3. Psalms 27:14. "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."
  4. Psalms 62:7. "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God."
  5. Psalms 71:16. "I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only."

## CONCLUSION

The Bible makes it very clear that a Christian is not to love himself. The old sin nature referred to in the Bible wants to have its acceptance, glory, and fulfillment in this world. When a Christian loves himself he will be earthly, carnal, and of little or no benefit to the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. Paul said that he had to **die** to self daily, not strengthen and encourage self daily. Christians need to despise, reject, and seek deliverance for the flesh-not love it. For a Christian to be successful, he must seek those things which are above, not the things of this earth.

## HOMEWORK

Read Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

Explain in detail how the Bible teaches Christians to love other people and why.

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# BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

## DIVISION IV

### CONTROVERSIAL BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

#### LESSON THIRTEEN

#### THE POSITION OF SUBMISSION

##### INTRODUCTION

In religious circles submission seems to be one of the most misunderstood and wrongly taught truths of the Bible. Most "Bible believing Christians" interchange the word 'submission' with the word 'obedience'. To understand the extremities of this teaching and how this subject is misunderstood, **the following are quotes from some of today's teachings:**

"A wife is to *obey* her husband whether or not he is a Christian, whether he is spiritually minded or not, and whether or not he earns her respect or not. It is his position as the head of the wife that she honors, not his personality. In fact, the contrary is true. A wife is to be especially obedient if her husband is not saved."

"Suppose a woman feels God is leading her definitely opposite to what her husband has commanded. Who should she obey? The Scriptures say a woman must *ignore her 'feelings'* about the will of God and do what her husband says. She is to *obey her husband as if he were God*. She can be as certain of God's will, when her husband speaks, as if God had spoken audibly from Heaven!" **(remember, these are quotes from books found in a Christian bookstore.)**

Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." In this verse both words (obey and submit) are used in the same verse and definitely show that the two words have different meanings. It says that Christians are to obey those who have the rule over them, and then submit. Submission is a second action in following those in authority and implies a **choosing** based upon a person's desire. To understand submission it is imperative that the Christian understand the word and it's meaning.

The word submit is a combination of two words: "sub" which means below or under, and

"mit" which comes from the French word "mittere" which means to send. Mission is the act of sending so the word submission is the act or choice of placing oneself under the sender. A missionary is one who is sent, placing the authority on the one doing the sending. A submissive person is one who places himself under the sending authority and proceeds on the assigned mission by choice. **Submission is never a mandatory act imposed upon another person but a free choice based on the person being sent--not on the one doing the sending.**

Obedience is different in that the authoritative person must assume control and apply some form of pressure causing the person underneath to follow his instructions. It is the responsibility of the person in authority to make the other person do what he is told. It is amazing the Bible never uses the word obey when referring to a wife and her husband and never uses the word submit when referring to parents and children. Children are to obey their parents and wives are to be submitted to their husbands. When children fail to obey their parents they are committing an act of rebellion. When wives fail to submit to their husbands they are failing the instructions of God. The first is a sin of commission, and the second is a sin of omission. The first requires an external force, the parents, and the second an internal force, the Holy Spirit. The first is earthly and the second spiritual. There is a major difference between obey and submit. Obeying is the act of the will of the person in charge, and submission is the act of the will of the person underneath. **Obedience always requires an external force of power and submission is always an internal choice based on the heart, not the external power.** Any Christian who does not submit to those whom God places in positions of authority and leadership above him has a spiritual problem.

#### I. A CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO GOD.

- A. Romans 10:3. "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Salvation is the first act of submission to God on the part of any person. A person does not get saved by an act of obedience (because he has to) but by an act of submission (because he wants to). It is an action of the heart that causes a person to be saved. Romans 10:9-10. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from

the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Many are ignorant of God's righteousness and try to establish their own righteousness by performing right actions, instead of submitting to God. They will not submit themselves to God and, consequently, they establish their relationship with God based on their own actions and beliefs. To that person, what makes him important is himself, not God.

- B. James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The controlling force that determines a Christian's relationship with God is his submission. There are millions of so-called Christians who do what they think God wants them to do as an act of obedience. God does not force anyone to do the will of God, but gives everyone the privilege of coming to Him by choice. Everyone who serves God must serve Him through the act of submission if they want God to recognize their works. **Any other course of action has a selfish motive.** As long as a Christian covers up his selfishness, excuses it, or ignores it, he will never correct it nor will he ever live a life of submission.
- C. Psalms 81:11-16. Verse 15, "The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever." The word submit in this verse is to chasten self or to exercise the weakening of self. The way a person overcomes selfishness is to die to self and live for God. It is self that keeps a person from submitting. As long as self is in charge, a person will justify his actions, exalt his works, condemn those who are submitted to God and claim that the submitted person is weak and he is strong. The only reason a person will not submit himself to God is because he cares more about himself than God.

Lesson Twelve dealt with dying to self and how letting self be in control keeps a person away from God. **Submission is the overcoming of self because it places someone else over him and makes that person more important.** Until a person recognizes in his heart that God is more important than he is, he will not submit to God.

II. A CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH.

- A. Hebrews 13:7, 17. "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." In verse seven the Bible says to remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Verse seventeen says to obey them and submit yourselves. God places those **He** has determined to be leaders in positions of authority in the church. There has to be some form of government in every organization, including the church. God chose the elder system and instructed the Christian to submit himself to the designated leaders. God did not intend for leaders to have to assume a dictatorial position over the church and demand or tell its members what to do, but to teach the Word and for the Christians to submit to them.

God did say in verse seventeen for the Christians to obey them that have the rule over them. Young Christians have not reached the maturity level they need in order to submit and should understand that they are to do what their leaders tell them until they reach the maturity level where they can submit. The primary way to understand who the people are that God has placed in authority over the Christian is to look for those who "watch for your souls." **If a person will not submit to (or obey) those in authority over him, it is a waste of time to try to counsel or disciple him.**

- B. I Corinthians 16:15-16. "I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth." Paul was very specific when he instructed the church at Corinth to submit themselves to Stephanas. Stephanas was one of the leaders Paul recognized and gave authority to lead the church. **When a Christian fails to submit to those God established as elders in the church, they are failing**

**to submit to God and His instructions.** There are some who have **not** been given the authority of God but try to get the Christians to submit or obey them by appointing themselves to positions of authority and, consequently, deceive many Christians. **Remember from Discipleship III that those in authority are those who hold the office or are designated by those in office; not those who may or may not have a lot of knowledge.**

- C. I Peter 5:5. "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." The younger Christians are specifically instructed to submit themselves to the elders. There are many today who (because of pride) will not submit to others and, consequently, will not grow to be what God wants them to be. Because of that, they are not given the authority of God to lead others. The mature Christian who is submitting to God will do the works of God without being told. How can a person teach others to be in submission to God if he is not in submission to God? When a person fails to follow God's instructions, he is not submitting to God.

### III. CHRISTIAN WIVES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS.

- A. Ephesians 5:22-24, 33. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

A Christian home will not function when it has two heads. Just like a church, business or any other organization, there must be a leader who makes the final decision in a home. God has determined that the husband is to be that leader. One of the greatest hindrances of the Christian home today is the psychological teaching that women are not to be underneath the authority of their husbands.

When the wife downgrades her husband and takes a position of dominance

over him, she changes the position of wife to the position of mother. Once this takes place, the husband loses his sense of responsibility. He will turn that responsibility over to his wife, who then becomes responsible for him, assuming the position of his mother. The children will then lose respect for their father and resent their mother. The wife-dominated home will be quarrelsome and dysfunctional until the husband either "gives up" and crawls into a shell or rejects the wife totally and departs from the home.

At the same time the wife will lose respect for her husband, become frustrated and tired from having to carry the whole load, and grow to despise the husband she dominates. Not only does the wife find she has no one to lean upon, but she also finds that someone has to lean on her. While she is taking care of the children, working a job, cleaning the house, cooking the meals, she also has to pay the bills, make sure the house is in proper repair, maintain the car, and everything else that must be done. The husband probably just sits and watches TV or some other menial task that does not require making a decision. He has learned that if he does nothing it is easier, and he will get in less trouble and not be ridiculed, lambasted and condemned by his wife for his decisions and actions. Proverbs 21:9 and Proverbs 25:24 says the same thing: "It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house."

Remember that submission is an action of the heart on the part of the wife and not a controlling action on the part of the husband. A husband can never make a wife submit. That ability can only come from God and the wife's relationship with Him.

- B. Titus 2:3-5 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." The Greek word translated here as obedient is the same word translated submission in Ephesians. It means to voluntarily place one's self under another's authority. The older women are to teach

the younger women to submit and be under their husbands. In this verse the words "to be" indicates a state of **being** (heart attitude) with the *woman* in control of her actions, *not her husband*. Submission does not have any action because it is a heart condition. When an outward action takes place it is the same as an act of obedience. When a person is given the freedom to place himself under another person's authority, by his own choice, this is submission. This verse in no way gives the husband the authority to force his wife to be under him, which would be an act of obedience. Submission is a condition of the heart and when submission is manifested in action, it is identified as an act of obedience.

- C. Colossians 3:18. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." Again the wife is given the instructions to submit with the right to choose. This is not an act of control from an exterior source.
- D. Ephesians 5:21. "Submitting yourselves one to another **in the fear of God.**" This verse says in the fear of God which is also a state of being, not just an action. **The Bible does not teach that a wife is to blindly give herself to her husband and forget that she is first a child of God.**

This verse also tells Christians to submit themselves to each other. This would include a husband submitting to the wife. There are certain areas of life where women know more about what to do than men. For example, very few men know what to do with small children until their wives teach them. **Wise men know when to submit to their wives and when they are to lead.**

#### IV. A CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE LAWS OF THE LAND.

- A. I Peter 2:12-15 "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man *for the Lord's sake*: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men." God instructs Christians to submit to the

ordinances of men and be good citizens because this is one way they can lead others to Christ. Many times Christians argue, fight, and resist the authorities just because they do not like the person or the way they do things. Christians should realize that order must be established and adhered to as long as it does not violate the laws of God.

- B. Acts 5:29. "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

When Peter and the apostles were ordered to disobey God, they were placed in a position where they had to put God above the law. Very seldom does this problem take place, but when it does, a Christian has to put his submission to God above his obedience to man. The Christian must understand that he is to be under the authority of the land, **but reject those laws that reject God. This same principle applies to all institutions, including marriage and the church. If there's a conflict, someone is not right with God because the heart is the issue. Placing anyone above God is an act of idolatry.**

**CONCLUSION**

Submission is one of the greatest privileges in life. When a person chooses to place himself under another person's authority he is devaluing self and exalting God to the position of Lord of Lords and King of Kings. **The greatest danger in submission is submitting oneself to the wrong person.** When submission is taken out of the authority line established by Christ, there is a danger of being misled and having another person destroy one's life. Anytime a Christian is placed in the position of having to choose between God and the person in authority, he should always choose God.

**HOMEWORK**

Read Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

Look up in the Strong's Concordance the following numbers and define the words used along with their application. All of these words are translated submit in one of its forms.

Old Testament

- 6031 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7511 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5414 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3027 \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament

- 5293 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5226 \_\_\_\_\_

Write out an explanation of obey and submit and how they are different.

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# **BUILDING CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS**

## **DIVISION IV**

### **CONTROVERSIAL BIBLICAL TEACHINGS**

#### **LESSON FOURTEEN**

##### **RELATIONSHIP NOT REGULATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are numerous ways used by religions of the world which try to make a person follow their doctrine. Religious leaders have a controlling power which causes others to follow their teachings. When the methods they use fail, they usually turn to more control actions, such as rules and regulations. These rules have to be followed or the person being taught will be rejected. When they administer rules and regulations the actual controlling force used is relationship. Those who are being taught follow the teacher because of their relationship with him or the fear of losing that relationship. In this way, the leaders are teaching that God will reject the followers if they do not comply with the regulations set down by the leaders.

One of the greatest distresses a religious leader suffers is to have a person he has taught and worked with fall into sin or choose to follow some other teaching. This is true with Christian leaders as well as other religious leaders. Legalism is a spin-off teaching that came from the Roman Catholic Church (one of the most legalistic religious organizations) and has been handed down to all the protestant churches. The Baptists were never a part of this teaching. In recent years there has been an infiltration of rules and regulations into Baptist churches based on wrong teachings of the Bible. There are many who state that these teachings are Bible-based. However when proper Bible study is applied, with correct divisions and context these teachings do not agree at all with what it says.

When Christian leaders teach adherence to a conditional relationship, they invariably go to I John Chapter One. This is the only place in the New Testament they can even come close to using the Scripture to substantiate a conditional relationship with God. They quote verse nine and say that God does not forgive a Christian's sins unless he confesses those sins to God and asks for God's

forgiveness. This teaching is incorrect and to clarify this passage, I John should be studied as follows.

## I. STUDY OF THE BOOK OF I JOHN.

A. Determine **who** the book was written to. In I John 1:3-5, John states that he writes the book unto you. Who is you? In I John 2:1, John identifies you as "my little children". In verse seven, he calls them "brethren" and in I John 3:2, he calls them "beloved". The evidence is plain that the book of I John is written to Christians and particularly to young or new Christians.

B. Determine **why** the book was written. There are several things stated in this book explaining why it was written.

1. To strengthen the Christian's relationship with God.

a. I John 1:3 "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and **truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**" That the Christians might have the same basis of fellowship with John and the other apostles which they have with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

b. I John 1:4 "And these things write we unto you, **that your joy may be full.**" That the Christians joy might be full.

c. I John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, **that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**" That the Christians sin not, but *if Christians do sin they have an advocate with the Father.*

d. I John 2:21 "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but **because ye know it**, and that no lie is of the truth." To tell the Christians that they know the truth and should not believe a lie.

e. I John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, **we may have confidence, and not be ashamed** before him at his coming." That the Christians would have confidence and not be ashamed.

f. I John 3:5-6 "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our

sins; and in him is no sin. **Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**" To teach that everyone who abideth in Christ *does not sin and if he sins he does not know God*. He is not saved.

- g. I John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**" That the Christian may know that he has eternal life and believe that the answer to every need is in the name of the Son of God.
- h. I John 5:18 "**We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not;** but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." To teach that whosoever is born of God does not sin.

2. To help the Christian identify false teachers.

- a. I John 2:18 "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, **even now are there many antichrists;** whereby we know that it is the last time." There are antichrists among the Christians.
- b. I John 2:26 "These things have I written unto you **concerning them that seduce you.**" Christians should understand who is seducing them. (to persuade to disobedience or disloyalty)
- c. I John 3:10 "**In this the children of God are manifest,** and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." Christians should know how to identify the children of God and the children of the devil.
- d. I John 4:1 "Beloved, **believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:** because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Christians should try the spirits to see if they are of God. (They must confess that Jesus is come in the flesh).

- e. I John 5:12 "He that hath the Son hath life; and **he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**" Christians should know that he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
- C. Determine **what** God's purpose was in writing I John 1:8-10. These verses were written to (a) remind the Christians of what actually happened at the time of salvation and to (b) help the Christians identify the lost participants in the church (those who claim to be Christians but have never really been saved). The Bible makes it clear that there will be false teachers, heretics, false prophets and deceivers in the church. Until they show who they are by their actions, they cannot be marked or removed from the church membership. They can be identified by using I John.
1. Verse 8. If **we** (the church--including its false lost members) say that **we** have no sin, **we** deceive **ourselves**, and the truth is not in **us**. This verse is a statement to help the Christians identify the false teachers.
  2. Verse 9. If **we** confess **our** sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins**, (pay the total price for us--to save us) and to cleanse **us** from all unrighteousness. **This was done at the point of salvation.** This statement is a reminder of the fact of what happened at the point of salvation. The cleansing that took place at **salvation** is the issue, not some conditional cleansing in the daily life of a Christian. (There is an issue of cleansing a Christian from the stains of sin, which has nothing to do with this cleansing at salvation.)
  3. Verse 10. If **we** say that **we** have not sinned, **we** make Him a liar, and His word is not in **us**. If any person does not admit that he has sinned he is a liar and is not saved. Christ is not in him. (another point to identify false teachers).
  4. Conclusion of these three verses. When any person says that he has not sinned and does not need forgiveness, he is a liar and is not saved (no matter what position he might hold in the church). He is basically stating that his relationship with God is based on his own action and not the action of God's **salvation**. If a person will admit that he is a sinner and has sinned, God is

then able to save him provided he will come to Christ as a sinner and seek His forgiveness. Those who are saved know that salvation was necessary because of sin that had been committed and its resulting condemnation to Hell.

It is important to realize that Christians are not "just sinners saved by grace". Once grace is applied, they are **born again of God and are no longer sinners but children of a holy God**. They are **Christians** who have no sin in their new life, as stated in I John 3:9 and II Corinthians 5:21 (**their sins were bought and paid for by Jesus Christ**). I John 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

II Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Christians do have **actions** of sin when they turn back to the old man. It is not **the Christian** who sins but the **old man** which was born of this world from Adam and can **never** be cleansed of his sin nature. II Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The issue is not the old man, but the new man which was born from God and with a new nature.

The best place in the Bible that helps the Christian understand how these two natures work is Romans 7:18-8:1 and 8:9. "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So

then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:9, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

The Bible is very clear that a New Testament Christian is to live his life based on his relationship with God. He is not to live his life based on regulations placed over his sin nature by a religious leader trying to make it holy. **A PERSON'S LIFE IS CHANGED BY HIS LOVE FOR GOD, NOT HIS ADHERENCE TO REGULATIONS.**

II. THE ENDING OF THE LAW. The law is still in effect today for all those who have not established a relationship with Jesus Christ. *Salvation that comes through the Lord Jesus Christ is the reason a person no longer has to answer to God for his sin.* It is true to say a sin occurs each time a person breaks a law. However, sin and the penalty for sin were in effect before there was ever one single law. Sin came when Adam and Eve broke their relationship with God by no longer recognizing His authority and position as God. The **action** of sin (seen outwardly) was not the issue. The broken **relationship** with God (inwardly) was the issue. They hid in the bushes and felt guilty when God came near. God could no longer walk with mankind.

A. Christ fulfilled the law and eliminated it for all those who trust in Him. The Bible says that Christ did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it. From the time of Christ, mankind has been given the choice of walking with God or continuing to follow Adam (separated from God by sin). If a person chooses Christ, his sins and its condemnation are removed and his relationship with God is established, eliminating the law.

1. Matthew 5:17-18, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law,

till all be fulfilled." Not one jot or tittle could pass from the law until it was completely fulfilled. Jesus fulfilled the law and also paid the price of sin. ***When a person gets saved, his sin is removed and God begins to deal with him according to kinship, not rules and regulations.*** Every time a Christian does something that is not pleasing to God, He takes the appropriate action to help that Christian remember his new life in Christ and return it to be everything God planned for him **as a child of God.**

2. Romans 10:4-5, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them." Christ is the end of the law to everyone that believes in Him. God will never reject one of his children because of a wrong action. That person is placed under righteousness which comes with accepting Christ as his personal Savior.

**Relationship is the issue--not rules.**

- B. The law has dominion over a person as long as that person is alive to sin. When a person gets saved, he dies to sin and *has the freedom to build a new life based upon his new relationship with Christ.* As an example, God uses the relationship of a wife who is bound to her husband as long as he is alive. But when he dies she is free to remarry. As long as a person has a relationship with sin, he is not free to remarry. When he dies to sin (which can only come through the cross of Jesus Christ) there is no sin relationship left for him. Romans 7:1-7 "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were

by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

There cannot be any fulfillment in sin for the Christian because the relationship to sin is dead. Every time a Christian tries to go back to sin, he is visiting the grave of something that is dead to him. A Christian should go on to build a meaningful relationship with his new husband, Jesus Christ, based on this relationship not on sin actions.

- C. Romans 8:3-4 "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." The law could not provide fulfillment for any person. It was weak because of the earthly flesh. The new relationship with God, established through His Son, is strong because it is based on the righteousness of the Holy Spirit of God.

## II. A CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS BASED ON GRACE BY FAITH, NOT LAW.

- A. John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Laws have been established by every society on the earth. God established law to provide order and to give a way for mankind to recognize that he commits sin and is not perfect. Without law there would be no recognition of sin.

God provided another way of acceptance with man and that way was through Jesus Christ. God provided grace through Jesus Christ, which enables a person to have a relationship with God even though he committed sin.

- B. Romans 4:16 "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all," Abraham is the

father of faith. Everyone who comes to God through faith like Abraham had will accept what God says and base his actions accordingly. Without faith it is impossible to please God, because without faith no one will follow the instructions of God. Faith causes a person to accept grace. Grace eliminates the fear of broken relationships and establishes the Christian in Christ. **God deals with every one of His children by grace!!!!**

- C. Romans 5:20 "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace did much more abound:**" As long as God has grace, a Christian never has to worry about his relationship with God. Jesus is that grace and because of Him grace is applied to any person who will accept Him. **God** establishes an ongoing relationship with each Christian enabling that Christian to have a personal relationship with God. Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds.

III. THE WORLD SYSTEM STILL FUNCTIONS BY LAW. One of the most difficult things to accomplish when teaching a Christian to live as God's child is to persuade him to give up the world's system when dealing with other Christians and with God. The world functions from the foundation of law--not the grace of God. The world is just like the nation of Israel (in Exodus) when it said it would not have God rule over it. The world continues to state it will do everything possible to keep God from having any authority over it. Christians should understand that when they deal with the world or anyone in the world, they are dealing with the law. The world will judge Christians and churches by the law, not by grace or God's Word.

When a Christian's "old man" commits a sin, the world will condemn the person for that sin according to its laws causing Christ to be condemned. The tendency of Christians is to condemn liberal laws and enforcement of those laws. They should be remembered those same laws apply to Christians as well as the lost. Christians are not condemned by God for their sins, but they will suffer the consequences or penalties for breaking the laws of the land. When a Christian is dealing with ministry, he must understand that failure to follow the laws of the land causes the world to disqualify him as a representative for God. God forgives, but the world does not. It does not have the capacity to forgive. Everything the world does is

based on selfishness, not grace. Christians should recognize the law of the land and its necessity to provide order which allows Christians to complete the work of God.

- A. Galatians 3:17-24 "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

The law is not against the promises of God but is the instrument of God to bring a person to God. The law was the schoolmaster that showed the Christian his need for God through the condemnation it brought. When a person will not recognize the law, he will not get saved. When a person recognizes the law, then guilt and suffering which comes from being wrong is recognized and, consequently, is used to direct that person to God. Without regulations there would be no salvation because no one would see his need to be saved. He would die and go to Hell, never knowing he needed God.

- B. Romans 2:12-15 "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"

There is sin whether or not there is law. Sin is not based on the law but on God. The problem is that without the law there would be no **recognition** of sin. Romans 7:7 "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

- C. When a Christian understands God's grace by faith, he will realize that Christians are the ones who establish law. Christianity does not eliminate the law but rather establishes it. At the same time, Christianity is removed from the law because it has a higher position or relationship in which to base its actions.

Romans 3:19-31, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

- D. The Jews were and still are under the law. If they are going to be reached it is by those who fulfill the law in their daily walk with God. Paul said that he would become all things to all men if he could reach some. The only way a Christian can minister to the lost world is through fulfillment of the law, even though the law does

not apply to him. I Corinthians 9:20-22, "And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

IV. CHRISTIANS SHOULD LIVE THEIR NEW LIVES UNDER GRACE SHOWING GRACE TOWARD OTHER CHRISTIANS. When dealing with the lost (or some of the saved who live by the world's laws instead of the Word of God) a Christian has to deal with them by the law. When dealing with Christians (those who live Christ-like) it should be according to the new life in Christ based on the Word of God. The Bible condemned Christians who dealt with other Christians by using the law. I Corinthians 6:1-7, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?"

A. Galatians 3:10-13 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

The person who continues to apply the law shall live in the law. If Christians fall into the trap of dealing with each other by regulations, they judge and condemn each other, leaving grace out of Christianity. **When a Christian does not give out grace, then from necessity, the law will take over.**

- B. Galatians 5:4, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Christ becomes of no effect to the Christian who sees himself justified by the law. When a Christian falls into the confessing of sin to be right with God, or performs works of repentance to justify himself, **he no longer recognizes that Christ is the Christian's salvation.** The Christian sees **himself** in control of sin and, consequently, condemnation. Jesus Christ is the Christian's grace, life, strength, and propitiation for sin. **To do otherwise is to fall from grace.**
- C. Galatians 5:14 "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." The law is fulfilled in the life of a Christian by simply loving his neighbor as himself. The actions taken between two Christians should be based on relationship, not law. When one Christian sees another as a brother or sister in Christ and treats them accordingly, then relationship becomes the controlling bond.
- D. Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." When Christians are bearing one another's burdens they are fulfilling the law of Christ. As long as Christians care more about themselves, their own lives and their own gain, they will not fulfil the law of Christ. When other people become important enough, Christians give of their time and energy for God and fulfill the law of Christ.
- E. James 4:11 "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge." A Christian should not speak evil of other Christians because he then has become a judge and a user of the law, not a doer.

## CONCLUSION

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, a relationship with Jesus Christ and with God is established that will last for eternity. That new relationship with God is how a Christian should deal with other Christians. They should build relationships with them from their heart (unconditional) instead of basing their relationships on man-made laws (conditional). **The Christian should be more concerned about who a person is rather than what he has done.**

## PERSONAL NOTE

"I hope these fourteen lessons have helped you learn how to assist others when facing the trials and tribulations of life. I know there is much more that can be learned than what is contained in these lessons to help in dealing with life situations. I challenge you to continue to study the Bible and find out from the Word of God what to tell others and how to help them. There is a great need for counselors in every church who consistently share the Word of God with others and assist them in growing to maturity and ministry. May God bless you as you continue serving Him."

Pastor Fred Allen