

SECTION THREE

*This Section of your Discipleship study
will establish you in*

The New Testament Church

Memory Verse:

***“Now ye are the body of Christ,
and members in particular.” 1 Corinthians 12:27***

Some QUESTIONS:

1. WHO is the body of Christ? _____
2. To be a member of that body would imply what? _____

In this Section, you will study the following subjects:

- **Prayer** - Walking with God!
- **Finding The Will of God** - Discovering God's Plan for your life
- **Fighting Spiritual Warfare** - Dealing with sin and temptation
- **The Christian Family** - Developing a godly home
- **Handling Finances** - Managing your money and your priorities

MY NAME: _____

PRAYER

A Study of the Christian's Walk With God

Lesson Eleven

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Lesson Verses: Psalm 116:1,2

*"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as
long as I live." Psalm 116:1,2*

I. Introduction - How Important is *Prayer* in my Life?

- A. Someone once said a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life is. Think about that... because it is true!
- B. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ... your spiritual maturity and stability... cannot grow without the proper reliance upon God that prayer enables.
- C. Leonard Ravenhill writes, "Poverty-stricken as the church is today in many things, she is most stricken here in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, but few prayers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, but few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. **Failing here, we fail everywhere.**"
- D. You were created to need God, and prayer is the only way to get every need met!
- E. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the believer with a powerful prayer life so he or she can effectively _____ "with God" (Gen 6:9).



II. Prayer Defined - Hebrews 4:16

- A. Prayer is seeking God. "When thou saidst, _____ ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I _____." (Psalm 27:8) To seek God's face means, to seek His attention, like you would want someone to look right at YOU when you are talking to them.
- B. You seek God by simply talking with Him, sometimes for brief moments, and sometimes for extended periods of time. When you are reading the Bible, God is speaking to you; when you are praying, you are speaking directly to God.
- C. Prayer is the soul of man offering up the desires and burdens of his heart to God with humble confidence that we shall obtain the help we need because of Jesus (Heb 4:16).
- D. Prayer is our *worship* of God the Father, in the authority of the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 16:23; Rom 8:26).
- E. Finally, prayer is our source of confidence in God. By praying, we will know that we already have the answer to our need (Mt 6:7,8; 1John 5:14,15)!

III. What Prayer Is!

- A. Prayer is God's appointed way for Christians to get the things they need (James 4:2).
 1. God urges all believers to pray all the time for absolutely everything they need (Luke 18:1; 1Thes 5:17; Philp 4:6; 1Tim 2:1; Eph 6:18).
 2. God already _____ what you need (Matt 6:7,8)
 3. But God often waits for you to come to Him for those things by praying for them, instead of you just *expecting* things to happen in your favour.
 4. We won't get everything we ask for, obviously. That would only make spoiled brats out of us.
 5. We won't get all the things we think we need.

6. But if we ask according to God's _____, we can and will receive it (1John 5:14,15).
- B. Prayer is part of the process that God uses to give Christians the fullness of _____ (John 16:24). Just praying accesses the joy that Christ has!
- C. Prayer is the Christian's way out of all trouble, and the cure for all worry and anxious care (Philp 4:6,7; 1Pet 5:7).
- D. Prayer is the only way to get the power of the Holy Spirit in your life for God's work (Acts 4:31; See also 2 Chron 7:14).
- E. Prayer accomplishes **five** things:
 1. Through it, we fight the spiritual warfare we are in (Eph 6:11-18)
 2. It is a spiritual watchdog against _____ (Matt 26:41; 1Cor 10:13)
 3. It _____ God (Heb 11:6).
 4. It changes the person praying! How?
 - a. By changing your focus of attention – from your need to your Supplier!
 - b. By changing your worry into faith and trust
 - c. By changing your goals – you may seek to change your situation, but when you pray, you will start to allow God to decide the outcome of every situation, even if it ends up hard on you. The goal will be to do the will of God, instead of YOU making God **do** the will of YOU! Ponder that for a moment!
 5. It moves the heart of God. Prayer not only moves us when we pray, but it also does cause God to respond to our need, and can do all the following (Eph 3:20):
 - a. Move any _____ (Matt 17:20).
 - b. Heal any disease (Psalm 103:3).
 - c. Turn the heart of _____ and despots away from doing evil (Prov 21:1).
 - d. Freeing believers from prison and persecution (Acts 12:5-7).
 - e. And save the most sinful person (1Tim 1:15)!

IV. The Place of Prayer - Where Should a Christian Pray?

- A. **Privately most of all!** Christians are *not to pray as a public show*, but rather in a " _____ " (Mt 6:5,6). The principle is, have a special place of prayer in your home (the *closet* is as good as any), as well as everywhere you go, but not for show!
- B. **Pray in church** (Matt 21:13; Acts 12:5), with other believers in the meetings.
- C. **Everywhere** (1Timothy 2:8). Don't limit your prayer life to the church house only! Wherever you are, if you have a need, or are thankful, pray!

V. How Does a Christian Pray?

- A. Pray like you were speaking *directly face to face* with your best Friend (Jn 15:15,16)!
- B. Pray with the following ingredients:
 1. **Praise** – Start off with worship and adoration of the Lord God of heaven and earth, just worshipping who He always is (Ps 95:6; 34:1). Prayer starts with loving God and worshipping first!
 2. **Repent**. Repent from every known sin (Ps 32:5). Make a list and agree with God about them (confess them to Him alone) so that you can actually get right with the people you have sinned against right after you have prayed!
 - a. Be *humble before God* (2Chr 7:14). Pray as a nobody, with no means of making God do what you want Him to do – just trust He will do right (Gen 18:25).
 - b. Pray *honestly*. Be totally real before God. He knows you through and through, so make sure you thoroughly repent of any and all sin in your life before asking God for anything (Psalm 51:1-4). And then you can talk straight with God!

3. **Believe.** Pray *believing* (**Heb 11:6**)! You have to believe God can and will answer ALL your requests! Know that God hears you, and **believe** He will answer you.
4. **Ask.** It sounds obvious, but a lot of people forget to ASK for what they need! Jesus said you can “*ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you*” (**Jn 15:7**)! Jesus uses three words to describe HOW to ask in prayer for what you need (**Matt 7:7,8**):
 - a. *Ask* - never *demanding*, but just “*asking*” (**John 16:24**; **Matt 21:22**).
 - 1) Never be afraid to ask God for things that you believe you need.
 - 2) Be *specific* about what you need. If you want God to answer your needs specifically, then you need to be specific with Him about your needs. So, give God all the details, burdens, and needs.
 - 3) Never use “*vain repetitions*” (**Matt 6:7**) which are prepared prayers that people repeat over and over thinking that they will be heard if they just keep repeating themselves! Well, it won’t help! Just simply ask for what you need from the heart, using as few or as many words as you feel like saying.
 - b. *Seek* (**Heb 11:6**). Seeking is when we LOOK for the answer to come from God instead of from our parents, our friends, or from the government. Be fully committed to getting GOD to supply your need (**Jam 1:5-8**).
 - c. “_____” (**2Cor 12:7-9**). It often seems like the door to God is closed when we pray. So Jesus invites us to be persistent and to keep knocking on heaven’s door until we know God has answered us (**Luke 11:1-13**; **18:1-8**)! If at first God does not seem to answer your request, keep “knocking” on heaven’s door, asking until either He answers the need, or tells you NO, or tells you to WAIT. All three are good answers!
5. **Listen.** Pray *listening* (**1Kings 19:11,12**). This is VERY important! When you pray, every once in a while STOP, and just be quiet – let God calm your heart when you are anxious, and then see if He speaks to your heart right then and there!
6. **Yield** - Accept God’s will in the matters you have prayed about (**Jam 4:13-15**). *Accept* God’s answer. This is very important! God always answers us when we pray, but sometimes He answers with a YES, sometimes with a NO, and sometimes with a WAIT. So, two-thirds of all God’s answers are hard to accept!
7. End every time in prayer being _____ (**Philp 4:6**). Be thankful even before you have received your request. Just trust that God is going to take care of the need!
8. **Always.** Pray *all the time* (**1Thes 5:17**). At every opportunity, have a mind to pray.

C. Now, List those eight things above, and try to memorise them in order:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |

VI. What Should You Always Pray For?

- A. *Wisdom* – ask God for the ability to make right decisions (**Jam 1:5**).
- B. For *courage* to be bold as a Christian in the world around you (**Acts 4:23-31**).
- C. Pray for *all people in authority* over us (**1Tim 2:1-3**), that they obey God.
- D. For *people who are serving the Lord, that they would be greatly used of God and always protected*. People like your Pastor and his family, Missionaries, Bible Teachers, Deacons, and people who volunteer in your church to serve others.
- E. For *every need* you know about (**Philp 4:6**; **1Pet 5:7**; **Ps 34:6**; **55:22**)
 1. It is okay to pray for things YOU need. Just not the whole time!

2. A Christian is someone who has discovered they are totally dependant upon the Lord for everything! There is nothing too big, or too small to pray about.
3. Pray for the needs of others – starting with your own family!

F. Think... What if all you get tomorrow depended upon what you pray for today?

VII. There are Eight Important Conditions for Answered Prayer

- A. You have to be a child of God (**Prov 15:29**), and you have to be right with God.
 1. God answers the prayers of His children first! All religions pray, but prayers are vain unless they come from believers in Christ.
 2. Make sure you are not in rebellion to any of God's commands or will for your life (**1John 3:22; Ps 66:18**).
 3. Is there any _____ (sin) in your life that you won't let go of (**Ps 66:18**)?
 4. These two things stop almost ALL prayers from ever getting heard in heaven: people being **unconverted**, and being **ungodly**.
- B. Get rid of any unforgiving attitude towards others. You must make sure that you first _____ others their sins against you before you ask God for things (**Mark 11:24-26**). Do you have such an attitude? Do you have wrong attitudes (constant anger, hatred, bitterness, disrespect, etc) towards others like your wife, or your husband, or your parents, or your employer, or your pastor, or other Christians, or even your enemies (**1Pet 3:7; Eph 4:26,27; Col 3:19**)?
- C. Seek God's _____. Ask for things according to God's _____, and not yours (**Matt 26:39**). Are you asking _____ (i.e., for the wrong things, **James 4:3**)? Do you have only selfish reasons for praying and not for others?
- D. Pray in _____, believing (**Mark 11:24; Heb 11:6; James 1:6,7**) – not flippantly. How is your confidence in God's sufficiency? Are you uncertain, or hesitant about what you are praying for? If so, you are hindering it's answer.
- E. _____ with Christ (walk with Him throughout each day) as opposed to only coming to God when you are in trouble or in desperate need (**John 15:7**).
- F. Make sure you pray to the right Person... Pray to God the Father, with the help of the Holy Spirit, in the _____ of Jesus Christ (**John 16:23,24**). You cannot approach God and make requests without *Authority* - **Jesus** is our Authority for getting everything!
- G. Is your life over-scheduled – prioritize your time putting God first. If you don't, then God feels no obligation to answer your prayers right away!
- H. Are you lazy? Make every **effort to pray** instead of complain, or get upset!
- I. If after you have evaluated all these things, nothing happens, then God actually HAS answered – just not the way YOU wanted Him to: He has just said 'No', which is just as good as if He had done what you thought needed done.

VIII. Will you right now make a promise to God that you will spend **at least 10 minutes** in heart-to-heart prayer **every day** before the throne of God, and then walk with Him throughout each day, always leaning upon Him for every need?

o Yes

o No

Signed _____ Date _____

Date Lesson Completed _____	Discipler _____
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THE WILL OF GOD

A Study of the Will of God for the Christian

Lesson Twelve

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Lesson Verses: Romans 12:1,2

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1,2

I. Introduction

- A. A famous preacher once said, "a successful man is one who finds out what **God** wants him to accomplish with his life, and then fulfils it." Therefore, the true measure of a person's success is not in social status, bank account, influence, or fame. It simply is doing what God wants him or her to do.
- B. This lesson will acquaint the Christian with how to find what God's will is for them, as revealed in the Bible, so he can begin to live the abundant Christian life in the centre of God's perfect will!



II. Understanding The Will of God - Let's first understand some things:

- A. Most people are *self*-willed by nature. They do what they do because they want to. The Christian's actions however, are not to be driven by *self*, but rather by God. Take a look at **Galatians 2:20**, and ponder whether that verse is true in your life yet or not.
- B. God created you for *His* glory and _____ (**Rev 4:11**), and therefore, not for yours only (**1Cor 6:19,20**). That may come as a surprise!
- C. There are two kinds of wills God has for a person - His *general*, all encompassing will for people everywhere; and His *specific* will for each individual.
 1. Before God reveals His *specific* plan to an individual, that individual must be submitted to God's authority over his or her life. Every person must want to not only find God's plan, but already be willing to do it no matter what it happens to be! Why try and tell someone specifically what to do with their life, when you know they won't do it?
 2. The key rests in whether you are truly interested in not just *knowing* the will of God, but more importantly, interested in *DOING* it (**Romans 8:5; James 1:22**)!
- D. There are always **THREE** stages to the will of God
 1. **First**, Doing what God says in the Bible – not the whole Bible, but a general set of clear instructions for every man, woman, boy, girl! Just be faithful doing the "little" things God has shown you in His word (**Luke 16:10**).
 2. Then, **AS** you are doing those things, God will show you His perfect will for your life – sounds great, but listen to the last stage...
 3. Thirdly, There will always be a **delay** before you actually experience living in that **BIG**, perfect will of God for your life – as Illustrated by David:
 - a. When God found David, David was already doing God's will in small things (i.e., taking care of his father's sheep)
 - b. Then God anointed him to be king
 - c. Then it took 7 years before David was finally crowned as king!

III. God's General Will is Found in His Word, the Bible

- A. You will never discover God's will without the Bible, because God has given seven foundational instructions/plans for all mankind to live by.
- B. God's general will for all of mankind is to:
 1. Be _____ (1Tim 2:3,4; 2Pet 3:9)! Everyone must begin here!
 2. Be **saturated**/filled with the _____ (Eph 5:17,18). A surrendering of your life to the work and authority of God over your will and plans.
 3. Be **satisfied**/thankful in _____ things (Eph 5:19,20; 1 Thes 5:18)
 4. Be **submissive** servants in everything you do (Eph 6:5-8), remembering "**ye serve the _____**" (Col 3:23,24). This includes submitting to all the laws of the land (1Pet 2:13-15).
 5. Be **sanctified** (1 Thes 4:3-7). Sanctification means that we separate ourselves from sins and evils so that we can be holy and clean objects in God's hands (2Tim 2:21). This involves every Christian coming away from all the activities and influences that hinder us from serving the Lord with our whole heart (2Cor 6:17,18).
 6. Be ready to sometimes _____ (1Pet 3:14-17; 4:19).
 7. Be a **soul-winner** (Mt 28:19,20; Acts 1:8)
- C. All the above will make you so that you are **so much like the Lord Jesus**! All Christians are designed by God to ultimately become *conformed* to (just like) the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ (Rom 8:28,29).
- D. If you are not currently obeying God's clearly revealed will for your life (the above list), then God can never reveal His specific will to you because the one builds upon the other (Matt 25:21).

IV. Finding God's Specific Will For Your Life

- A. The specific will of God for your life is just an extension of the general will of God for all of mankind. Therefore, the will of God for your life will not violate His general will - there are no "exceptions to the rule," and God's will never contradicts His word.
- B. Finding God's specific will is referred to as "proving" it, to yourself and to the world (Rom 12:1,2). Whatever you discover, will have to be proven as being God's will for you. God expects you to *live* His plans. This requires you to "sacrifice" your plans and goals, and replace them with His!
- C. Let the word of God "speak" to your heart. God speaks directly to you through the Bible (Like Gen 12:1 where Abraham is told to leave his family and go to a place that God would lead him to). You must therefore be saturating your mind with Scriptures so that God can "talk."
- D. One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit in your life is to guide you in your decisions (John 14:26; 16:13; 1Cor 2:9,10). When making decisions, especially ones you are unsure of yourself, pray, and seek wisdom (James 1:5), and the confirmation of the Holy Spirit before proceeding (Rom 8:14).
- E. Wait for God to "open doors" of opportunity. Sometimes, when we just "push ahead," we find ourselves forcing through blocked "doors" that God intended for us to keep out of (like marrying the wrong person, or working at the wrong job). The Apostle Paul sensed God blocking his path several times so that he would ultimately find the right path (Acts 16:6-10). Learn to accept circumstances as guideposts in the direction of God's leading. Just make sure you "_____ " in all the steps of the Lord (Ps 37:23).

- F. Finally, make sure that in your decisions, you "_____ in the Lord with ALL thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding," (Prov 3:5,6). God's will does not always make sense - but it is always best! Therefore, when you find God's will, you will have _____ (Psalm 37:37), because He knows best! Your attitude must be to let God's "_____" be done, not your own (James 4:13-15).

V. Some Discussion

- A. Work through the following issues in life, and discuss how you would go about finding God's will in the various situations. Think of some additional helpful Scriptures that would guide you in finding God's will for each issue.
- B. What do you think is God's general will for your life right now? What of the above seven things are you in need of working on? Tick each one that applies to you right now.

- ☐ Be Saved?
- ☐ Be **saturated**/filled with the Holy Spirit?
- ☐ Be **satisfied**/thankful in all things?
- ☐ Be **submissive** servants in everything you do?
- ☐ Be **sanctified** / separated from sins and bad habits?
- ☐ Be ready to sometimes **suffer**?
- ☐ Be a **soul-winner**?

- C. What do you think is God's specific will for your life?

1. To ultimately be an... Astronaut, Fireman/Firewoman, Pharmacist, Builder, Architect, Politician, Policeman/Policewoman, Chef, Plumber, Engineer, Electrician, Computer Programmer, Artist...? _____
2. What dream possibly has God placed in your heart? _____
3. What about marriage?
 - a. If you are single, do you believe God wants you to be married? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - b. What are the qualifications God has for you to choose from (2Cor 6:14; Deut 10:12). Ask yourself, Is the person saved? Are they faithful in seeking God's will, or only self-centred? Are they mature, or childish? Have you sought wisdom about your desires from your parents?
4. Are you working a job? If not, shouldn't you be working a job? (2Thes 3:10)
 - a. What would be important for a Christian to look for in a job, and how would the Christian know it is the right one for him or her? _____
 - b. What kind of job is acceptable to God? _____
5. Should you be a part of a Gospel ministry in your church? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - a. How do you find my ministry that the Lord has for me?
 - b. Is God looking for talent or availability (Philp 4:13,19; 1Cor 15:58)?
 - c. Am I worried about people's impressions of me, or pleasing God?
6. Could God actually Call you to Preach/Pastor/be a Missionary? (Mt 9:35-38; Lk 14:16-24; Act 13:1-4; 2Tim 4:1-4). Are you willing to be whatever HE asks?

Key Truths about God's Will

- ❖ It will never contradict His written word!
- ❖ It will cost you to live it.
- ❖ It is built upon the seven general wills for all mankind - you cannot short-cut those to do what you want to do.
- ❖ It is found through prayer, and getting counsel from mature Christians and your pastor.

Date Lesson Completed _____

Discipler _____

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Dealing With Sin, and Your Spiritual Enemies

Lesson Thirteen

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Lesson Verse: 1 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."

1 Corinthians 10:13

I. Introduction - "How Do I Overcome Sin in My Life?"

- A. When a person becomes born again, they become a "new creature" (2Cor 5:17). But there is a problem. They still have an "old creature" around called "the old _____" (Col 3:9,10). These two do not get along in the Christian's life, but instead, are *at war* against each other! They each want to dominate your life!
- B. This lesson is intended to equip you to fight a good warfare against sin and temptation in your life. This is an unpleasant study for the Christian that is only looking to serve the Lord comfortably, because some of the things discussed here may be in *your* life, and you may not see them as wrong. The challenge is to see what the Bible teaches, and submit to it, since only then will a Christian have real freedom and joy!

II. Dealing With Sin - Recognizing the Enemy, and Conquering Him!

A. What is all the fight about? Let's Realize *Why* You Sin

1. Christians sin because we inherited a sinful nature from _____ (Rom 5:12; 1Cor 15:45-49).
2. Christians sin because our *old* nature is attracted to sin (James 1:13,14; Rom 7:14-25). Sin is always attractive to your old nature - we enjoy it - but it is also deadly (Rom 6:23; Heb 11:24,25)!



B. Let's Realize How God Views Your Sin

1. First, your sin has already been judged and paid for back at Calvary (2Cor 5:21)! He views all your sins as being in the past, and forgotten (Heb 10:17)!
2. Yet, sin can still hinder your effectiveness as a Christian (Heb 12:1)! It hinders (besets) by weighing you down, and pulling you off the course He has for you.
3. It causes God to have to **chastise** you (Heb 12:6) like a parent does his child. To chastise means: _____.
4. It causes you to reap what you have sown (Gal 6:7,8). God cannot save you from experiencing the pains and scars that sin leaves in your life. He died to save you from eternal punishment in hell.

C. You Must Battle Against the Temptation to Sin, or you will by nature "give-in" to its dominion over your life (Eph 6:12; 1Tim 6:12; James 4:7).

1. **Decide that your sin is your fault, not anyone else's.** You must accept responsibility for your sin, and start not only taking the blame, but taking steps to keep from giving in anymore. You will never correct anything until you face your responsibility (Prov 28:13).
2. **Know your real enemies:** The external enemy is *this world*; the internal enemy is *your own flesh*; and your infernal enemy is *the devil*! As a soldier, know who your enemies are, and be equipped to defeat them!

3. **Protect your mind!** Don't allow sinful thoughts to control your mind (2Cor 10:4,5). The TV can destroy you spiritually (Ps 101:3), as can wrong music (Eccl 7:5)! So, STOP watching ungodly TV programs, and QUIT listening to ungodly music stations! Get advice on where to get access to some good, godly Christian music to listen to.
4. **Don't make "provision" for the _____** (Rom 13:14). Don't provide for ("feed") the desires of the flesh. Stay away from things that you know will get you into trouble! Don't place more opportunities to sin in your path than are already there!
5. **Look for a way of _____** out of temptation to sin (1Cor 10:13). God promised to get you through every temptation, if you want to!
6. **Judge your sins yourself** (1Cor 11:31,32). When you do wrong, and fail spiritually, think through why it happened, and how to keep from letting it happen again! Don't *justify* yourself - instead, accept the blame, get back up, and do better next time! You CAN if you will decide to work at it with God's help (Rom 8:12-14)!
7. **Confess your sins to God daily**, trying to do it immediately after you sin (1 John 1:9). Be specific, and determined not to fail again.
8. **Hide God's _____ in your heart** so you can use it like a sword against sin and temptation (Ps 119:11). Jesus Christ overcame temptation by quoting specific Scriptures that related to each temptation (Mt 4:1-11).
9. **Trust God's promises to cleanse you**, and to fight your battles for you when you give Him the authority to do so (2Cor 7:1; 1Jn 3:1-3; Heb 4:15,16)
10. **Walk daily in the power of God's Spirit** – it's like plugging in a light – only when plugged in will it shine!
 - a. You can either obey the _____, or God's _____ (Gal 5:16-25)!
 - b. Your flesh, and God's Spirit can never get along (Rom 8:1-8)!
 - c. The reason why it is so hard to live godly is because both the flesh and the Holy Spirit fight against each other's desires, and YOU have to decide who wins each day!

III. Dying To Your Self (Romans 6:1-11) - *Your biggest enemy is your own self!*

- A. Jesus Christ truly died for **all** your sins, as well as the sins of the whole world, providing forgiveness. When a person receives Jesus Christ as Saviour, they receive that same forgiveness of all their sins that was accomplished back at the cross (Rom 6:10; 1 John 2:2).
- B. When Jesus died, the _____ of your sin died also on that cross because He took away sin (Rom 8:1).
- C. When you as a Christian sin now, its judgment is transferred back to the cross automatically. Since sin's power was severed, it can no longer affect your eternal destiny!
- D. Therefore, "reckon" (understand) yourself to be _____ unto the sin that tempts you (Rom 6:11)! To be "dead" means, "*not to respond to it like you used to.*" Now that you are born again, you no longer **have** to give-in to sin. Your flesh will still want to sin, but the Spirit of God in you is greater than your flesh (1John 4:4), and if you so choose, you can put-off (ignore) the desires of your flesh, and give-in to the desires of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:22-24).
- E. Paul wrote in 2Tim 3:1-5 how that people in the last days would be "*lovers of their own _____*..." Everyone seems to have **ME**, **MY**, & **I** as priority. The world's psychology is increasingly stressing "*self esteem*," and it is increasingly creeping into Christian churches.

- F. Notice **Matthew 10:38-39**. Verse 39 says, "*He that findeth his life shall _____ it: and **he that loseth his life** for my sake shall _____ it.*" What do you think Jesus meant by "losing his life?" _____
- G. Read **Philippians 2:3-8**. Notice that verse 7 says that Jesus made himself of ***no reputation***. Verse 3 says that we should esteem others better than ourselves. It is evident that godliness does not promote **self**, but rather ***the death of self***. Could it be that **self** is what hinders us from becoming Christ-like after we are saved from the judgment of our sin?
- H. Look at what Paul said about *his identity* before salvation (**Philp 3:4-8**). He said I count all of it but "_____". Is that how you feel about *your identity*?
- I. After salvation, Paul said in **Gal 2:20** "*I am _____ with Christ...*" Who was living *through* Paul? _____! Jesus can live through you too!

IV. Separation Issues (**James 4:4**) - The Christian MUST separate from sin!

- A. The principle is: **Keep yourself out of situations where you know that your flesh is tempted to sin**. This is called *Separation*, and it is good! It is not negative, but rather positive since you are separating FROM ungodly things, UNTO *godly* things - so that you can live godly (**Tit 2:11,12**)!
- B. **Some things to be separated from (2Cor 6:17):**
1. Places where the *flesh* is in control and not the Holy Spirit like... pubs, liquor stores, Discos, Night Clubs, *Secretive* Societies, Dance halls, gambling halls, and the like! This means do not allow yourself to just watch anything that is on TV!
 2. Places where people are *exposing a lot of their bodies*, or drawing attention to their bodies (like beaches that are packed with almost naked people). No Christian needs to be a hermit, or ugly looking in order to be spiritual. But a Christian is to show off the "_____ *man*" by a godly life (**1Pet 3:1-4**).
 3. Stay away from anything that causes you to lose control of your will - like bad friends, or drugs, or drink, and anything else that stops you from choosing to do right.
 4. Things that _____ (ruin) your body and health (**1Cor 3:16,17**).
- C. **Definite Areas of Separation Between Christians and Non-Christians:**
1. In _____ (**2Cor 6:14; Amos 3:3**). You can fall in love with anyone. Make sure that it is the Lord who brings you two together, and not your own lusts!
 2. Stay clear of all works of darkness (**2Cor 6:14**), and demonic worship (**2Cor 6:15**), and especially _____ (**2Cor 6:16**). Don't toy with *Ouija* boards, *Tarot* cards, "crystals," and horoscopes (**Lev 19:26; Dt 18:10-12**) which are all Satanic. They are NOT of God.
 3. Stay out of friendships with the unsaved when they become wrong - i.e., they make demands on you that go against God (**Acts 5:29**) and try to pull you back into sin. Always be a witness though, and love them as Jesus did. "*Speaking the truth in _____.*" (**Eph 4:15**).
 4. Stay far away from False teachers (**1Tim 6:3-5**), "*...from such _____ thyself*" (**1Tim 1:3,4; 4:7; Gal 3:1**) and heretics (**2 John 9-11**) - Those that teach things contrary to clear Bible truths (like Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, etc)!
 5. Because, to _____ this world is very dangerous (**1 John 2:15,16**)!

D. Some Basic Rules to Follow:1. *Decide to:*

- a. NOT love this _____, neither the things in it (1John 2:15,16)!
- b. Seek guidance from God in prayer and Bible study regarding a particular issue that you don't understand (James 1:5).
- c. Make sure that anything you are about to do glorifies God, and honours Jesus Christ (Col 3:17).
- d. Use common sense - If you have doubts about something, then **don't do it!** Most Christians disregard warnings and guilt, and just go ahead thinking they have "liberty" not remembering our adversary, the devil is a lion seeking only to _____ (1Pet 5:8).
- e. Do only things that you know Jesus Christ Himself would do if He was in your shoes (1Pet 2:21).

2. *Separate yourself from:*

- a. Anything designed to overthrow or cast doubt upon your faith in God (Rom 14:23), like false science (1Tim 6:20), and evolution.
- b. Anything that would destroy your testimony, or debase your morals and lead you to sin (Heb 11:24-26).
- c. And finally, anything that would harm your body - physically, mentally or emotionally (1Cor 3:16,17; 6:18-20).

3. *Separate yourself unto:*

- a. A life of service for our Lord (1Cor 15:58; Gal 6:9)
- b. A life of holiness and purity (Titus 2:11,12)
- c. A life for others (Matt 28:19,20) - Soul-winning!

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____ <i>Discipler</i> _____

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

A Study of God's Greatest Reflection of Himself

Lesson Fourteen

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verse: *Genesis 2:24*

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

I. Introduction - No Greater Challenge Than Having a Godly Family!

- A. The Biblical type of family is the most fundamental unit in a society! Without strong, godly families, a nation is doomed (*Ps 9:17*)!
- B. When God made this world, He completed His creation with a *man* - but He did not create him to be alone (*Gen 2:18*). God created man to exist as a family. Before there were cities, thrones, space programs, banks, churches, cars, or armies, there was the family!
- C. This lesson will introduce the Christian to the Biblical structure of the family and the home. It is intended to help the Christian to transform their family life into the greatest reflection of God possible!



II. The Family Unit - What is a Family?

- A. When the world tries to define a "family," it constantly has to change and adapt its definition to fit people's changing attitudes. Yet God has given us a perfect, never changing pattern for us to adapt to: the example of *Himself*!
- B. Notice God's titles: the _____, the Word (became *the Son*), and the Holy Ghost (*1 Jn 5:7*). These three "Persons" exist as **one unit**. So is it to be in a human family, because mankind was designed like God is (*Gen 1:26,27*)!
- C. Every human has three "parts": a body, _____, and spirit (*1 Thes 5:23*).
- D. Every family has three "parts": the father, mother, and children. *There are only three*. The exceptions are when a person is not married (when a person is single, he or she is still part of the family that they were born into), and when there are no children in a relationship. These are "exceptions" - not the norm!
- E. Either you are single and under your parents, or are married and have your own children (or at least wish you could have children).
- F. Both of these places are right, and a blessing to be in. Don't let the world try to mould you to *its* definition of life, family, and so-called happiness (see *Prov 17:1; 15:17; 21:19*).
- G. The family unit is being attacked viciously today by the areas of homosexuality, and promiscuity (sexual immorality between men and woman who are not married). Both are wrong (*1Cor 7:1,2; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:26-27*), and can only be resisted if God's design for men and women is understood and protected!

III. Are You Single? God will take care of you (*Heb 13:5*)

- A. If a person is single, they should not _____ to be married, but seek to honour and glorify God FIRST by their life (*1Cor 7:27; Mt 6:33*), trusting He will direct their path to the person they should marry (*Ps 37:4*) as He did Adam (*Gen 2:18-23*).
- B. Being single is best, but is not for everybody.
- C. Don't be discouraged if you feel too old to be married, or *past your prime*! God brought a wife to Isaac when he was ____ years old (*Gen 25:20*)!
- D. Singleness is not a time of only waiting, but a time of **doing**. Your life doesn't start when you get married – it started the moment you got saved (*John 10:10*)!

IV. The Confusion about Homosexuality

- A. **Jesus said it is okay to not be interested in getting married (Mt 19:10-12). It is called being a _____.**
1. It is a scientific fact that NO one is born a homosexual, bisexual, or transsexual.
 2. But some are born with no interest in sex.
 3. And some decide to stay single, so that they can serve God without any distractions (1Cor 7:32-34)
 4. Everyone else is fine with getting married and having children.
 5. This section of the study on the family will explain God's purpose for all three attitudes towards sex.
- B. **God designed adult men and women for each other sexually.** We are specifically designed to have sex with a marriage partner.
1. A man and a woman are marvellously designed by God in every way (Ps 139:14), and that means in *every* way.
 2. Marriage joins a man and a woman together physically (Gen 2:21-24; Matt 19:5,6).
 3. There is nothing wrong with sex **in** the covenant of marriage (Heb 13:4).
- C. **Men and women are supposed to marry, and have children.** That is the general design and natural expectation of all adults, male and female (1Tim 5:14; Ps 127:3).
1. The apostle _____ was married (Matt 8:14,15).
 2. Joseph and Mary were married, and they had more children after the birth of Jesus (Matt 13:54-56), so they were a normal family – unlike the idea that Catholics have of Joseph's relationship with a perpetually virgin Mary.
- D. **But there are some exceptions to being married.** Those exceptions are often confused and twisted into homosexual and lesbian concepts that ruin God's design, and especially confuse children, leading to their abuse.
- E. **Jesus explained the exceptions (Matthew 19:12)**
1. A 'eunuch' is someone that either does not want to have sex with their marriage partner, or cannot have sex.
 2. Three Biblical attitudes towards being single:
 - a. Jesus said, Some people are _____ eunuchs – unable to have sexual intercourse for whatever reason. These are not interested in getting married or in having sex. And that is perfectly fine.
 - b. Other people are forcibly **made** eunuchs by men – when men are physically castrated, for whatever reason, they have been "*made into a eunuch*." The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:27 was forcibly made that way so that he could be trusted with the Queen's treasury, and this was a common occurrence up until recently amongst many government civil servants all over the world.
 - c. Some people **decide** themselves to be a eunuch – they do not want to be married and are fine being single and are able to serve God without distractions (1Cor 7:32). They do not seek sex with anyone. As Christians, they just live for the advancement of kingdom of God! The Apostle Paul was single all of his adult life, and wished more people would stay single (1Cor 7:8). They may later on in their life decide to get married, which is fine as well. In other words, if a young man, or a young woman does not seek to be married, that is fine. And if they change their minds, that is fine as well.

3. So, if a young woman is not interested in “guys”, that is perfectly fine. It does NOT mean they are a lesbian. And if a young man is not interested in “girls”, it is perfectly fine too. They are not queer. Not unless they have become influenced by the pressure of the homosexual culture that is wrongly promoted by society today!
4. But if you are naturally interested in sex, then by all means, marry (1Cor 7:1,2,8,9)!

F. Anything beyond those four attitudes towards sex is wrong according to God, and will be judged (Heb 13:4; Eccl 12:13,14).

1. The Bible calls homosexuality “_____ affections” (Rom 1:26)
2. It is “_____ nature” which means it goes against how we were designed as male and female (Gen 1:27)
3. Homosexuality is a lust for someone you cannot have – like adultery and pornography is – “*the men, leaving the _____ use of the woman, burned in their _____ one toward another; _____ with _____ working that which is unseemly*” (Rom 1:27). Unseemly means, unwatchable, because it is so dark and wicked.
4. God warns that homosexuals are destined to receive “*in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet*” (Rom 1:27) – referring to God’s specific judgment upon THEM for that specific sin.

G. Homosexuals and Lesbians CAN be saved, and CAN become “straight” (1Cor 6:9-11) – but they have got to want to be saved from their sin (Matt 1:21).

1. How does Paul describe homosexuals in those verses? “*such _____ some of you.*”
2. Homosexuals, just like adulterers, fornicators, liars, and drunkards need to repent towards God for the awfulness of their sin, and get saved before it is too late!
3. If you have confusion about sexuality, that is normal in this day and age. So many movies and music stars are pushing homosexuality into every relationship. God commands us to get counsel, and seek forgiveness for our wrongdoings, and start following Jesus. Jesus can straighten anyone out!

H. Final thought. Do not just expect that young men and women are pure in heart and desire – they need to be talked with and taught and humbled about any sexual sins and any abuses in their past before they ever embark on marriage so that their marriage is wonderful, and lasts like God designed it to (Heb 13:4).

V. Preparing For Marriage - Courtship and Marriage for Christians

A. God's Purpose in Marriage - Study these!

1. **Companionship (Gen 2:18)** - Throughout creation, God balanced everything out - He created two of everything (to everything, there is a positive, and a negative; a true and a false; a light and a darkness; an up and a down; a male and a female, etc). When He created Adam, He was not finished, but knew Adam needed companionship (ie, someone that he could intimately relate to - who was just like himself). God created someone who would think like Adam, and understand Adam. None of the rest of creation could relate to Adam (Gen 2:19-23).
2. **Completeness (Gen 2:18)** - God did not just give Adam a “buddy” or “friend”, but a “completer” (ie, someone who matched Adam’s needs like a glove does a hand). Eve was not to be another *Adam*, but to be what Adam was NOT, and to “compliment” him, as he complimented her! She was called a _____, meeting his needs.
3. **Enjoyment (Heb 13:4)** The marriage relationship is the most enjoyed of all relationships because of the intimacy of companionship and completeness! Marriage

is not a duty but a thrill, and it never gets dull when based upon God's pattern! The key is the couple must operate within God's limits so trust is always maintained.

4. **Children** (**Gen 1:28; 9:1; 1Pet 3:7**). The natural result of human intimacy will usually be children! Adam and Eve discovered this (**Gen 4:1**). Believe that Children are always a blessing, and a gift from the Lord (**Ps 127:3-5**) to a husband and wife.
5. **Protection** The purpose of any godly relationship is for the benefit of the people *in* the relationship, not their destruction. Adam needed Eve at times, and she supplied that need as she protected his weakness. Eve needed Adam at times, and he was to supply that need as he protected her weakness (**Eph 5:25-29; Eccl 4:9-12**)
6. **Representation** - The Christian marriage relationship is to present a living portrayal of the loving relationship between Jesus Christ and believers (**Eph 5:31-33**).

B. How God Sees Marriage

1. **As good.** "*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a _____ thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.*" (**Prov 18:22**). Marriage is not outdated, or old-fashioned. It is the greatest relationship, and is honoured by God!
2. **As pure.** In marriage, the bed is _____. (**Heb 13:4**) – being married is wonderful, and a blessing, and just what God designed it to be. It is not to be a place of fear, or of wickedness, but of joy, and blessing (**Prov 5:18,19; Song 7:7-12**). If it is not honourable, it is not a marriage.
3. **As enduring.** "*The Lord, the God of Israel saith that he hateth _____.*" (**Malachi 2:16**). Only by seeing how God hates adultery and divorce can we see the seriousness of marriage (**Mt 19:3-6**)!
4. **As meeting each other's needs** (**1Cor 7:3-5; 32-34**). The one person who is best able to meet your needs is the one who knows you best! The purpose of marriage is not to "obtain" but to "supply," knowing your own needs will be provided for in the process!
5. **As built upon friendship, and communication** - not on requirements, and expectations. The marriage relationship starts with friendship, and is built upon **trust**. If a person's mate is not their best friend, then the foundation of the marriage is flawed, and can collapse (**Song 5:16**)
6. God sees marriage **as a covenant** (a binding commitment) that makes their relationship the priority human relationship in life (**Gen 2:24**). Marriage is **not** an experiment! It is a total commitment, and a total sharing of the total person with another until death. This most wonderful of relationships both confines and yet fulfils the human heart!

C. Courtship or Dating (**Psalms 34:3**) – How to find a mate for life

1. Most people try so very hard to find the love of their life by using the feel-good methods of dating, drinking, and discos.
2. God has a much better method that has worked from the very first day! It is called Courtship.
3. What is Courtship?
 - a. Courtship is a relationship between a man and a woman in which they seek to determine if it is God's will for them to marry each other. Under the protection, guidance, and blessing of parents or mentors, the couple concentrates on developing a deep friendship that could lead to marriage, as they discern their readiness for marriage and God's timing for their marriage. (See **Proverbs 3:5-7**)
 - b. Courtship is a choice to avoid temptation and experience the blessings of purity. It is a choice to not emotionally give away your heart, piece by piece, to many

- others through casual dating relationships and instead to ultimately give your whole heart to your life partner.
- c. Courtship is a choice to **wait** for God's best for your life. It is a decision to live your life by trusting in God, honour others above yourself, and to believe that God will do good to you, all because He is love. (Ps 9:10; Rom 12:10; 1Jn 4:8)
 4. Understanding and applying the following guidelines will result not only in a marriage pleasing to God, but also one that will be the most rewarding for ourselves. It provides the foundation for winning the world for Christ.
 5. The concepts presented here are helpful guidelines to consider, but the list is not exhaustive. Each person, along with their parents or other mentors, must seek God's direction for the specific steps of their courtship.
 6. Let's compare Dating and Courtship – *read each row, from left to right:*

What Dating Is...	What Courtship Is...
Dating is mainly for having Fun (not really serious, but wanting to just “look around”).	Courtship is mainly for finding a Family.
Starts as soon as possible (these days dating starts around 12 years old or so).	Starts only when spiritually ready and serious about marriage.
By your own choice.	By the wise advice of parents and godly Christians, especially the pastor.
Defined by the world – almost anything goes when on a date.	Defined by the Scripture (see below).
Letting the “flesh” decide what is right or wrong to do on a date.	Letting God's Holy Spirit define what is right and wrong to do, and obeying Him!
Lots of trial and error (which leads to loads of disappointments).	Following careful steps , leads to fewer disappointments.
Lots of temptation, and guilt.	Very little temptation , yet great joy for obeying God, and finding His will.
Based on how you feel about the other person.	Based on how God is directing your life for His glory, to the person you should be with.
Usually ends in massive heartache and ultimate distrust, and even divorce.	Usually ends with a life-long mate.

- a. As a young person, it is a good thing to have fun with people of the opposite sex, as long as you have your parent's permission, and as long as it is when you are in a group and not alone. God does not ask you to live as a monk or a nun. But He does expect us to keep ourselves pure from fornication and from sexual temptation (1Thess 4:3)
- b. Therefore, it is not a good thing to just “hang around” the opposite sex without a Godly purpose, and without Godly supervision. It will usually lead to sinful thoughts and sinful acts that you will regret.
7. So, Have the Right Focus (Col 3:17; 1Cor 10:31) - in marriage, as well as every other area of life, our purpose is to glorify _____.
- a. If something is contrary to the will of God, then we must reject it, and lose it (Lk 9:23,24) – reject it as dead!
- b. Your desire ought to be to have the RIGHT marriage partner, that GOD gave you - not just marry the next available person!
8. Seek The Right Person (Gen 2:18)
 - a. God specifically created a _____ for Adam that was suitable for him.

- b. Two people are not equals (God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve) but rather complements; i.e., each possessed mutually affirming gifts, strengths and insights. Each was incomplete without the other. Each person had qualities that the other needed to fulfill his duties before God.
9. Get The Right Counsel (Pr 23:22; 20:18)
- a. Dating is a modern substitute for wise counsel and lots of prayer!
 - b. Too many parents do not really know their children because by the time that their kids become teenagers, they have spent virtually no time with them compared what others have spent.
 - c. But if parents have fulfilled their Biblical role faithfully, they should know their children better than anyone else in the world. They should have 20-odd years of experience with their children, know their moods, tempers, gifts, and weaknesses. They are providentially equipped to advise their children about what kind of person they should be courting. When a child reaches the age where courting is now appropriate, parents and child should sit down and do a frank analysis of both themselves and potential partners.
10. Have A Right Mind (Philp 2:1,2,5)
- a. The first thing to have is a right MIND (right way of thinking) – don't follow your heart or emotions, or do just what everybody else may be doing.
 - b. The mind of Christ seeks to not only find fulfilment and happiness, but enjoys making other people happy, and serving them as Christ taught us to
 - c. Your MIND must be in charge of the relationship, over-ruling your heart because when only you heart is in charge, it will get you in trouble (Jer 17:9).
 - d. So, always THINK as you love – don't get carried away!
11. Develop The Right Heart (Philp 2:3-4)
- a. The goal of any relationship is *ministry*, not manipulation. We are not to seek to have our own needs met, but rather meet the needs of others. Yet usually marriages are made because young people think that a certain person will meet their "needs." Instead, we must see life as a process of giving up rights, and taking on responsibilities.
 - b. A single person MUST learn how to be "other-oriented" in their thinking. Otherwise they are only going to be a taker in the relationship, and a destroyer of the relationship!
 - c. Selfishness is the cause of most marital disasters.
 - d. Both man and woman must make genuine sacrifices to make a godly marriage. If one or both of the people are not ready or able to make those sacrifices, then they are not suitable marriage partners.
 - 1) Husbands must be willing to give themselves up for their wives. Husbands don't just need a wife in order to succeed, they succeed first by sacrificially ministering to their wives!
 - 2) Wives **must submit** themselves to their husbands. You had better make sure your husband is worthy of submitting to!
12. Meet the Qualifications (Eph 5:22-31; Prov 31:10-31; 1Pet 3:1-7)
- a. The best indicator of future performance is past performance. If you want to know what a person is going to be like in the future, just take a long, hard look at where he or she has been. Now it is so true that God transforms sinners. Yet,

when deciding who is or is not suitable as a mate for our children, the past is a great indicator of what you can expect down the road.

b. In generalities, the future mate should pass the following test:

- 1) Is he or she truly saved? And does he live like he is saved? ([Matt 7:20-27](#))
- 2) Is he or she strong in their trust in the Lord? ([Prov 3:5,6](#))
 - a) Do they trust God, pray about their needs, and rest in the Lord's answers, or do they fret and worry and panic?
 - b) Do they praise God a lot, or do they find fault, and complain?
 - c) You should seek someone who is more spiritual than you are, and loves God more than you do!
- 3) Is he or she yielded and submissive to God's will for their life ([Acts 9:6](#))? Do they know their calling and are they working diligently at it?
- 4) Is he or she consistent, or does he or she change their mind constantly, and do things impulsively ([Prov 24:21](#))? Are they ever happy just where they are at, or always complaining?
- 5) Do they truly love you, or do they really only love themselves? ([Eph 5:25](#); [Titus 2:4](#))
- 6) Are they trustworthy? Do they exhibit integrity? Do they keep their promises? ([Psalm 7:8](#); [Prov 11:3](#))
- 7) Are they a hard worker? Both the woman and the man must love hard work, or they will pull the relationship apart with their laziness ([Gen 3:19](#); [Prov 20:4](#); [2Thes 3:10](#)).

c. When looking for a potential husband:

- 1) Look for a man who possess leadership ability. Someone who wants to lead his family, and be an example of serving, instead of just being lazy and letting the wife make all the important decisions!
- 2) Look for a man who works very hard. Make sure that he can save and manage money and thus financially provide for the family ([1Tim 5:8](#)).
- 3) The Bible asks:
 - a) Is he good FATHER material ([Col 3:19-21](#), [Eph 6:1-2](#))?
 1. Look at his own father for insights as to how he will handle frustration, anger, fear, etc.
 2. Does the young man's father trust his own wife, love her ([Eph 5:21-25](#)), nurture and care for her ([Pr 31:11](#)), granting her honour as an equal heir ([1Pet 3:7](#)), understanding her and being gentle with her ([1Pet 3:7](#))?
 3. The way the young man's father treats his mother is likely the same way he will treat you or your daughter.
 - b) Is he A ONE-WOMAN man ([1Tim 3:2](#)) or has he had lots of previous entanglements that could come back and haunt you both?
 - c) Is he sensible ([Tit 2:6](#)) and does he possess the general godly character qualities of an elder / mature Christian ([1Tim 3:1-7](#))? If not, then no matter how friendly, charming or attractive, look somewhere else.

d. In the same way, potential wives should be:

- 1) Submissive in spirit (Eph 5:21-22) and respectful in their attitude and demeanour. Most women are extremely assertive because of the training of the feminists!
- 2) Sensible, looking forward to working at home, kind, loving their husbands and children (cf. Tit 2:3-5).
- 3) They are able to do good to their husbands because they are industrious, charitable, skilled in their work, well-dressed (modestly so), good managers of resources and, of course, they must fear God (1Tim 2:9-10; 1Pet 3:3,4; Pr 31:22,30).
- 4) If a woman lacks the qualities necessary for any of these before marriage, there is no way of knowing if she will ever develop them afterwards. Therefore, parents ought to make it a point to examine potential mates according to objective, Biblical criteria. If they don't meet the qualifications, then no matter how attractive they are, they are not suitable for marriage.

13. Keep The Right Distance (1Cor 7:1-5; Gen 2:24) – VERY IMPORTANT!

- a. If all the other issues are dealt with, then this issue will be easy. If the heart is not submissive to God's way, then no amount of warnings, and walls will stop two people from committing fornication.
- b. There is a right amount of distance that must be maintained between two unmarried people (Pr 6:27-29) – no touching. Touching, clinging, cleaving to each other is for when married – period!
- c. If you start to violate this principal, no amount of determination and repenting will stop you from God's judgment (Heb 13:4)!

14. Conclusions

- a. Parents must teach, and nurture these truths into their young children.
- b. Young men and women need to evaluate just how much they are willing to "wait" until marriage, and to let God prepare them for this most important of all life's treasures – a family!
- c. The fruit of living godly is eternal. The pleasures of sin, are only for a season (Heb 11:24,25)!

D. Principles of a Happy Marriage

1. **Make sure both persons are _____** (Mt 7:21-27; John 3:3,7; 2Cor 6:14; Amos 3:3)! No Christian should ever think that they can be happy married to someone who doesn't care about Christ! It is next to impossible to change a person after marriage!
 - a. A woman marries a man, hoping he will change, but he doesn't.
 - b. A man marries a woman hoping she never changes, and she does!
2. **Give 100%!** The marriage life is *NOT* 50/50, but rather 100/100% of each partner! You no longer are two persons, but _____ (Gen 2:24)!
3. **Delete from your vocabulary words like: *hate, divorce, mine, yours!*** Don't remain angry, or vengeful with you mate (Eph 4:26,27), but rather take the time and talk the problem through until it gets settled! This takes prayer, and humility on your part (Pr 16:32)! Study **1 Corinthians 13** together, and implement each phrase into your relationship!
4. **Have a LOT of grace (tolerance) with each other** (1Pet 4:8; Heb 12:28)!
5. **Both must agree to submit** to the Biblical pattern for their home as found in the word of God, with the husband as the loving head of the home, the wife as the help

- participating in decisions, yet not forcing her way, and the children in nurtured obedience. The husband must be in submission to the word of God (1Cor 11:3).
6. **Look forward to _____.** Focus your energies no longer on yourselves, but rather on raising *God's* heritage (Ps 127:3). Don't spend time worrying about affording children, but on loving them!
 7. **Burn the bridges back to your single life!** Your mother should not "*keep your room,*" and you should destroy all the letters and notes you may have from old lovers! You cannot serve _____ masters (Mt 6:24)!
 8. **Realize that your marriage and your family is your FIRST ministry,** before your job, your church, or even your *self*! This is the hardest task! And yet the most enduring, and rewarding!
 9. **Have family Bible-time (Deut 6:6-9)!** This means a time where you and your family sit down together and read out of the Bible for about ten or fifteen minutes, and then you pray for each member of the family. Have different members of the family pray each time. Sometimes, act out what is being taught in the Bible. Always make it a special time. The goal is to develop a godly home atmosphere all day!
 10. **Romance your mate regularly (Gen 26:6-8; 1Cor 7:1-3).** *Continue* to date each other, admire one another, woo each other's attention, read the Song of Solomon together; purchase your wife flowers! Do crazy things just to show each other how crazy you still are for them!
 11. **Listen to one another (Eph 5:21),** without grudging (Eph 4:31,32)! There MUST be specific time set aside for each other, just where you talk and listen to each other's heart concerns, gripes, dreams, etc.
 12. **Purpose to have times of fun with just your family, weekly!** This is so important to their emotional health! It lets them know that they mean something to you, and that you really find joy with them, instead of only out of the house!

VI. The Dangers in Marriage. Marriage by nature can be full of problems because there is more than one flawed human being in the relationship! But God has balanced that out thankfully, when He is invited to be the focus of the relationship.

- A. **Wrong Expectations (Mt 11:7-9, 16-19).** This is the source of the majority of problems in marriages. People naturally expect things of each other, and when those expectations are not met, problems arise (Ps 62:5; 37:4; Pr 11:7).

How to defeat wrong expectations:

1. Learn from Christ what He wants of YOU! Focus on becoming what Christ intended for *you* to be, instead of what you think He meant for your mate to be! Surrender your expectations to the Lord, and love your mate as a gift from Him.
 2. Begin to nourish and develop your spouse into the best that they can be -- not brow-beating, or nagging them, but encouraging, and equipping them with what they need to be their best!
 3. Communicate. Tell your mate what you need, and listen to the needs of your mate. Learn about each other. Don't just demand!
 4. Then start meeting your spouse's needs, instead of so desperately wanting him or her to meet yours!
- B. **Stubbornness** - not yielding - not allowing God to change you in any way BY your partner. God put the two of you together NOT because both of you were already perfect, but because each of you, when combined, made a stronger team than any one individual could have ever been! God wants BOTH people in a marriage to affect each other for good (Jam 4:6). Both partners MUST allow the other person the authority to help mould and shape them (1Co 7:4; Eph 5:21; 1Pet 5:5).

- C. **Over-sensitivity.** Intimacy naturally means *vulnerability*. And vulnerability often-times results in *hurt* (Ezek 16:45). Extreme emotional hurt must be given to God (Isa 53:3,4). Don't take it upon you to revenge any hurt you may receive from your partner. You must learn to take the situation as God's way of getting you to rely on Him to handle the "pay-back." He assures us He will do a very good job of it (Rom 12:17-21). In other words, suffer _____ (1Cor 13:4), and endure some _____ (2Tim 2:3), and develop the ability to love and be _____ when the other person does not deserve it (Eph 4:31,32), simply because that is how God treats you!
- D. **Complacency.** Your relationship with your spouse is a living, and growing relationship - it never sits idle. It is either growing closer, or farther apart, based upon your efforts. The lack of effort by BOTH people will result in decay setting in. Vigilance must be maintained. There is never a time that a person can just sit back and say, "I got it made. Everything is perfectly under control." This is not to say that you should be happy with a relationship *out of control* (1Cor 14:40). In other words, work hard at your relationship. Don't just take it for granted, and draw from it, while not investing into it! Both of you must work at this!
- E. **Being focused on short-term gratification.** This is where evolution has taught 99% of all married couples that they are in a relationship only to *get*. And instant gratification turns into demand. And demand creates slavery. And slaves revolt! Maturity is required in the heart and desires of each partner so that gratification is found in supplying the others' needs before themselves (1Cor 7:33,34; Acts 20:35). At the start of any marriage, it is expected that the two people will not automatically know how to give more than they get, but over time, this attribute should fully develop!
- F. **Disrespect.** This is vital to conquer (Eph 5:33; 1Pet 3:1-7)! Honour each other, and _____ each other _____ than themselves (Phlp 2:3)! Disrespect is formed by *dis-trust*. Therefore, have very short memories about past failures, and always completely forgive each other when asked (Lk 17:3,4; Heb 10:17). This will allow you to maintain respect and praise for your mate even though they are imperfect. Keep your love and respect **fresh** (like God does, Lam 3:22,23). Both of you are commanded to work at earning and maintaining each other's trust! If the other person has problems with you, then try and fix those problems to the best of your ability (Mt 5:23,24)!

VII. Dealing with Hurts in the Home

A. What Offends You?

1. Has anyone physically Bullied you? Yes / No
2. Has anyone said unfair words and actions against you? Yes / No
3. Has anyone ever taken you to court? Yes / No
4. Were any of the above a close friend, or your husband, your wife, your parents?
Yes / No Name one person: _____
5. Who was also rejected, bullied, hurt? Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 55:12-14 _____

B. How easily do YOU take offense? (Prov 18:19)

1. Some things ARE clearly offensive – physical abuse, pornography, sexual abuse
2. But MOST things should NOT be offensive / upsetting to the Bible believing Christian! Why? Because we trust in the Lord, and not in people's goodness towards us. (Psalm 119:165)
3. Some people live as if they are entitled to being constantly offended... to being upset all the time! Ask yourself if YOU are constantly upset.
4. Do you feel that you have to 'defend' yourself when somebody says something you take personally, and so you usually take offense?

5. Why do people take offense? Usually because we feel an injustice against US. And we feel we MUST bring “balance” back to our lives through an equal response!
6. Most people feel weighed down with past offenses against us:
 - a. All the HISTORY of abuses and hurtful words said, and destructive things done against us can haunt us all our lives
 - b. All the HURTS... INJUSTICES... All the BAD MEMORIES...
 - c. But each offense that we hold onto WILL become our own chain and prison if not released / or let go of!
7. Jesus works backwards to what you would think about handling offenses
 - a. Our natural reaction is to TAKE control – be in charge of bringing about justice concerning our lives – because we believe no one else will!
 - b. But Jesus says to get control of your life, you have to LOSE it (Luke 9:23-25)
 - c. RELEASE it! And leave it to who? _____ (Romans 12:19)



C. Handling Past Offenses

1. Forgive the Person in the same amount that YOU have been forgiven (Eph 4:32)
 - a. God has given us THREE Great Examples of Forgiving
 - 1) _____ (Gen 45:1-5) forgave his evil, uncaring brothers
 - 2) _____ (Lk 23:34) forgave ALL those who had just beat Him and whipped Him, and nailed Him to the cross and left Him there to die!
 - 3) _____ (Acts 7:59,60) forgave those who were stoning him!
 - 4) All of them were intensely hurt and offended and abused, and great injustices were done against them! And yet they forgave without hesitation! Even though their enemies first asking to be forgiven!
 - b. So, it is **mandatory** of a Christian to Forgive –it is actually commanded (Matt 18:21-22), NOT SUGGESTED.
 - c. Forgiveness must be absolute and total (Matt 18:23-27)
 - d. Unforgiving-ness is a WICKED SIN (Mt 18:28-35) to get out of your heart!
 - e. There is NO forgiveness for you without you forgiving others! (Mk 11:25,26)
 - f. It Must be Total, or it is NOT Forgiveness (Psalm 103:2,3,11,12; 85:2)
 - g. You are NOT forgiving their SIN against you (only GOD can forgive sin); but you ARE forgiving THEM of sinning against YOU!
2. Forbear the Justice (Eph 4:2; 6:9; Col 3:13)
 - a. To forbear means to hold off getting even
 - 1) Whoever hurt you, did wrong.
 - 2) But by God’s amazing grace, you can put off getting even, and leave the vengeance to God to take care of (Rom 12:19).
 - 3) David put off repaying his enemy king Saul, for all the injustices against him (1Sam 24:16-19).
 - b. God forbears/puts up with US - is longsuffering towards us (Rom 2:4; 3:25)!
 - c. If He has been slow to act against YOU, then, YOU must become SLOW to act against those who have hurt you as well! VERY SLOW (James 1:19)!

3. Now you can Forget the Offense – each of them, one by one
 - a. Holding onto every memory of every hurt, and every reason why someone cannot be trusted, and every reason why someone ought to be punished, will only kill the spirit of your mind! It will burn you out; twist your thinking; drain your spirit and your joy.
 - b. You were not made to carry all those memories and hurts (1Peter 5:7).
 - c. So, Forget some things of your past on purpose (Philp 3:12-14).
 - 1) You can leave behind, ALL your past failures
 - 2) And ALL the Hurts against you – how? By forgiving them all!
 - 3) All the failed parenting, relationships, marriages, decisions and debts!
 - 4) Even ALL the disasters that seemed to ruin your life – trusting instead, that GOD was actually in control and making everything work together for “_____” (Romans 8:28) – like Joseph trusted!

D. On-Going Offenses – if there are ongoing offenses...

1. Confront the Person – don’t just ignore what people do to you. Tell them they hurt you / or did wrong towards you. Be respectfully honest with them.
2. Forgive the Person – right on the spot. See all the above!
3. Expect the Person to do right. Tell them they should take responsibility for what they did against you.
4. After that, you must go ahead and love them anyway – bless them – pray FOR them (Matt 5:43,44).

E. Getting Counsel

1. Not everyone can do the above (Rom 12:18).
2. If you find all this hard, then get counsel / spiritual help, so YOU can do right, whether anyone else does or not.
3. Beware of holding grudges (Lev 19:18; James 5:9).
4. Your family, your home, and your future is at stake!

F. Fear What Anger is Doing to Everyone in Your Home

1. First, see YOUR anger for what it is – a way for the _____ to take over your heart, and our home (Eph 4:26,27).
2. Remember what God did with ALL His anger towards YOU!
3. Repent of staying angry instead of forgiving offenses
4. Then, replace the anger with the RIGHT way of thinking about offenses against you! Replace it with forgiveness, love and dependency on God.
5. If another person is the one full of anger, they need to work through this section of Discipleship. If they are unwilling, then YOU need to pray and fast for their heart to be broken and softened and made like Christ’s!

G. Overcoming Anger – Let the word of God change the way you handle anger!

1. Write down what the following verses say about **THE WRONG WAY** to handle anger. You are handling anger in a sinful and unbiblical manner when you:
 - a. Ephesians 4:26,27: *Refuse to admit that you are angry. Clam up and pretend nothing is wrong. Make this your normal way of dealing with anger.*
 - b. Proverbs 17:14: *Pick a fight as soon as you can. Be as nasty as you can.*
 - c. Proverbs 29:11, 20: _____

- d. Matthew 5:21, 22: _____
 - e. Ephesians 4:31: _____
 - f. Proverbs 26:21: _____
 - g. Proverbs 15:1: _____
 - h. Colossians 3:8: _____
 - i. Romans 12:17, 19: _____
 - j. 1 Peter 3:9: _____
 - k. 1 Corinthians 13:5: _____
 - l. Philippians 4:8: _____
2. Can you see yourself doing ANY of the above when YOU get angry? Yes / No
3. Now write down what the following verses have to say about THE RIGHT WAY to handle anger. Some of these are repeats of above Scriptures, but now you are looking for instructions on the RIGHT way to respond to offenses,
- a. Romans 12:19-21: *Never take your own revenge; turn the matter of punishment over to God; seek to help your enemy in specific ways.*
 - b. Ephesians 4:26: *Acknowledge that you are angry and seek to solve the problem immediately. Don't allow unresolved problems to pile up.*
 - c. Ephesians 4:29: _____
 - d. Ephesians 4:32: _____
 - e. Matthew 5:43, 44: _____
 - f. Proverbs 19:11: _____
 - g. Proverbs 15:1: _____
 - h. Proverbs 16:32: _____
 - i. Proverbs 25:28: _____
 - j. Proverbs 14:29: _____
 - k. Proverbs 29:11: _____
 - l. Galatians 5:16-23: _____
 - m. 1 Thessalonians 5:18: _____

4. All of the above is God's way of looking at your anger and how YOU now need to see it and manage it.

VIII. The Role of The Husband/Father (Prov 17:6) – To Be A Team Leader!

- A. A husband is to _____ his wife (Eph 5:25) as he loves his own _____ (Eph 5:28,33). Men are the main problem! God directs most of His words at men because men are stubborn and rebellious, and need the most encouragement to do right!
- B. The pattern for this kind of love is to be as _____ loved the _____ (Eph 5:25) when He died so we could live! A wife will only thrive spiritually when her husband loves her beyond everything else!
- C. This love will be shown by a husband accepting his responsibility to be the _____ of his wife and family (Eph 5:23). The Husband is the head of the home *positionally* (1Cor 11:3), leading, and making the important decisions with his wife's input (he is not dictator). The head of the man is _____! Therefore, how can a man expect his wife to be in submission to *his* decisions, if he himself is not in submission to God's word?!?!
- D. The purpose of a husband's love is shown in how Christ gave Himself for the church that He might _____ and _____ it with the washing of the _____ (Eph 5:25,26). Therefore, the husband is responsible for maintaining the wife's purity and love for God, by not damaging her emotionally, physically, or spiritually! He is to care for, and nurture his wife and family like a farmer does his soil and plants!
- E. According to 1Peter 3:7, a husband must:
1. *Dwell* with (live with, spend time with, get intimate with, but not dominate) his wife according to _____ - i.e., he will work to know her needs, and weaknesses, and strengths, and seek to build her up and strengthen her.
 2. Give "_____" to his wife (only in Biblical Christianity is the woman elevated to that of royalty). Do this in public! ***That's an order!*** Listen to your wife! Include her in the decisions, and allow her to be right!
 3. He will recognize that she also is an _____ of the grace of life - she is just as important, and as much a beneficiary of God's gift of children, and family, and life itself as the husband is!
- F. If a husband loves his wife, he will not allow himself to get _____ against her (Col 3:19), and will work to keep her from getting bitter against him! But remember, the two of them must work together at this!

IX. The Role of the Wife

- A. God made the woman as an _____ meet for the man (Gen 2:18).
Define *help*: _____
The word '*meet*' means *match*, or fitting to his needs (Mt 3:8; 2Tim 2:21).
- B. God made the woman _____ the man (1Cor 11:9).
- C. A woman is to _____ herself to her husband. (Eph 5:22).
1. A wife is supposed to be subject to her husband in _____ (Eph 5:24).
If she is not married, then she is still subject to her father while at home.
 2. One exception to this is that we ought to obey _____ rather than _____. (Acts 5:29). The wife is to disobey when the husband gets abusive or directs her to go against the word of God.
 3. A man will not respect a woman who does not respect and obey God more than she does him. And for sure, a woman will not respect a man who does not respect and obey God more than his selfish wants!

- D. The wife is also to _____ her husband (Eph. 5:33). She is to honour her husband as she should honour Christ.
- E. According to 1Peter 3:1,2, a woman should have a chaste _____ (her life and language should show forth purity) coupled with _____, *not disrespect*. The woman should not live in fear of her husband, but in fear of falling short of God's design for her and her husband.
- F. A woman should have a _____ (soft) and _____ spirit (1Peter 3:3,4). She needs to refrain from a loud, clamorous, demeaning, and nagging attitude (Pro 21:9, 19).
- G. God said to the first woman (Eve) that her _____ would be to her husband and that he would _____ over her (Gen. 3:16). This is part of the curse that Satan brought into the world, but it also is part of the way that God designed the Christian woman to defeat Satan by his own devices

X. Children - *The MOST intensive (and rewarding) part of a family's energies*

- A. **What are Children as far as God is Concerned?** In marriage, "*children are an _____ of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his _____*" (Ps 127:3). Therefore, they are an opportunity for Christians to raise up a Godly generation! Why is it that Christians want all of God's blessings, except for children? Children are God's **greatest blessing!** *Remember the blessing of being HIS children!*
- B. **Establishing A Child's Proper Relationship with God.**
 - 1. A _____ can and should trust Christ at a young age (2Tim 3:15)!
 - 2. Fathers are not to _____ their children, but bring them up in the _____ (tender training) and _____ (encouragement) of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Therefore, it is the responsibility of the father to instruct his children in *spiritual* things - it is not the church's, school's, or the Government's job! Provoking children (yelling at them) only _____ them (Col 3:21)
 - 3. A parent should teach the word of God _____ unto their children (Deut. 6:6,7). That means with a lot of time and effort!
 - 4. List the four areas that a child should mature and develop in, according to Luke 2:52 (*note: it is the parent's job to develop these areas*)
 - a. _____ - Bible learning and general education
 - b. _____ - by healthy eating and exercise for growth
 - c. _____ - pleasing to God – living by faith
 - d. _____ - being a blessing to others – hard working
- C. **Disciplining Children - The orderly and controlled manner of training (Titus 2:1-4; Eph 6:4) "*Bring them UP...*"**
 - 1. **In their thoughts.** Have a Bible-centred home, with lots of Scripture and good books surrounding them. Also, HAVE DAILY DEVOTIONS!
 - 2. **In their daily walk.** Help them choose good friends, work on their composure, as well as to be clean, and look clean.
 - 3. **In their talk.** Develop their manners (to be courteous and say "*please,*" and "*thank you,*" and "*may I*").
 - 4. Children are commanded to _____ their parents (Eph 6:1), and not just in a few things but in _____ things (Col 3:20). *Teach them this!*
 - 5. Parents are God's representatives to their children. The fifth commandment **com-mands** children to _____ their parents (Exodus 20:12). The home is the training ground for the children, and there must be a consistent, spiritual atmosphere there for them to be able to see *how to live*, and *what is expected of them*.

6. Learn from *your own* _____ (Prov 13:1; 6:20)! Don't waste your life trying to prove you know better! Talk to them, and listen to them!
7. Our example of this is the Lord. "*Whom the Lord* _____, *He chasteneth*" (Hebrews 12:6) which means, "corrects" not punishes!
8. Is chastening supposed to be pleasant? _____ (Heb 12:11)
9. God chastens us as His children in order for us to be partakers of His _____ (Hebrews 12:9,10). That is the purpose of parental correction - to mature a child, and develop in them godliness!
10. The pattern in discipline - note that the Bible emphasizes *correction*, and not just punishment (Prov 22:15):
 - a. Set down clear and understandable rules in your home! Let your children know what is expected of them, and what will happen if they disobey. They don't need to live in fear of you!
 - b. Identify each violation - they have to know what they did wrong. Give patient and clear instructions when the child does wrong.
 - c. "*Chasten thy son while there is* _____" (Prov 19:18). Don't get into the habit of letting them "slide" by in their disobedience. It will come back and haunt you later!
 - d. Never yell or threaten! Speak firmly and exact the punishment right away (Eccl 8:11)! Don't repeat commands, and *don't count*!
 - e. Use a "rod." Not the hand, or a board, or a belt. A **Rod** is a small branch off a tree that *stings but does not bruise*.
 - f. **Love** your children after each time of chastening. This is a must!
11. Don't be afraid to have rules in your home. Not too many, but loads of them are just fine. Change the rules as the children grow older.
12. Never let the children think they have their own privacy. You must always have access to their emails if they have them, and their mobile/cell phones.
13. Reasons why a parent should discipline their children
 - a. Correction delivers the soul from _____ (Prov 23:13,14)
 - b. Correction establishes righteousness. "_____ is bound in the heart of a child, but the _____ of correction will drive it far from him." (Pr 22:15)
 - c. "*A child left to himself bringeth his* _____ *to* _____" (Pr 29:15)
 - d. Correction provides _____ for the parent. (Prov 29:17)
14. Some tips for disciplining children:
 - a. There is a certain method God gives parents to use in discipline. "*Thou shalt* _____ *him with the* _____." (Prov 23:14) The corrective use of a small "stick" is not being abusive.
 - b. He that loveth his children chastens them _____ (Pr 13:24). This means *early* before their character is formed, and over and over (not just on occasion).
 - c. Should a parent withhold discipline when a child starts to cry? _____ (Prov 19:18). The child is smarter than you think!
 - d. Recognize children do not become perfect with one spanking - discipline is a long term process.
 - e. Never withdraw affection and love from your children.
 - f. Never spank in anger or out of embarrassment (Eccl 7:9)!
 - g. Never compare children with other children - this crushes them!
 - h. Don't ridicule or make fun of their weaknesses or handicaps.

- i. Allow children to express their viewpoint, keeping avenues of communication open. Let them know they are important to you!
- j. Admit mistakes when you make them. Live honestly and humbly.
- k. Give them nothing they cry for, and only that which they ask for politely. Don't be afraid to say "**no**" to your children when they want things they do not need.
- l. Be creative in your discipline - as they grow older:
 - 1) Restrict (ground) them from activities
 - 2) Give additional chores – this is always great!
 - 3) Restrict them from the telephone or other important items
 - 4) Remember making rules to protect them is your job! Don't be shy!

XI. Lastly, Enjoy Your Children – Make sure they know you love and enjoy them!

- A. When everything is said and done, rules and discipline without love only hurts a child.
- B. The greatest thing that God ever did for this world was LOVE it (**John 3:16**)! So make sure that everything you do, you do in great love for your children!

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____	<i>Discipler</i> _____
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FINANCES

A Study of The Stewardship of Money and Possessions

Lesson Fifteen

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Lesson Verse: Philippians 4:19

*"But my God shall supply **all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

I. Introduction

- A. The main emphasis in the Bible is not placed upon the mere *possession* of money, but rather on the *responsible use* of it! There is a big difference. You may be surprised at just how much the Bible has to say about "money." Money means "control," and "control" is the *real* name of the game. In other words, are you in control of your money, or is your money, and desire for possessions **controlling you**?
- B. This lesson deals with maintaining a proper attitude toward money, material possessions, and the importance of financial freedom from debt.



II. The Responsibility of Stewardship

- A. **What is Stewardship?** The Bible refers to the Christian not only as a child of God, but as a _____ of what God gives us (1Cor 4:1,2).
 1. A steward is "One who manages, or oversees another's property, finances, or other affairs." We are dealing with the control and management of money and possessions *for someone else* - not just our own! Examine the example of young Joseph in Genesis 39:1-6.
 - a. Who was Joseph's "master?" _____
 - b. What was Joseph in charge of? _____
 - c. Therefore, stewardship means responsibility. The issue for the Christian then is, "to whom are we responsible, and for *what*?"
 2. God who owns _____ things (Psalm 24:1)! We may possess some things in this life, but then again, it is we who are born and will die, while God remains. Therefore, when we take up "ownership" of something, we really are taking up *stewardship* of something that first belongs to God!
 3. As stewards, we must remember that really, everything is a _____ from above (James 1:17), and that just as the Lord _____, He also can and does _____ as He did with Job (Job 1:21).
 4. *Spirituality* cannot be measured by *abundance* of material possessions or its *lack*. God doesn't condemn anyone for simply having money. Nor does He condemn anyone for *not* having money. Instead, God is concerned with us maintaining a *right attitude* towards money. It is not money itself that is evil, but the _____ of money (1Tim 6:10).
 5. Stewardship involves _____ (1Cor 4:2) over the things God has given us, including money. We are to be faithful with what we now have, and not worry about what we don't have (Matt 25:21).
 6. Stewardship is not grievous, but rather an enjoyment. 1Tim 6:17 says "God... *giveth us richly all things to* _____." God never wants us to idolize money and seek after riches, but to seek first the _____ of God and His righteousness (Matt 6:33). He wants us to learn to be content, no matter where we are economically (Heb 13:5).

B. God's Four Purposes for Money - To provide for:

1. The needs of you and your family (1Tim 5:8) - **Main Purpose**
2. The needs of others (1Tim 6:17,18; 1 John 3:17) - **Compassion**
3. The operation of the government (Rom 13:1-8; Mt 22:17-22) - **Taxes**
4. The operation of your local church (Mal 3:10) - **Tithes and Offerings**

C. The Problems With Money

1. People end-up trusting in money instead of trusting in God (Mark 10:23-27; Prov 11:4, 28), to supply all their needs (Philp 4:19).
2. It is easy to start loving earthly possessions instead of heavenly ones (Matt 6:19-21; Col 3:1-4; Pr 30:7-9).
3. There is a great danger in thinking God's blessings can be measured by a person's material possessions (Luke 12:15; 1 Sam 16:7).
4. Beware when your life's objective becomes earning as much money as possible (Prov 23:4; Eccl 5:10-12).

Key Truths About Money

- ❖ To love money is the beginning of the worst nightmare anyone could ever have!
- ❖ All your money belongs to God - it is only yours because God first gave it to you.
- ❖ You owe God the tithe of every pay-check - if you hold back, then be ready for God to get you!
- ❖ A cheerful giver is the happiest person alive!

D. Things Money *Cannot* Buy

1. _____ (Prov 16:16)
2. A righteous life (Prov 28:6)
3. A good night's sleep (Eccl 5:11,12)
4. The word of God (Ps 119:14,72,127)
5. Good health (Luke 8:43)
6. Quietness, peace (Eccl 4:6; Pr 15:16; 17:1)

E. Personal Achievement and Ambition

1. Ambition is the drive to obtain, or accomplish something beyond yourself. Ambition is definitely not bad. What you seek to possess, when it becomes your "god," is where the problem comes in. Every Christian needs ambition - or else no one would be getting up in the morning to go to work!
2. It is not wrong to achieve success. God desires that we have the desire to be a success in everything we do. The issue is HOW we achieve it (Ps 1:1-3; Josh 1:8). God wants us to achieve success the right way, which is always the Bible way (1Cor 9:25; 2Tim 2:5).

F. How to Evaluate the Lack of Money

1. When you experience a perceived need, the following are the possible reasons why you may not have the money for it.
 - a. You may not need it. God may be saying, "Forget about it for now."
 - b. You may have already misspent it. You may have already over-spent yourself on things that you did not need (new TV, phone, tablet), so that now you cannot obtain things that you do need (food, clothing).
 - c. God may be testing your faith (Jam 1:2-8). Sometimes God wants to see if you will wait upon Him to provide the funds instead of getting impatient, and making the "thing" your "god" (Ps 27:14).
 - d. Your perception may be all wrong - you may have the wrong attitude about what are your *needs* and what are your *wants* (Luke 12:15)!

IV. Steps to Financial Freedom

Many people are in financial bondage. They owe the bank, credit card companies, friends and relatives. You may be facing great personal pressure in your home and marriage because of these debts. Here are some wise steps from God's word that you can take to become financially free.

- A. **Transfer Ownership.** Realize you are owned by _____ (1Cor 6:19-20; Col 3:23-24). Give everything over to God for His control. This encourages you to be faithful with what you currently possess - so you don't squander or waste it (Mt 25:14-30).
- B. **Become Free from Debt** (Rom 13:8). Realize that it is a priority (Pr 22:7)! Here are some helpful steps to getting, and staying *current* financially.
 1. **Start with a written budget** (Prov 27:23-24). Record all your expenses and income in a monthly budget. Write out a basic budget below:

Write Out Your Budget by Percentage of Income (no matter how small)			
Monthly GROSS INCOME: _____			
EXPENSE	Avg	Your Expense	Percent
Firstfruits to God (the tithe)	10%	_____	_____%
House Rent or Mortgage (including insurances)	23%	_____	_____%
Groceries	18%	_____	_____%
Auto/Travel Expenses (Fuel, Repairs)	10%	_____	_____%
Household Needs and Clothing	8%	_____	_____%
Electricity, Heat, Water	8%	_____	_____%
Savings	5%	_____	_____%
Entertainment (Birthdays, dining out)	5%	_____	_____%
Telephone	5%	_____	_____%
Miscellaneous (Snacks, Newspapers)	8%	_____	_____%
Other _____	0%	_____	_____%
Total	100%	_____	_____%

- a. This helps you know where you are financially.
- b. **Bind yourself** to living within the budget, and don't "cheat" on it.
2. **WORK to obtain money, and to get ahead of debt.** It takes work (Pr 10:4)! Money is not a God-given right. Work, not money builds your confidence, develops character and discipline (2 Thes 3:10-12). Work was designed as a lifestyle for man even before Adam and Eve fell into sin (Gen 2:15), and hard work is part of the curse that God placed upon life *because of* Adam's sin (Gen 3:17-19).
3. **Determine the difference between "needs" and "wants".** Example: When you need a car. You may want a new BMW. But your need can be satisfied with a used Ford. Quit demanding only what *you want*!
4. **Begin to eliminate non-essentials.**
 - a. Avoid *costly* _____ (Prov 21:17) - every TV channel available!
 - b. Utilize individual skills by "fixing and doing things yourself".
 - c. Get rid of non-essentials in your life that only drains your pocket.
5. **Think before buying** (Prov 24:3). Every purchase should be evaluated:
 - a. Is it a necessity? Have I checked whether it is a *need*, or a *want*?
 - b. Does this purchase reflect my Christian values? Is it questionable?
 - c. Is it the very best buy? Or is it just convenient on credit cards?
6. **Discontinue Credit (and Overdraft) Buying.** If you are in debt from the misuse of credit cards, or your **bank overdraft**, then stop! **Totally Stop Using Them!!** You

will have to sacrifice some of your wants and desires in life to get current, or you will only get deeper into debt.

7. **Practice *Saving*.** Save part of the money you obtain, even if it is only a little a month (**Prov 21:20**). Don't spend everything you make (**Lk 15:11-16**)! Prepare for the future (**2Cor 12:14; Pr 13:22**). How to save:
 - a. Have sales resistance. Follow common sense and not your feelings when it comes to "sales" (beware of covetousness).
 - b. Don't be guilty of *presumption*, where you assume the money you spend will show up somewhere, sometime later (**Ps 19:13**) - i.e., charging it when not having the money to pay it off right away
8. **Pray.** When we have done our best, then we can confidently ask God to meet our daily needs and be thankful for the way He provides (**Matt 6:11**). Learn to trust God (**Heb 13:5,6**).

- B. **Practice and learn the blessing of giving to others** (**Philp 2:4; Lk 6:38**). Jesus said in **Acts 20:35**, "*It is more blessed to give than to* _____." He was the best example of this when He gave himself on Calvary.
- C. **Maintain a Clear Conscience** (**Pr 28:13, Mt 5:23-24**). Do all business dealings with a pure heart. Remember that you will give an account to God, so "*provide things* _____ *in the sight of* _____ *men*" (**Rom 12:17**).

V. What About *Tithing* - The Giving of the Firstfruits of Our Resources

- A. According to **Mal 3:8-10**, the Lord is very serious about the Christian making sure that *money* does not become our "god." And the way He helps us to remember HIS first place, is by requiring us to keep *Him* in first place with our finances. This remembrance is called the *tithe*.
- B. How much is a *tithe*? _____ of your income (**Lev 27:32**).
- C. Tithing was normal for who? _____ (**Heb 7:1,2**)
- D. In the Old Testament, tithes and offerings were presented *where*? (**Dt 12:5,6; Mal 3:10**)
- E. In the New Testament it is to be gathered *where*? (**1Cor 16:1,2**) _____
- F. *On what day of the week* should we tithe? (**1Cor 16:1,2**) _____
- G. Why tithe to my local church?
 1. The giving of tithes and offerings to your local church is God's ordained way of supporting that ministry. There is no other way for a church to get money from the people who gather together there.
 2. So that your local church can be self-sufficient - not dependent upon the government, bazaars, or bake sales. And so that the pastor can be full time for serving the Lord (**1Tim 5:17,18**).
 3. Because we seek to obey Him! Faithful stewardship of our possessions involves designating the "_____ " of our increase to God (**Prov 3:9,10**).
 4. Because we love God! Tithing is the payment of our *firstfruits* to God simply out of obedience to His word, and because we love Him (**2Chron 31:5**)!
 5. We tithe, NOT because God needs our money (**Ps 24:1**), but rather, because we need to learn how to manage our resources so that we can obey God - not just "survive" from pay-check to pay-check!

VI. Giving More than a Tithe? *The Proof of Our Love for God!*

- A. Christians do much more than just tithe out of obedience – **we give!**
- B. **Why Give, When I Already Tithe?**

1. The tithe is an act of obedience, but giving above the tithe is an act of love because you are giving *above* what is required (**Luke 17:10**). The principle is, you have not *given* until you have paid what is owed!
2. Giving proves the _____ of our love - is it only out of duty (as with the tithe), or is it heart-driven (**2Cor 8:1-8; 9:7**)?
3. Giving above the tithe develops an attitude of **grace** (**2Cor 8:6,7; 9:8**), and dependence upon God. Remember, God *first* gave (**John 3:16**)!
4. Giving provides us the opportunity to make *eternal* investments (**Philp 4:15-17; Mt 6:19-21**). The more invested, the greater the return.
5. Giving allows God the opportunity to give back to us over and above what He already gives us (**Luke 6:38**)!

C. What are the things a Christian should invest their giving in?

1. Sending missionaries to preach the Gospel (**Rom 15:24; Philp 4:16**)
2. Gospel preaching and evangelistic efforts
3. Special church projects and need that your pastor may bring to your attention
4. All of these and more are things you need to prayerfully and obediently consider giving to above your tithe.

D. Who are you actually giving to when you give? (Pr 19:17; Mt 25:40**) _____**

E. How Should I Give to the Lord?

1. Give **Sacrificially** (**2Cor 8:1,2**). It is not always easy.
2. Give **Faithfully** (**1Cor 16:2**) - consistently!
3. Give **Cheerfully** (**2Cor 9:7**)! It is a privilege to be able to give!
4. Give **Willingly** (**2Cor 8:3-5, 11, 12**)! It is up to you!

Date Lesson Completed _____	Discipler _____
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Section THREE Test

The New Testament Church

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
 (2 points each mark) SCORE: _____

The following questions will help you identify how much you have learned in your Bible Study time. Answer as many as possible, and take your time so that you can think and remember the answers. Most answers are obvious. Some questions however will be hard. All questions come from the material in the First Principles Study Course. God bless you as you examine what you have learned, and become confident in knowing and growing in God's wondrous word!

1. Prayer is simply talking with _____.
2. Jesus said that God hates what kind of prayers? _____
3. Prayer is the only way to get the power of *what* in your life? _____
4. There were three places of prayer in a Christian's life. Name one of them: _____
5. There are three ways to pray given in Matthew 7:7,8, one of them was "asking." What were the other two? 1) _____, 2) _____
6. To get an answer from God, you must pray according to whose will? _____
7. List one hindrance to God answering your prayer: _____
8. What is God's measure of success in a person's life? (concerning the will of God) _____
9. A Christian's actions are not to be driven by self-will, but by _____
10. It is not as important to *know* God's will for your life as it is to _____ it!
11. Will God's will for your life ever contradict His word (*His revealed will*)? _____
12. According to Proverbs 3:5,6, list the most important thing you must do to find God's will daily? _____
13. According to Colossians 3:9,10, our old nature is referred to as _____
14. Give a reason why a person still sins even after they have become a Christian? _____
15. How does God view sin? _____
16. How does God view a Christian's sin? _____
17. Whose fault is it when a person sins? _____
18. Romans 13:14 says that we are not to make _____ for the flesh to sin.
19. Psalm 119:11 commands us to do *what* with God's word so that we won't sin against God? _____
20. Every person has three parts. Name them: 1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____
21. List one of the God's five purposes of marriage (one was for us to be "fruitful and multiply"): _____
22. Describe God's view of marriage: _____
23. Instead of *Dating*, what is the godly approach to finding a marriage partner called? _____
24. Give one of the principles of a happy marriage: _____
25. What is the most important role that a husband and father has _____

26. What is the most important role for the wife and mother: _____
27. What are children (according to Psalm 127:3) _____
28. Can a child be saved at an early age? _____
29. Children in Ephesians 6:1 are commanded to _____
30. Who is our example of how to correct and train our children? _____
31. Is chastening supposed to be easy and pleasant? _____
32. Biblical correction will deliver a child's soul from what? _____
33. What is the root of all evil? _____
34. God has designed four purposes for money. Name one: _____
35. Name a problem with money: _____
36. Name something that money cannot buy: _____
37. Tithing is the giving of our _____ to God.
38. Is tithing by our choice or by God's command? _____
39. How much is the tithe? _____
40. When a Christian does not tithe, what are they really doing to God? _____

How are you doing?

- Have you been born again? **Yes, No.** When? _____
- Have you been baptized? **Yes, No.** When? _____
- Have you read your Bible all the way through yet? **Yes, No.** What Book are you reading currently? _____
- Have you memorized the three memory verses listed so far? **Yes, No.**
- How many Scriptures have you memorized so far? _____
- Are you faithful in church (every Sunday possible)? **Yes, No.**
- Are you praying every day (**Yes, No**), Is God answering your prayers? **Yes, No.**
- Is your home life developing, and becoming more Christian? **Yes, No.**
- Are you tithing? **Yes, No.**

Well Done!

You have now completed Section THREE, and its test. Hand this test in to your Discippler, and it will be quickly graded. The results will only be known by you, your Discippler, and the Course Administrator. After going through this test, knowing what you don't know, and maybe don't understand, you may want to go back over certain portions of the Course before going on to the next Section. Otherwise, press on, and keep growing!

