



FOUNDATIONS

FOR DISCIPLES

Teacher's Edition

HOMEMISSION

OUR TEAM YOUR HOME GOD'S MISSION



FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 1: A NEW BEGINNING

BEGINNING AS A DISCIPLE

1. Before Jesus left this earth, He told his apostles how to make disciples. What two things must happen if someone want to be a disciple? (Matthew 28:19-20)

- a. They must be baptized.
- b. They must continue to be taught.

2. *Matthew 16:24-26*

A disciple is...

- a. A student
- b. Someone who follows a great teacher at all costs
- c. A trainee
- d. A pupil who imitates his master in all things
- e. All of the above

3. Who is your master (greater teacher)? Christ Jesus

4. What are the three requirements for being a disciple of Jesus?

- a. Deny self
- b. Take up cross
- c. Follow Jesus (accept His authority)

5. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you imagine a cross?

(Let them give their own answer.)

6. What did the cross represent to the people listening to these words of Jesus?

An instrument of death and a shameful way to die.

7. What does it mean to “take up a cross?”

- a. Wear a symbol of a cross
- b. Bearing a burden
- c. Committing to the daily task of putting to death your old way of thinking

8. What will happen to those who will not follow Jesus unconditionally?

They will forfeit their soul.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE A GOOD DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

John 13:35 if you have love for one another

John 8:31-32 if you abide in His word

John 15:8 if you bear good fruit

THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE

Luke 14:26-23

Jesus tells us the high price of being a disciple.

Explain in your own words what you think Jesus was teaching in this passage.

(Let them answer in their own words)

1. Jesus tells you to literally hate and despise everyone

- a. True
- b. **False**

2. Jesus must come first before everyone else

- a. **True**
- b. False

3. The cross of the disciple is the daily crucifixion of your old lifestyle

- a. **True**
- b. False

4. Before you become a disciple, you must “count the cost” of being a disciple. Are you willing to pay this price for Jesus?

- a. **Yes**
- b. No, I don't think I can

5. Take a moment to think about what being a Christian could or has cost you. What else must you give up/crucify in your life to do what God is asking you to do?

(Answers will vary.)

6. Jesus tells you to sell all you have immediately.

- a. True
- b. **False**

7. Jesus says you must give up your rights and “ownership” of family and possessions, and let Him be in control.

- a. True
- b. False

Luke 9:57-62

1. What does Jesus say it takes to be His disciple in **verses 57-58?**

That your life will not become easy, but hard. You could lose physical things and friends.

2. What does Jesus say it takes to be His disciple in **verses 59-60?**

If the nearest & dearest relation we have keeps us from Christ, we must turn away from it & follow Jesus.

3. What keeps so many people from being Christians? (**vv. 61-62**)

They have things in their lives that they consider more important than Jesus. This is why Jesus uses the word “HATE,” which means to cast off or take second place.

4. Are you willing to make and keep this commitment to being a disciple of Jesus, no matter what the cost?

- a. Yes
- b. No, I can't

GET INVOLVED! Make time each day for Bible study. Start out by reading at least a chapter a day. Start with Genesis. Even if the reading is difficult (like genealogies), look for something that catches your attention. Then underline it, highlight it, put a “wow” by it, or place a question mark by it. Don't be afraid to make notes in your Bible. Ask questions or do your own research. The website biblehub.com can give you a lot of information. **BUT DO NOT TAKE A COMMENTATORS WORD ALONE.** Make sure everything in the context lines up with your interpretation. After you have studied, pray back to God what you have learned.

End with a prayer and get involved.

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Start with a prayer. Answers are underlined and in red.

LESSON 2: A NEW BODY

ONENESS OF GOD

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

1. "The Lord our God is One."

2. How do you become one with God? (v.5)

Love Him with all your heart, soul and might.

John 17:20-23

1. What was the prayer of Christ concerning all of those that believe on Him through the teaching of the gospel?

That all believers be one in Christ.

2. How is the world to know that God sent Christ? (vv. 20-23)

If we are one with each other and one with Christ, then they will know God sent Christ.

3. How is this prayer possible today?

a. When we start our own church

True/False

b. When we teach our own doctrine

True/False

c. When we become one with God by understanding and doing His will

True/False

ONENESS OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:16-19, 28

1. Whose church did Jesus say He would build? (v. 18) His church.

2. Upon what would He build it? (vv. 16-18) Upon the belief that He (Christ) is the Son of God.

3. How many churches did Jesus plan to build? (v. 18) One. His church.

Colossians 1:12, 13

Into what kingdom/church did God place you? Into Christ's church.

Ephesians 4:4-6

1. How many Gods, faiths, baptisms, and bodies are there? One

2. When considering that there is only one of each of these, why are there so many different faiths, baptisms and bodies out there? Because many churches are following man and not God.

1 Corinthians 12:13

How many bodies (churches) are we baptized into? One

TO WHICH CHURCH DO I BELONG?

Today, there are thousands of different denominations and church bodies all around the world. The word denomination means a piece of the whole. It also indicates a division or breaking off of the body. Trying to figure out which church is the Lord's church and which isn't can be frustrating and confusing! If you have allowed Jesus to become the Lord of your life and have been baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, you now belong to HIS church. However, what about all those other churches out there? Are they also His? Are they your family?

1. When looking for a church, what are some things that you usually consider?
Do they have a desire to follow God and give Him the final authority? Do they take the Lord's supper? Do they sing? Do they follow the Bible only?
2. How do you become a member of the Lord's Church? (Acts 2:38, 47)
Through baptism you receive the Holy Spirit and are added (by God) to the church.
3. How can this scripture cause divisions among churches today?
Because some people try to make the Bible say something it does not say. They interpret incorrectly.
4. Can you "join" the Lord's church? (Acts 2:47) No
5. How do you determine whether-or-not a congregation is part of the one body? By their belief in baptism and church organization, and if they are following God's word.
6. What does the Bible have to say about fellowship with a part of a group that does not belong to God? (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) Be separate from them..
7. What does God's word encourage us to do in James 4:17?
Do the right thing.
8. According to James 4:1-2, what causes us not to do the right thing?
Pleasure, lust and envious of others.
9. Could this be the reason for religious division today? Why?
Yes, we have leaders who want bigger everything. Therefore, they are willing to teach what the crowd wants to hear.

10. Should we still work and pray for the unity of the Lord's church? Yes

11. What did the Bible predict would happen to the Lord's church? (**1 Timothy 4:1-3**) Some will fall away.

To what was he referring? To the slick talk of false teachers, like the Catholic church.

GET INVOLVED! Do your own research. The church of Christ is not denominational, Catholic or non-denominational. We are PRE-DENOMINATIONAL. The church of Christ is the church of the Bible. Although other names were used to describe the church in the Bible, the label church of Christ was used more than any throughout history and by the Apostle Paul in **Romans 16:16**. And why not? The church belongs to Christ! It does not belong to a man, a movement or a method. More and more is being uncovered today that people from all parts of the world have taught, worshipped and followed the New Testament the same way, just by reading the Bible and adhering to its precepts for almost two thousand years. Below are three websites for you to do your own research:

<http://www.christjustified.com/preservation.html>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/38672298/The-Voice-of-Truth-International-Volume-57>
(go to pages 53-55--title--"an amazing story")

<http://www.netbiblestudy.net/history/>

Keep in mind, most history is written by Catholic scholars and protestant theologians who have always been opposed to hearing the "truth and nothing but the truth". Many doctrines and practices by denominations today cannot be traced back to the teaching of the apostles. May God help us be the true church of Christ!

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LESSON 3: A NEW DOCTRINE/TEACHING

THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

1. What are some things that can divide a church?

Inter-church fighting, i.e. I follow the preacher or I follow an elder.

2. What causes division? (v. 10)

Not being united in mind.

3. What was the cause for the division of the church in Corinth? (vv. 11-12)

Some followed the teachings of Paul, some of Apollos, and some Cephas. They all should have been following Christ Jesus.

4. Should we all be able to believe the same thing? How?

a. Yes, by following Jesus

b. No

Romans 6:17

1. What does one who wish to be saved now “obey”?

The teachings of the Bible, not man.

2. What pattern is that? The teachings of Christ Jesus and the apostles.

3. What will happen to those who change that pattern of doctrine in any way? (Revelation 22:18, 19) God will add to that person the plaques described in this scroll and

God will remove them from the tree of life.

Galatians 1:1-12

1. What did Paul, the apostle, say about preaching different gospels?

You are under the curse of God.

2. Does anyone (even an angel from heaven) have a right to change any doctrine of Christ?

a. Yes

b. No

3. What are teachers to teach? (Titus 2:1) Sound doctrine

4. What does that mean? Only that which Jesus and the apostles taught.

THE DOCTRINES OF THE WORLD

1. How do we know if someone is a false teacher? (1 Timothy 4:1-3, 6)

They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods (also see II Peter 2:1-3)

2. How do we keep from falling away from the truth? (1 Timothy 4:6)

Be nourished on the truths of the faith.

3. In Acts 2:42, what doctrine (teaching) was the church to follow?

Teaching of the apostles, fellowship, breaking the bread, and prayer.

4. Give an example of one of the attributes that Titus 3:9-11 says to avoid.

Foolish controversies, genealogies, quarreling about the law.

THE IDENTITY OF THE LORD'S CHURCH

Which of the churches listed below actually teach sound doctrine? (*Circle the right ones*)

1. A church that was founded by Christ, and Him alone

2. A church that has creeds and manuals to follow (besides the Bible)

3. A church that wears a man-made name not found in the Bible

4. A church that follows the Bible only as its guide

5. A church that loves one another, as Christ loves us

6. A church that is telling others about Jesus and Biblical salvation

7. A church that has a headquarters on earth that makes rules for all the churches under their leadership

8. A church that is more interested in spiritual things rather than entertainment or impressive buildings

9. A church that believes everyone can go to heaven, no matter what they believe

10. A church that is persecuted for teaching the truth

11. A church that tolerates any lifestyle

12. A church that feeds off excitement rather than truth and love

13. A gathering of believers who love Jesus with all their heart and soul

How important is it to follow the doctrine of God even if only a few are willing?

(2 John 1:9) If you abide in the teaching, then you have both the Father and the Son.

²¹*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”*

– Matthew 7:21-23

GET INVOLVED! Decide now to attend every Bible class and worship service of the church. You will be able to ask questions and train your children in the teaching of the Lord. Don't forget to have Bible discussions at home. Make the commitment that God is going to come first.

“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

– 1 Timothy 4:16

“Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

– Hebrews 10:25

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LESSON 4: A NEW LIFE

YOUR NEW IMAGE

II Corinthians 5:14-19

1. If you are a baptized Christian, how is your new life different from your old self?

We should no longer live for ourselves.

2. God reconciled us to himself through Christ. What does that mean? We were dead but God made us alive in Christ. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

3. How has your view and calling in life changed?
(Answers will vary)
-

4. What can you do for God?

Answers will vary, but keep in mind this is a very deep question. It is not “What can

God do for us,” but what “We can do for God.” We must be ambassadors for Christ. II Cor. 5:20 along with many other things.

YOUR NEW ATTITUDE

Now that the love of Christ controls you, how would you react if someone said these things to you?

1. “It doesn’t make any difference what you believe, as long as you believe in God.” (see **James 2:19**) Even demons (Satan) believe in God and trembles.
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2. “Your family has come for a visit. Why don’t you stay home and visit with them on Sunday?” “Not forsaking our own assembling together.” Hebrews 10:23-25
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3. “Let’s go to the bar and have a couple of drinks.” Do not get drunk with wine. Eph. 5:18; “be alert and self controlled.” I Thess. 5:6; “Abhor that which is evil; cling to that which is good.” Romans 12:9
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4. “It doesn’t say anything in the Bible about gambling!” Gamblers covet more money. It also has the potential to turn into an addiction and gambling provides a false hope. (Would you take Jesus with you?)
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5. “Yeah, I go to worldly parties, but I’m there to be a good influence on the lost.” “Be not deceived. Evil companionship corrupt good morals.” I Cor. 15:33 (Would you take Jesus with you?)
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6. “You’re still a virgin? What’s wrong with you?”
 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body.” **I Cor. 6:18** They are surprised that you do not join them in this reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. **I Peter 4:4**
7. “You can’t marry somebody unless you have lived with them for a while. How else could you know if you are compatible?” Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body. 1 Cor. 6:18, Rev 21:8
 (Fornication fôrnə'kāSH(ə)n, noun: sexual intercourse between people not married to each other, Webster dictionary)
8. “How can you judge me and say that I’m sinning? The Bible clearly says not to judge!”
 Yes, this can be found in **James 4:11**, but if you read it in its whole context you can easily find out what it really means. Is it me judging you or is it God judging you though His word?
9. “You can interpret the truths in the Bible in many different ways. Truth is relative to our perception and experiences.” Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all. Eph. 3:4-6. Every book, blue print or instruction sheet that has ever been written has only one interpretation, the interpretation meant by the author. If you have a house blue print and follow it correctly, you will build a house, the very same house the last guy that used the blue print built. The Bible has one Author, therefore one meaning. (See also II Tim. 2:15)
10. “One lie won’t hurt anything. Sometimes you have to lie in order do what’s right.”
 “But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murders and fornicators and sorcerers and idolaters, and **all liars**, their part shall be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death. **Rev. 21:8**
11. “People who follow the Bible too closely are legalists.”
 This can be true in some cases. The New Testament clearly points out the cases where the Jews were trying to pull the new Christian church back into Judaism. Legalist of today are trying to create a church “in their image.” It is our responsibility to be truth seekers and remain in the word. **Jude 1:17-18; Rev. 22:18; & I John 2:3-5**
12. “I don’t attend church, but I am a good person.”
 “Not forsaking our own assembling together.” **Heb. 10:23-25**. “Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name drive our demons and in Your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from Me, you evil doers.’” **Matt. 7:21-23**.

YOUR NEW TRANSITION

Colossians 3:1-17

As a new Christian, you are to keep seeking (v. 1) the things above, where Christ is.

And you are to (v. 2) Set your mind on things above.

Why? (vv. 3-4) We have died and are hidden in Christ. When Christ is revealed before God, your lives will be glorified through Christ.

What are you to take off? (vv. 5-9) Anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech and lying, put aside your evil old self.

What are you to put on? (vv. 10-15) Put on the new self of love, unity, peace, compassion, humility, patience, forgiveness, and in all this be thankful.

What is the result of this kind of living? (vv. 16-17)

The message of Christ will dwell among your richly.

GET INVOLVED! Memorize **Colossians 3:1-4**

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Begin by praying it at least once a day. For example,

“Lord, please help me to set my mind on spiritual things—not on worldly things. Help me not to be an immoral person in my thoughts and in my speech. Help me not to be impure in my thinking. I don’t want my passions and desires to be evil, but only a passion to serve You.”

You get the idea. Try it for a week. Take this passage around with you wherever you go. You might try memorizing one verse at a time, so you won’t become discouraged. When you finish, you will have this a part of you always. You will need this passage of scripture for the rest of your life with the Lord. When you return for next week’s study, pray this prayer with your teacher. Then practice praying it with your family, until it is a part of your daily prayer life!

Pray

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Pray

LESSON 5: A NEW SPIRIT

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

John 16:5-11

1. He has the nature of God, just as Jesus does.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. What is He to us? (v. 7) A helper (this word means to "Stand beside.")

3. What does He do? (v. 8)
 He proves the world to be wrong about sin,
 and righteousness, and judgement.

4. He will guide us into all truth (v. 13)

5. How does He do this?
 - a. By direct revelation for the apostles at that time
 - b. Through the apostles' teaching for us today.

6. He brings glory to Jesus Christ (v. 14)

7. Can the Holy Spirit help anyone who does not study God's word?
 Yes or No

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPACTS OUR LIVES

1 Corinthians 2:9-14

1. He expands our thinking beyond day to day living (v.9)
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. How does He do this? (v. 10) He searches all things, even God.

3. The Spirit works to conform our way of thinking to the way God thinks ((v. 11-12)
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. Why do so many people reject God's truth and think of it as foolish? (v. 14)
They do not have the Holy Spirit. You need a spiritual mind to receive spiritual things.
-

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPACT OUR DIRECTION IN LIFE?

Romans 8:14-16

We do not have to live in fear. We can call on God because He is our Father.

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPACT OUR PRAYERS?

Romans 8:26-27

If our hearts are right and our minds are on spiritual things, the Holy Spirit intercedes so our words will be acceptable to God.

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPACT THE WAY IN WHICH WE GLORIFY GOD?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1. Who lives inside us? the Holy Spirit
 2. Because of this fact, your body is now a temple of the Holy Spirit!
 3. Who does your body belong to? God
 4. How much did it cost? It was bought for a price. The price was a humiliating death and it was "paid in full" by Jesus.
-

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-24

1. Because the Holy Spirit lives inside you, what qualities should you possess?
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control
2. Take a moment to look over all of these and circle the ones that you find lacking or need improvement in your life.

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-control

3. What commitment can you make **today** to improve these qualities in you?
(Answers will vary.)
-
-

DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT STILL GIVE PEOPLE SPECIAL ABILITIES TO DO MIRACULOUS THINGS TODAY?

Joel 2:28-32 predicts the miraculous outpouring of the spirit:

²⁸*It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.* ²⁹*Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. The Day of the Lord* ³⁰*I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire and columns of smoke.* ³¹*The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.* ³²*And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered.”*

It is important to notice two things:

Vs 28 *“I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind”*

Peter confirmed this happening on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2: 6** *“but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel.”*

Vs 31 *“before the great and awesome day”*

This was predicted by Jesus in **Matthew 24:**

“Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. ²And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

Then in **verse 34:**

“³⁴Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

So, from the day of Pentecost (A.D. 29) to the destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), the Holy Spirit used humans to perform miracles and speak in tongues and prophesy. These occurrences were simply **SIGNS** that Christ’s Kingdom had arrived as the Gospel was being spread all over the world in one generation.

Jesus said to his apostles in **Mark 16:15-20:**

¹⁵And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. ¹⁷These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

*¹⁹So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the **signs** that followed.”*

And that was to begin a massive, worldwide, spectacle of signs by the apostles and to those they passed this ability. Then, just before the destruction of the temple, the Hebrew writer said this:

“³how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, ⁴God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

Notice how everything is referred to in the past tense. The era of humans with miraculous power was coming to an end. Paul predicted in 1 Corinthians 13, *“love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.”* (The perfect law of love)

Therefore, the outpouring of miraculous gifts by the Spirit was only temporary. The indwelling of the spirit is only for those who repent and are baptized (Acts 2:38). Then in verse 39, He identifies all who receive the indwelling through baptism: *“For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”*

Because without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Paul says:

“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” (Romans 8:9)

God still answers prayers. He is still all powerful. He is still in control. When we bend our will to God’s will, then God will do what is best for you and for those for whom you pray (1 John 5:14). Great things still happen today, but it is not through human ability but through God’s providence.

GET INVOLVED! Take a Strong’s concordance, and look up at least 10 passages pertaining to the Holy Spirit. Write beside each scripture what the Spirit does. Then bring it to your study next week. Get to know the Holy Spirit through the word of God. He loves you and He was given to you to be your Comforter and caretaker.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

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LESSON 6: A NEW DEVOTION – THE APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE

THE DEVOTION OF FIRST CENTURY CHURCH

Acts 2:37-47

Use a dictionary to define these key attitudes. Write the best definition.

Continually: Never stop. Always doing.

Devoting: give all or a large part of one's time or resources to

Awe: a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder.

Believe: accept (something) as true; feel sure of the truth of; but in the Greek this is an action word.

Fellowship: friendly association, especially with people who shares one's interests.

Sharing: give a portion of (something) to another or others.

Agreement: harmony or accordance in opinion or feeling the absence of incompatibility between two things.

Gladness: pleased, delighted causing happiness, willing and eager.

Sincerity: the quality of being free from pretense, deceit or hypocrisy.

Praising: express one's respect and gratitude toward

Prayer: a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God.

YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTION

Acts 2:42

To what should you continually devote yourself just as the Christians in the first century church did? To the teachings of the apostles

Ephesians 3:1-6

1. How are we made fellow members and fellow partakers in Christ Jesus? (v.6)
Through the gospel of Christ Jesus

2. To whom has this "mystery of Christ" been revealed? (v. 5)
to the apostles and prophets.

3. How are we to understand and continue in the apostles' teaching today? (v.4)
By reading the words of the apostles.
-

John 8:31-32

1. How can we know if we are true disciples? **If we abide in (accept and act in accordance with) His word.**
-
2. What will be the result of "continuing" or "abiding" in the words of Jesus?
You will know the truth and it will set you free.
-

Acts 2:46

1. How often did the 1st century Christians devote themselves to the apostles' doctrine?
Daily, day by day, every day.
-
2. Where did they do it?
In their homes and in the temple.
-

Acts 17:10-11

1. What three essential study habits did the Bereans possess?
With great eagerness
Examined the scriptures daily
Of noble character
-
2. As a result of these attitudes, the Bible states that the Bereans were
Many of them believed.
-

Hebrews 5:11-14

1. A new babe in Christ is nourished on the **milk** of the Word.
2. A full-grown Christian is nourished on the **meat** of the Word.
3. A full-grown Christian will have learned to tell **good** from **evil** (v. 14).
4. What is the difference between a mature Christian and a babe in Christ? (v.12)
The mature Christian feeds on the meat of the word and is able to teach. (Meat of the word means: something you have to study more in order to understand).
-

GET INVOLVED! How are you doing on your daily Bible readings? Jesus once said: *“It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”*

If you ate food as often as you studied the Bible, how healthy would your soul be? Only growth in God’s word will help. As you study, learn to ask questions and then look for the answer in the context. There are six kinds of questions you can use. Remember them by this little phrase:

SIX FAITHFUL FRIENDS,
THEY TAUGHT ME ALL I KNEW...
What, Where and When,
How, and Why, and Who.

Using Titus 2:11-14, write down as many questions as you can:

“¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹²instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

For example:

What? What did the grace of God bring? (v. 11) **Salvation**

Where? Where did the grace of God appear? (v. 11) **to all men**

When? When did the grace of God appear? (v. 14) **when Jesus gave Himself**

How? How do we deny ungodliness and worldly desires? (v. 12) **Live sensible and godly lives.**

Why? Why did Jesus give Himself (to die)? (v. 14) **to redeem us from sin**

Who? Who are the people of His own possession? (v. 14) **Christians**

Answer the questions from the text, and then find more questions and answers from this text. Go back to your daily scripture readings and do the same.

End with Prayer

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 7: A NEW DEVOTION-FELLOWSHIP

THE PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:44-47

1. All believers in Christ spend their time together with whom? (v. 44)

each other or other believers

2. What do fellow believers have in common? (v.44)

all things in common

3. What does verse 45 say in regard to taking care of your fellow believers?

They sold things to help each other.

4. How often were these disciples together? (v. 46)

Every day

5. In what two places did they have daily fellowship? (v.46)

In the temple and their homes

6. How does that compare to today?

We meet in church buildings 3 or 4 times a week and sometimes at homes, but rarely do we meet daily.

7. What is the result of continued fellowship with believers?(v. 47)

You get to enjoy each other. This joy spreads to unbelievers and God will add more Himself.

THE DANGER OF NOT COMING TOWORSHIP

Hebrews 10:24-27

1. Where should we be every time the congregation assembles together?

We should be there and participating.

2. What will be the result if we willingly stop meeting together with the saints? (vv. 26-27)
It is considered sin and there is no sacrifice for those who have received Christ, then turned away from Christ, because Christ is the sacrifice.

3. Do you personally discourage your brothers and sisters when you do not come (v. 24)?
Yes or No
4. How does Jesus, who shed His blood for you, feel when you are not there?
Very sad. Worse than even a parent who is in the hospital and their children do not come to see them. You have trampled His sacrifice into the ground.

5. How long will you “keep His blood”, if you continue not to come faithfully?
It is like a tire. Today we rarely have blowouts, but we still have slow leaks. After a time we must refill the tire or it will be flat. The Christian life is the same way. If we do not get refilled, we will go flat. You will lose the blood of Christ. Vs. 26

YOUR NEW TRANSITION

1 John 1:6-9

1. What is true fellowship? **sharing the teachings of Christ**

2. True fellowship is experienced by:
 - a. Those who walk in the **light** (v. 7)
 - b. Those who are cleansed by **the blood of Christ** (v. 7)
 - c. Those who do not **walk in darkness** (v. 6)
 - d. Those who live by the **light** (v. 6)
 - e. Those who **confess** their sins (v. 9)

THE FRUITS OF FELLOWSHIP

James 5:16-20

1. What are we to do for one another? (v. 16)
Pray for each other.

2. Why should we do this?
The prayers of a righteous man is powerful.

3. Could we say that this is the essence of fellowship? Why?
Yes. It is a way we show love for each other.

4. What does the word “healed” mean?
 - a. Spiritual healing
 - b. Physical healing (if it is God’s will)
 - c. Emotional healing
 - d. All of the above
5. What does the example of Elijah tell us? (vv. 17, 18)
 He was a human, just like us. His prayers were answered and he overcame though God’s power.

6. What should we do if someone wanders from the truth? (v. 19)
 Pray for them and try to bring them back.

7. Who is responsible for reaching out to those who are struggling?
 I am. It is my responsibility.

GET INVOLVED! Statistics tell us that every new Christian needs to find 6 new friends to help them stay faithful. However, everyone is commanded to love all their Christian brothers and sisters. In I John 4:11-13, the Bible says:

“¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in Him and Him in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”

So, don’t wait around for others to come to you and make friends. You need to be friendly with everyone in the church. Not only that, but learn to ask questions in order to know them better. Here is an acronym of questions you can use to fellowship with others.

H—stands for home. Ask them where they are from, where they were born.

O—stands for occupation. What or where were they employed?

P—stands for preference. What is your favorite food? Likes and Dislikes?

E—stands for entertainment. What do you do for fun? Fishing, football, T.V.?

S—stands for spiritual. How did you become a Christian? Favorite scripture?

Asking questions allows them to share with you things that are important to them. You’ll be amazed how you can overcome being shy, by learning to ask questions. Others will think you are a genius!

Write the first names of those you became better acquainted with this week:

End with a prayer.

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 8: A NEW DEVOTION— THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

1. When the Lord broke bread with the apostles the night he was betrayed, he said,
 “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” (v. 24)
2. Jesus also took a cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood.”
 _____ (v. 25)
3. When you partake of the Lord’s supper, you are proclaiming His death until He returns.
 _____ (v. 26)
4. What are you guilty of if you eat and drink the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner?
You will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. (v. 27)
5. What is important to do before, during, and after the partaking of the Lord’s Supper?
Examine yourselves. (v. 28)
6. What are the three results of not observing the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner? (v. 30)
 - a. They became weak
 - b. They became sick.
 - c. They fall asleep.

7. How often are we to “break bread” as it pertains to the Lord’s Supper? (Acts 20:7)

on the first day of the week

8. Who partakes of the Lord’s Supper with you?

a. Matthew 26:29 Christ

b. 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17 We Christians

Remember, this is a feast that you are invited to partake of every first day of the week.

What does Jesus think about those who decline his invitation to HIS feast? (Luke 14:16-24)

He does not like excuses and He will cast you out.

19 SCRIPTURES YOU MAY WANT TO MEDITATE UPON WHILE TAKING THE LORD’S SUPPER (There are many others)

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Matthew 26:26-28 | 11. Psalm 32:10 |
| 2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 | 12. Colossians 3:1-17 |
| 3. Mark 14:22-24 | 13. Revelation 3:19-22 |
| 4. Luke 22:14-20 | 14. John 14:1-6 |
| 5. I Corinthians 5:7-8 | 15. Isaiah 57:15 |
| 6. Psalm 22 | 16. Romans 8:9-21 |
| 7. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 | 17. Psalm 123 |
| 8. Isaiah 50:5-7 | 18. Psalm 100 |
| 9. Isaiah 52:13-15 | 19. I John 1:5-9 |
| 10. Isaiah 53 | |

GET INVOLVED! Find other scriptures that help you in your time of meditation as you partake of the Lord’s Supper. Do not let outside worries, obligations or thoughts come into your mind. Remember, this is your covenant time. It is time to think about the Lord and to examine yourself. It is a time for commitment and renewal. It is a time for thanksgiving and joy, as two friends sit down and eat together. For you are invited each week to eat with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Since He dwells inside you, He truly partakes of His feast with you in remembrance and honor to Him, as long as your heart is with Him. If you have to miss, make sure you take it sometime that day. It is one of the most important things to do each week. Also, get involved by volunteering to prepare the Lord’s Supper, or clean the trays. Men should be willing to pass the Lord’s Supper at services and volunteer to lead prayers. Children should be taught the reverence and importance of the Lord’s Supper. Ladies, teach your children or grandchildren at home how important this is, explaining the purpose of the bread and juice, and the consequences of missing this great event each week.

As Paul said to Timothy the evangelist:

“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”

End with a prayer.

Start with a prayer.

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 9: A NEW BEGINNING – PRAYER

THE MODEL PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

1. Who are you addressing in prayer? (v. 9) Our Father in heaven. "God."
2. The first three requests in this "model prayer" are:
 - a. "Hallowed be Your name" (on earth as it is in heaven)
I must pray for the name (or character) of God to be hallowed (made holy) by the way I live.
True False
 - b. "Your kingdom come" (on earth as it is in heaven)
I must pray that the church (God's kingdom on earth) will become each day more like those who serve Him in heaven.
True False
 - c. "Your will be done" (on earth as it is in heaven)
I must constantly pray that God's desires and thoughts will become my desires and thoughts, always praying with God's will in mind.
True False

What does **1 John 5:14** tell us about whose prayer will be heard?

We need to ask in accordance to His will.

Hint: when you ask for something, use the words "so that" and explain to God how your request can line up with His will. For example:

*"Lord, please help my sister to get well, **so that** she can continue to serve You and lead many more souls to You."*

*"Father, please help me to get a better job **so that** I can be able to worship You with my brethren on Sundays."*

3. The second three requests in the “model prayer” are:
- “Give us today our daily bread”
I want God to help me with my daily plans. Throughout the entire day, I will pray for His help and guidance in seeking my daily needs.
True False
 - “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”
I will ask for strength and forgiveness with each sin, after I have given others a “clean slate” in my heart.
True False
 - “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”
I must pray continually that God will keep me from “falling into” temptations of Satan. I will also pray for all my brethren that we will be delivered from Satan’s control.
True False

How is this prayer different from a self-centered prayer? A self-centered prayer is full of “give me stuff.” A non-self-centered prayer is asking God to help me advance the Lord’s work and to remember my brethren.

4. How often, if ever, do you give God the glory for everything good in your life?
Answers will vary, but the best answer is “always” (which is hard to achieve for anyone.)
-
5. Are you ready and willing for God to take control of you in every way?
a. Yes
b. No
6. What can get in the way of allowing God to take over in your life?
Answers will vary, but the big picture answer is “self.”
-

FREQUENCY OF PRAYER

1 Thessalonians 5:17

How often should we pray? All the time. This does not mean head down, eyes shut, on your knees praying all the time, but talking with God all the time. Head down, eyes closed is for those special times you spend alone with God and this should be at least once per day.

When do you pray? (Answers will vary)

How often do your children pray? (Answers will vary)

How often do you pray with others? (Answers will vary)

How can you pray continually? By keeping the will of God at the forefront of your mind and thoughts at all times.

USING SCRIPTURE IN PRAYER

When you pray, open your heart and tell the Lord what you think and feel. He knows what you need before you pray. But he wants to hear you talk it out. As you are pouring out your heart, use what you have been taught in scripture. Daniel, at one of his lowest points in captivity prayed:

“¹³As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. ¹⁴Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. ¹⁵And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly! ¹⁶O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain.” – Daniel 9:13-16

There are many such examples in the Bible, often referring to God’s promises when going through struggles in life. If you truly turn to the Lord, He will surround you with His loving-kindness. **(Psalm 32:10)**

GET INVOLVED! Prayer is tapping into the power and mercy of God. But prayer is also an exercise in bending your will to the will of God. Use prayer to change you and others. This week, ask 5 people if you can pray for them (or with them). For instance, when a waiter comes to your table, tell them you are about to pray, and ask them if they want you to pray for them. Try it with people at work or school. If you see someone having struggles offer to pray right then. You will be amazed at the results.

Pray.

Pray

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 10: A NEW SONG

OLD TESTAMENT WORSHIP

1. In the Old Testament, the Jews sometimes used mechanical instruments to accompany their singing. (Psalm 33:1-3)
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. What was the primary purpose of these instruments? (1 Chronicles 25:1-3)
prophesy, thanksgiving and praising the Lord.
3. Primarily, the priests played instruments specified by God (1 Chronicles 24, 25).
 - a. True
 - b. False

NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP

John 4:23-24

1. What kind of worship does God expect? a worship in Spirit and in truth.

2. Who are the priests of the New Testament? (1 Peter 2:9) We are, the Christians.
3. Under the new law of Christ, what type of spiritual instrument are we to use to accompany our singing? (Ephesians 3:19) the heart, dwelling on the words
4. According to Colossians 3:16, what are the three purposes of singing?
 - a. teach
 - b. admonish
 - c. giving thanks
5. We do not need mechanical instruments in our worship because we are the only instruments God wants to hear and has asked for in the New Testament.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. Everyone in the church is to sing with the voice God gave them, with all their strength and heart.
- True
 - False
7. Old Testament priests were commanded to have choirs and play instruments when they spoke prophecy and gave sacrifice. What do New Testament priests do for sacrifice and praise? (Hebrews 13:15, 16)
- Continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise.
 - The fruit of our lips should profess His name.
 - share with others this sacrifice.
8. What will happen to those who take old practices and drag them into New Testament worship? (Galatians 5:1-4) They will be alienated from Christ. They will fall from grace.

Review the following article, "Why Sing Acapella?"

WHY SING ACAPELLA

The churches of Christ through the centuries since the beginning of the church have been known for singing acapella to the exclusion of mechanical instruments in our worship together. But why? And since most churches use instruments to accompany their worship, why not the churches of Christ? So why acapella?

1. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT

-Let us first examine its use in the Old Testament. Many refer to its use before Christ as a reason to use it after Christ.

- I Chronicles 25** and **II Chronicles 7:6** – Only the direct descendants of Aaron used these in the temple worship. There were twenty-four who performed, sang and played three kinds of instruments only – stringed instruments, cymbals and harps. This is what God commanded. Nothing was to be added or taken away from.
- Psalms 33:2** uses the term "making music" of the word Psallo in the Greek. It meant to pluck on the chords of an instrument and the instrument was *always named*.
- When the Jews went into captivity in Babylon, they begin the "synagogue" on Saturday, which was a more congregational style of worship. They were not allowed to use instruments because only the priests could do so. In fact, the Jewish orthodox churches today, do not use instrumental music to accompany the singing of the cantor or any other singing. For 2,600 plus years, even the Jews realized the distinction in what God commanded.
- So, also in the church, we continue that tradition because God commanded us as priests of Jesus to sing with the accompaniment of only one instrument – the heart. And according to **James 2:2** we continue the "synagogue" style of worship (the word assembly is synagogue in the Greek).

Ephesians 3:19-20 specifically says, “speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from (or with) your heart to the Lord, 20) always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- e. So we are commanded by God to use the heart as our instrument and to use our singing, speaking, and plucking on our heart to “each other.” If this meant musical instruments, then everyone would have to bring an instrument and play it to one another. Can you imagine how silly and out of place that would be? This is also brought out in **I Corinthians 14:15**, **Colossians 3:16**, and **James 5:13**. In fact, singing is used over 500 times in the Bible, establishing its preference over playing.

2.THE NEW LAW EXPANDS IT

Remember, singing with instruments was an Old Testament command to Israel. Today, under the law of Christ, we have something much better.

Paul made the statement in Romans 3:19-20 – “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20) Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

Jesus told the woman at the well in **John 4** of a better way to worship – “in spirit and in truth” (**John 4:42, 43**). Instead of ritualistic display, Jesus expanded our worship to a spiritual participation for all people... Instrumentation could not rise to this spiritual expression and was often abused by Israel. **Ezekiel 33:31,32, Amos 5:23, 6:4, 5**

We find a great example of this change in **II Chronicles 7:6** where we find the “sacrifice of praise: “the priests took their positions , as did the Levites with the Lord and which were used when he gave thanks, saying, ‘His love endure forever.’ Opposite the Levites, the priests blew their trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.”

In this ceremony known as the sacrifice of praise, **David did not play**. He did write the songs, but the priests sang and played. “His love endures forever” was a portion of the words used and the rest of the Israelites stood and listened. This is known as vicarious worship, where someone does the worship for you. In **Jeremiah 33:11**, God prophesied after the captivity, the priests would once again offer the sacrifice of praise. In **Ezra 3:10-11**, they returned to Jerusalem and did just that. However in **Hebrews 12:15**, Jesus changed and expanded the sacrifice of praise by saying this, “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

All the elements are there except the priests of the temple has changed to all in the assembly. He noticeably makes the change by using the words – THAT IS. So we hang up the instruments and replace them with the fruit of our lips (singing).

Now some say this is not a salvation issue, but a personal choice. Notice carefully the words in **Galatians 5:1-4** “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

2) Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will

be of no value to you at all. 3) Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4) You who are trying to be justified by the law have been **severed** from Christ; you have **fallen away from grace.**”

Let that sink in for a moment. The sacrificial system which included instruments of David represented a whole by circumcision cannot be used in a Christian worship any more than burnt offerings and going to Jerusalem three times a year. Doing so will cause us to lose our salvation. Because under the old law there is no salvation! That is why the New Testament is the expansion and fulfilment of the old law. It takes us to a higher form of worship and praise under grace and not law!

3.FINALLY, LOVE DEMANDS IT

I **John 2:3-5** says, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4) He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5) But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

When did Jesus tell anyone He wanted to hear any other instrument in worship to Him other than your voice and your heart?

These are the instruments God gave you in which to praise Him. Why would you need anything else? And if you really love Him would you consider taking voice lessons to learn to sing better so we could love Jesus more? It is certainly **not** required, but humbling oneself to want better singing shows our dedication to Jesus and each other. For almost 2,000 years, followers of Christ (though fewer in number now) have zealously kept this pattern of worship, because they love the Lord with all their hearts. And by the way, what does the word “acapella” mean? It means *in the manner of the chapel or the way the old church sang*. For a thousand years, the western or Catholic church sang acapella. The Eastern orthodox still sing that way. And so does the Lord’s church.

Listen to the voice of the early Christians and reformers:

THOMAS AQUINAS: “Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize.” (Thomas Aquinas, Bingham’s Antiquities, Vol. 3, page 137)

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO: “Musical instruments were not used. The pope, tabret, and harp here associate so intimately with the sensual heathen cults, as well as with the wild revelries and shameless performances of the degenerate theater and circus, it is easy to understand the prejudices against their use in the worship.” (Augustine 354 A.D., describing the singing at Alexandria under Athanasius, yes THAT Athanasius.)

MARTIN LUTHER: “The Early Reformers, when they came out of Rome, removed them (organs) as the monuments of idolatry. Luther called the organ an “ensign of Baal” (John McClintock and James Strong, Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, vol. 6, Harper & Brothers, 1883, p. 762)

ERASMUS: “We have brought into our churches certain operatic and theatrical music; such a confused, disorderly chattering of some words as I hardly think was ever in any of the Grecian or Roman theatres. The church rings with the noise of trumpets, pipes, and dulcimers’ and human voices strive to bear their part with them. Men run to church as to a theatre, to have their ears tickled. And for this end organ makers are hired with great salaries, and a company of boys, who waste all their time learning these whining tones.” (Erasmus, Commentary on **I Corinthians 14:19**).

JEAN CAUVIN (JOHN CALVIN) “Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, the restoration of other shadows of the law.”

JOHN WESLEY: “I have no objection to the instruments of music in our chapels, providing they are neither seen nor heard.”

CHARLES SPURGEON: “I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery.”

The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 2:12: “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; ***in the assembly I will sing your praises.***”

So why do so many use instruments in their worship to God? Because that is what their heart desires... But what about God’s heart? He cares more for the heart than the band. And where does it end? Dancing? Light shows? Pagan imitations? In **Micah 2:11**, God goes even further: “If a lying windbag should come and say, ‘I’ll promise you blessings of wine and beer,’ he would be just the right preacher for these people!”

Here is the simple truth. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” Is that not the point of worship? Don’t be deceived by false teachers who offer fake salvation and lead the simple minded astray. Do you want to see a real worship setting? Paul expands our thinking with the eyes of our hearts in **Hebrews 12:22-25**:

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the Firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

“You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from Him who warns us from heaven?”

I love the Lord, and I know you do as well. I want to please Him. He died for me. I don’t want anything to do with old law rituals that would cause me to lose that precious blood. I’m glad He wanted us to sing to one another. I’m glad **my voice** is more important to Jesus than a choir, drums, pianos and guitars. And I’m glad that He showed me how to: “pray with my Spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my Spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. (I Corinthians 14:15). He did not say I will sing with my choir and I will sing with my piano. This was never done in the church,

only in Pagan worship. So why take a chance! **Let's do it God's way by singing with our own voices and our own hearts to the Lord when we worship Him!**

GET INVOLVED! The word "acapella" means in the manner of the church or the way the church did it. The Lord commands us not only to sing, but to sing with all our hearts. Try this. Close your eyes while singing "Amazing Grace" slowly. Add the feeling and emotion this song represents. Imagine the sound of your voice and the appreciation from your heart ascending as a gift to the one who loves you the most.

"The vocal chords are at the top of the trachea - the tube leading to our lungs. We speak by blowing air from the lungs across the vocal cords. The vocal chords vibrate to make different sounds. The harder you blow air past the vocal chords, the louder the sound."

Notice the picture below.

THE LARYNX



The picture inside your larynx or "voice box" is similar to strings of an instrument. That is why WE are the instruments. The more air comes from our lungs through our voice "strings" the louder the sound comes from our mouth.

Try this. Breathe in fully and hold your breath. Then breathe out slowly a vocal note. Notice the loudest sound is in the middle of your breathing out.

This "middle breathing" brings out the richest sound. Try again breathing out longer each time.

A good way to practice at home is to do a "belly" laugh from your diaphragm. Then sing a song the same way. The best singing comes from the "bottom of your heart and lungs to the top of your head."

Another good thing to do is to get acapella CDs and play them in your car while driving or to play them at home. Sing along with them and learn to sing out. As you become more comfortable at worship services, try setting beside someone who can help you sing a "part" (like soprano, alto, tenor or bass).

It is important to give God your best when you sing. If you don't know the song, at least speak the words out loud.

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

Pray.

LESSON 11: A NEW GENEROSITY

1. According to Acts 2:45, one of the purposes of giving is to meet the needs of the **believers.**

2. What does I Corinthians 16:1-2 teach us about how often we give as a church? **every week on the first day of the week.**

3. What three instructions does Paul give us in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 about giving?

- Each one of you should set aside a sum of money.**
- Give according to your income.**
- Let it be a gift.**

4. Deuteronomy 16:16-17 was the Old Testament pattern for a feast day.

“¹⁶Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. ¹⁷Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.”

What three commands do you see concerning the feast–day giving?

All males appear before God.

Three times a year.

Give as able, according to the blessings of God.

How does that compare to the teaching in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2? _____

We are commanded to give and we are commanded to give in accordance with God's blessings and on the first day of the week.

5. What principle did Jesus teach about giving? (Luke 6:30-36)

Do unto others, as you would have them do to you.

6. What must you learn to do before you can learn to give with faith? (2 Corinthians 8:5)
You must first give yourself to God.
-
7. What did Jesus teach us about the heart of a giver?
 a. Luke 6:30-32 Give to anyone who asks. If they take from you, do not demand it back.
 b. Acts 4: 32-35 Do not claim your possessions as your own. Share with believers to meet needs.
-
8. What did Jesus teach us about the success of giving (2 Corinthians 9: 6-11?)
 a. How do you reap generously? (v. 6) by sowing generously (giving generously).
 b. How should you give? (v. 7) Give from the heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion.
 c. How will you be able to do this? (vv. 8- 10) by knowing God will increase your righteousness.
 d. When should we be generous? (v.11) on every occasion.
-
9. Who and what was a good example of giving? (Hebrews 7:1-3)
Abraham. He gave a tenth to Melchizedek.
-
10. Who is our high priest unto whom we give? (Hebrews 7:22-28)
Christ Jesus
-

GET INVOLVED! Luke 6:38 gives us a pattern for deciding how much to give.
“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

The word measure refers to what is in your heart and what is in your hand. We all have been given much from God. Some more than others. But as you grow in faith, your heart will determine how MUCH you give to the Lord. And remember, that measurement will be what God determines to give back to you.

Ask yourself, “If I took what I gave and multiplied it by 10, could I live on that?”

If you only give your leftovers when you come before the Lord, should you expect much in return? Before next Sunday, keep these things in mind before you give your offering to God. If you plan to give as you plan to pay your bills, it will follow the command to “purpose in your heart”. Give what you can and start from there. Make sure it is a gift in proportion to God’s gifts to you. As you grow in your faith give more. Get involved in giving to the Lord, not just on Sunday mornings, but commit to having a generous heart, always!

Pray

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

Pray

LESSON 12: A NEW FAMILY

GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS FAMILY

Ephesians 4:7-15

A. Who is the head of the church? (v. 15) Jesus, our Christ

B. Who is given by Christ to complete all things pertaining to the church? (V. 11)

1. apostles
2. prophets
3. evangelists
4. pastors (elders) and teachers

C. What was their purpose? (Ephesians 4:12-15)

1. To equip God's people for works of service. (v. 12)
2. So the body of Christ may be built up. (v. 12)
3. Until we all reach unity of the faith. (v. 13)
4. Until we reach knowledge of the son of God. (v. 13)
5. Until we become mature men. (v. 13)
6. Measured by the fullness of Christ. (v. 13)
7. That we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by every wind of doctrine. (v. 14)
8. So that we will mature in Christ. (v. 15)
9. Who are the ministers of the church of Christ? We are, all the believers, each member, all who claim to be Christians

D. What causes the growth of the body? (Ephesians 4:16)

1. We will grow when the whole body is held together.
2. The body will grow when every member does their part.
3. The body will grow when we edify (build up) the church with love.

HOW TO BE A FAMILY

Romans 12:9-21

There are at least 20 guidelines to being a real family of God. Name as many as you can.

1. Love must be sincere.
2. Hate what is evil.
3. Cling to what is good.
4. Be devoted to one another in love.
5. Honor one another above yourselves.
6. Never be lacking in zeal.
7. Keep your spiritual fervor toward serving the Lord.
8. Be joyful in hope.
9. Patient in affliction.
10. Faithful in prayer.
11. Share with the Lord's people who are in need.
12. Practice hospitality.
13. Bless those who persecute you.
14. Rejoice with those who rejoice.
15. Mourn with those who mourn.
16. Live in harmony with one another.
17. Do not be proud.
18. Be willing to associate with people of low position.
19. Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
20. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

GET INVOLVED! How are you doing in making six close friends in the church? Continue to think of your church as your family, comparing it to the one with which you live. Just as your physical family celebrates a member's birthday, or special event, remember to do likewise with your Christian brothers and sisters. In addition, be available to listen to their problems and share in their sorrows. If they are not at service, show them they are missed. Begin using the previous instructions from Romans 12. If someone visits on Sunday, make them feel like family. If someone seems unfriendly at church, do something nice for them. Invite church members into your home or go eat out with them. Before church services start, go around and talk with people, especially the ones you don't know well. Invite visitors or lonely people to sit with you during worship. If you treat others as family, then they will treat you the same. Don't wait for others to come to you; you go to them.

Remember what Jesus said in John 13:34-35: *"³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Pray

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

Pray

LESSON 13: A NEW LEADERSHIP

WHO OWNS THE CHURCH? (Ephesians 1:22-23) Jesus

GOD'S LEADERS IN THE CHURCH

Elders

1. What kind of people are God's leaders? (Luke 22:24-26)

Ones who rule like the ones who serve.

2. What are three basic functions of elders? (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

a. Work hard among you.

b. Have charge over you in the Lord.

c. Give instructions (admonish).

3. Because of the great responsibility of their job, what kind of attitude must we have toward them?

a. (v. 12) Appreciate them.

b. (v. 13) Hold them in the highest regard in love.

4. What are three descriptions of an elder?

a. (Acts 20:28) Overseers (Bishops)

b. (Acts 20:28) Shepherds (Pastors)

c. (James 3:1) Teachers

5. What are the names of the pastors of this church? Name the elders of your congregation.

Deacons (Acts 6:1-4)

1. The word deacon simply means 'servant' or 'servant of the church.' What were the first deacons appointed to be in charge of in Acts 6:1-3? to oversee the daily distribution of food (physical needs)

2. Deacons are selected to be in charge of the physical functions of the Church so that elders can do what? (Acts 6:4 and 20:28) pray and devote themselves to the spiritual matters of ministry.

Evangelists (preachers)

1. What is the work of an evangelist? (2 timothy 4:1-5) Preach the word.

2. In one word, what is the main work of an evangelist in a local congregation?
(Titus 2:1-10;3:1-2) teach, remind

3. Are an evangelist and a pastor (elder) the same thing? (Ephesians 4:11) No

Members of God's Family (1Corinthians 12:14-27)

1. What special purpose does each member have in God's church?

a. (1 Corinthians 12:14-20) We are an important part of the whole

b. (Romans 12:4-8) Our purpose differs from each other. Therefore, each member's purpose is important.

2. Who appoints to members their function in the church? (1 Corinthians 12:18)
God (so this tells us that every purpose is important).

3. On which kind of member should our emphasis be placed? (1 Corinthians 12:22)
No one should get special treatment due to their gift or function in the church.

4. Why? (1 Corinthians 12:25) All are important and there should be no division.

5. What kind of feeling must we have toward every fellow worker of the church?
(1 Corinthians 12:26) If one suffers, all suffer. If one is happy, all should be happy with them.

6. What will help us to become this kind of family member? (Romans 8:5-8) Set our mind on the things of the Spirit, not earthly things. Look at each other as God looks at us, as souls and not as humans.

GET INVOLVED! You will always be a leader to someone. Either for good or for bad. If you are in a position to be an Elder, Deacon, or Preacher someday, make the decision now to start preparing yourself. Or if your husband could be qualified to serve one day, make it your goal to help prepare him to do so. Leaders are so hard to find in the church today, because we don't think about the future and how our lives will affect others.

However, you can lead in other ways:

- you can lead someone to Christ.
- you can head up a ministry.
- you can be a teacher.
- you can work with the youth or help train someone younger.
- you can help others be leaders through encouragement and support.
- you can serve in ways where there is a great need.
- you can come up with ideas to help the church grow.
- you can be the leader at home, your children need.
- you can lead at school or with other youth by planning events for youth.

Don't wait for someone to tell you what to do. Take a lead role by being a true servant. Ask one of the elders or deacons what you can do. Or if you see a need, discuss it with them. The Lord will be with you and give you success if you do it for His glory and not for your own.

Pray.

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

Pray

LESSON 14: A NEW STANDARD

THE WORLD'S STANDARDS

Place a check beside the things you believed in or practiced before you became obedient to the gospel of Christ.

- Do your own thing.
- Be confident in your own abilities.
- Don't talk about things in a negative way.
- You are the only one who really matters.
- Don't let anyone run over you.
- The most important thing is to please yourself.
- Be proud of what you are.
- Get what you can while you can still get it.
- Don't make waves.
- Don't get too serious about anything.
- I can make it on my own.
- All you have to do is believe in God.
- I did it my way.
- Everybody has a right to his own belief about God.
- All you have to do is to be a good person.
- Most people will go to heaven.

What does the Bible say about people who live by their own standards? (1 Peter 4:3, 4)? They will be judged by God.

What will happen to those who take old practices and drag them into New Testament worship? (Galatians 5:1-4) They will be alienated from Christ. They will fall from grace.

A NEW STANDARD

Matthew 5:3-12

1. Poor in Spirit (Matthew 5:3)

To be poor in spirit is to realize your spiritual poverty

- What is promised to the poor in spirit? (Matthew 5:3) They will get the Kingdom of heaven
- How can you be poor in spirit? (Psalm 51:17) Have a broken and remorseful heart.
- What will this attitude cause you to do? (Matthew 18:1-4) Humble yourself to God.

2. Mourning (Matthew 5:4)

- What should cause us to be mournful more than anything else? (Psalm 51:1-4) We have sinned (transgressed) against God.
- What does mourning cause us to do? Why? (James 4:8-10) Draw near to God.
- What does it mean to mourn? (James 4:7-10) to be sad about your impure life and humble yourself to the Lord.
- What is the result of our mourning? (James 4:10) God will exalt you (hold in very high regard).
- Besides for our own sins, why else should we mourn? (Jeremiah 9:1-2) For the souls of the lost.
- Of all the people on earth, only who will be comforted? (Matthew 5:4) Those who mourn.

3. Meekness (Matthew 5:5)

The word "meekness" means "power under control." Which of the following is an example of meekness? (Check one or more)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A wild stallion | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A horse that's been broken |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A flood | <input type="checkbox"/> A self-made man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A trained athlete or soldier |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A hydro-electric dam | <input type="checkbox"/> An argumentative person |

- How does Galatians 2:20 describe the power of meekness? We are no longer in control. Christ is the power over all.
- Who is our greatest example of meekness? (Philippians 2:5-11) Christ Jesus
- What did He become? (v. 7) a bondservant in the likeness of man.
- What did He sacrifice in order to save us? (v. 8) Himself on the cross.

- e. What was the result? (vv. 9-11) God exalted Him and gave Him a name above all else.
- f. Example of a meek man (Genesis 13:5-15)
- All the promises of God belonged to which man? Abraham
 - What did the attitude of Abraham cause him to do? When separated from Lot to go opposite directions, he allowed Lot to choose. Abraham took the lesser.
 - Who “inherited the earth?” How? (v. 15) Abraham. God gave it to him.
 - Meekness is not weakness! What could Jesus have done instead of submitting to God’s will? (Matthew 26:47-54) He could have called 10 legions of angels.
 - What should your attitude be toward others? (Romans 12:10) Be devoted to each other. Give preference to each other.
4. Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
- By what is the righteousness of God revealed? (Romans 1:16-17)
The gospel of Jesus and His teachings.
 - In your own words, write what you think it means to “hunger and thirst after righteousness.”
Have a strong desire to learn about and be like Jesus.
 - Read Psalm 42:1-2. Does this describe your longing for God? Why or why not?
Answers will vary, but hopefully it does describe our longing to know God.
 - What kind of food should you hunger and thirst for?
(John 4:31-34) the will of God
(Matthew 4:4) the words that come from God
(John 6:32-35) Jesus, the Bread of Life.
5. The Merciful (Matthew 5:7)
- Mercy means compassion and help even for the most undeserving person.
- What was the greatest example of mercy? (Romans 5:6-8)
Jesus died for us, even the sinners, the unrighteous.
 - What does God want more than sacrifice? (Matthew 9:13) Compassion
 - What are the results of being merciful? (Matthew 5:7)
We will receive mercy.
 - Can we obtain mercy without being merciful ourselves? (Matthew 5:7)
No

6. Pure in Heart (Matthew 5:8)

a. Can you purify your own heart? (Proverbs 20:9)

No.

b. Who can purify your heart? How? (Psalms 51:10)

Only God. He can renew a steadfast spirit within me

c. What do those with a pure heart pursue? (2 Timothy 2:22)

Righteousness, faith, love and peace

d. Why will the pure in heart be able to see and know God? (Titus 1:15-16)

Because their hearts and minds are not defiled, (The word "see" means to understand).

7. The Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)

a. What kind of seed do peacemakers sow? (James 3:18) seeds of peace.b. What does it produce? fruits of righteousness.

c. What did Christ do in order to bring peace into our lives? (Colossians 1:20-22)

He restored friendly relations (reconciled) between God and us.

d. Can there be any peace in the life of the wicked? (Isaiah 48:22) No, there is no peace without the Prince of Peace.

e. What must we, as God's children, continually pursue? (Romans 14:19)

The things that make for peace and to build up each other.

8. Persecuted for Righteousness (Matthew 5:10-12)

a. In what kind of persecution should Christians rejoice and be glad? (v. 10)

Persecution due to being righteous.

b. What are two types of persecution you may suffer as a Christian? (v. 11)

i. You may get insulted.ii. You may get falsely accused.

c. What is a sign of salvation for the believer? (Philippians 1:28-29)

Those who are opposed to your faith and belief in God.

d. Is it a privilege to suffer for Christ? (Philippians 1:29) Yes!

e. What will happen to a Christian while he is on earth? (1 Thessalonians 3:3-4)

We will suffer affliction.

f. What does Paul invite us to do? (2 Timothy 1:8)

Join with him in suffering for Christ.

g. Why will all Christians suffer persecution? (John 15:18-20)

Because the world hates Christ and God.

h. What are some of the rewards of suffering persecution?

i. (1 Peter 4:12-14) **You are blessed because the Spirit of God is with you.**

ii. (Matthew 5:10-12) **You will receive the kingdom of God.**

i. What will happen if we are ashamed or afraid to suffer for Jesus? (Luke 9:26)

When we come before God, Jesus will be ashamed of us (and that will be a very bad day!).

Are you ready to suffer for Jesus so that you may stand in the company of the prophets, of the apostles, and of Jesus Christ?

Yes **x (I truly hope so!)** No

GET INVOLVED! How will you respond to the following:

A fellow church member seemingly ignores you or gives you a funny look.

 Give them an ugly look

 Be offended and quit the church

X Go speak to them and ask if there is anything wrong

Friends or family question you about being a member of the Lord's church.

 Tell them it is none of their business

 Avoid them

X Use it as an opportunity to tell them about Jesus and the history of His church

Someone you talk to uses racial overtones or demeans another person.

 Tell them they are wrong, and need to repent

 Get mad and don't speak to them anymore

X Ask questions about their beliefs and listen to their story. Continue to ask questions toward a biblical conclusion

Two of your friends or fellow church members are upset at each other. They try to get you to be on their side.

 Tell them you are not going to listen to gossip

 Chose the best side and let the other one have it

X Get them together and pray together as they talk out their problems. Try to be a peacemaker, rather than a "heartbreaker"

Someone is mistreating one of your children or a member of your family.

 Take them outside and beat them up

 Find another church to attend

X Try to show mercy by listening to their side of the problem, then get everyone together and pray over it

Discuss other ways in which you can overcome sin and persecution by using the Beatitudes.

Pray

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 15: A NEW MISSION

REACHING THE LOST FOR CHRIST

1. What is the condition of the world? (Romans 3:10-12)

The whole world is unrighteous. Not one is righteous.

2. What three ways did Jesus minister to the people? (Matthew 9:35)

a. He was going through all the villages, teaching the people

b. He was healing the sick and diseased.

c. He was proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom

3. What was the mission of Jesus? (Luke 19:10)

Jesus' mission was to seek and save that which had been lost.

4. Who are the lost? (Mark 16:15-16)

All the people of this world.

5. What mission did Jesus give all His disciples? (Matthew 28:19-20)

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

6. What is to be done after someone is baptized? (Matthew 28:20)

Teach them to observe all that Jesus has commanded.

7. What does the Bible call those never leading others to Christ? (Hebrews 5:12-13)

Babes.

8. What will happen to them if they do not repent? (Matthew 10:32-33)

Jesus will deny them before the Father.

REACHING THOSE WHO WANDER AWAY

1. Not only must we teach those outside Christ, but who else must we help? (James 5:19-20)

Those who stray away from Christ.

2. What will be the result of turning a sinner from the error of his ways? (James 5:19-20)
You save their soul from hell and this will cover (or hide) a multitude of sins.

3. What is the procedure (as taught by Christ) for dealing with those who sin? (Matthew 18:15-17) Go to them in private. Then go to them with one or two others. Then tell it to the church. If they still refuse, treat them like a sinner.

4. What is to be used as a last resort on brethren who will not repent? (Titus 3:10-11)
Reject them, but this must be done with great care and concern.

5. What does Paul also tell us to do for those who sin? (Galatians 6:1-2)
Restore them with a spirit of gentleness.

6. What must we do to prevent our brethren from “falling away?”
 - a. (Hebrews 10:23) Help them hold fast to our hope.
 - b. (Hebrews 10:24) Stimulate one another.
 - c. (Hebrews 10:25) Get together with them and encourage them (Do not forsake the assembly.)

ARE YOU READY TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST?

Read the words of Jesus in John 4:35, then carefully consider the importance of your mission as God’s child. Write your own name in all the blanks and read the passage aloud.

“Do not say, _____, there are yet four months and then comes the harvest. Behold; I say unto you, _____, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for _____, the fields are white for harvest.”

Write the names of five souls with which you wish to begin your world mission. Pray daily for a door of opportunity to be opened to them.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

GET INVOLVED! One of the most important tools in bringing people to Christ is listening. You do that by asking questions. For instance, ask them how they are doing. Then ask how “is your spiritual life”? Or “how is your heart? Or “where do you go to church EVERY SUNDAY”? Or, “how often do you study the Bible”?

When they give answer, then follow up with another question. Try this around the house (you may find out more than you want to know!!!). Remember, the person who asks the questions is the person in control of the conversation. Before you leave, take turns asking questions with the group. See how long you can go without making a statement.

Pray.

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 16: A NEW MOTIVATION

MOTIVATION DEFINED

1. Define "motivation" (use dictionary if necessary)

the reason or reasons one has for acting or behaving in a particular way.

2. What is our motivation for sinning? (James 1:13-14)

one's own lust

3. What motivation might we have to commit these sins?

- a. Lying _____
- b. Thievery _____
- c. Adultery (Matthew 5:27-28) _____
- d. Gossip _____
- e. Hate or anger _____
- f. Prejudice _____
- g. Hypocrisy _____
- h. Coveting _____

The answers above will vary a little, but they all will have their roots in "lustfulness."

THE LOVE OF JESUS

1 John 3:11-24

1. How can we know without doubt that we are saved? (v. 14)

if we love the brethren.

2. What does it mean to have the love of Christ?

- a. (v. 16) We are willing to give up our life for the brethren. _____
 - b. (v. 17) We help brethren in need. _____
 - c. (v. 18) We love God's word with deeds, not just with words. _____
 - d. (vv. 19-21) We have confidence in God. _____
 - e. (vv. 22-24) We keep God's commandments. _____
-

3. What is the penalty for not showing love? (1 John 3:14-15)
abiding in death

4. How can we train ourselves to have the love of Christ? (1 John 4:17)
by abiding in God

THE LOVE TEST

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Allow the student to answer false to most or all of these.

1. In everything I do for God, my motivation is out of love.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. I am patient and understanding with others.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. I am always kind to others when they are unkind to me.
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. I have no problem with the fact that some wicked people prosper while I struggle financially.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. It doesn't bother me when I am not recognized by others when I do good for the Lord.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. I still continue to help people even though they may be ungrateful and lazy.
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. I never talk about my accomplishments to others in a boastful way. I am always humble when I speak of myself.
 - a. True
 - b. False
8. I am never rude to anyone – especially to my own family.
 - a. True
 - b. False
9. I am more interested in seeing others prosper and obtain glory than myself – even those I do not like.
 - a. True
 - b. False
10. I never lose my temper.
 - a. True
 - b. False
11. I never question the motives and intentions of others when they try to do good.
 - a. True
 - b. False
12. I take no comfort in the misfortunes of others even if they “have it coming to them.”
 - a. True
 - b. False

13. When I look at others, I never think of their failures or sins.
 a. True
 b. False
14. I look at others for what they can become in Christ Jesus.
 a. True
 b. False
15. I never give up on anyone's salvation, no matter how many times they fail.
 a. True
 b. False

Encourage the student to work on the areas they answered false.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Then substitute your name for love and read aloud to the Lord as your pledge to love as God loves.

1. _____ is patient.
2. _____ is kind.
3. _____ does not envy.
4. _____ does not boast or brag.
5. _____ is not proud.
6. _____ is not rude.
7. _____ is not self-seeking.
8. _____ is not easily angered.
9. _____ keeps no record of wrongs.
10. _____ does not delight in evil.
11. _____ rejoices in the truth.
12. _____ always protects.
13. _____ always hopes.
14. _____ always perseveres.
15. _____ never fails.

GET INVOLVED! Pray this prayer every day for one year—it will change your life and it will give you life. . .

For example, “Lord, help me to be more patient with my children, or with my co-workers. And not just patient; but help me to be kind also, in every way.”

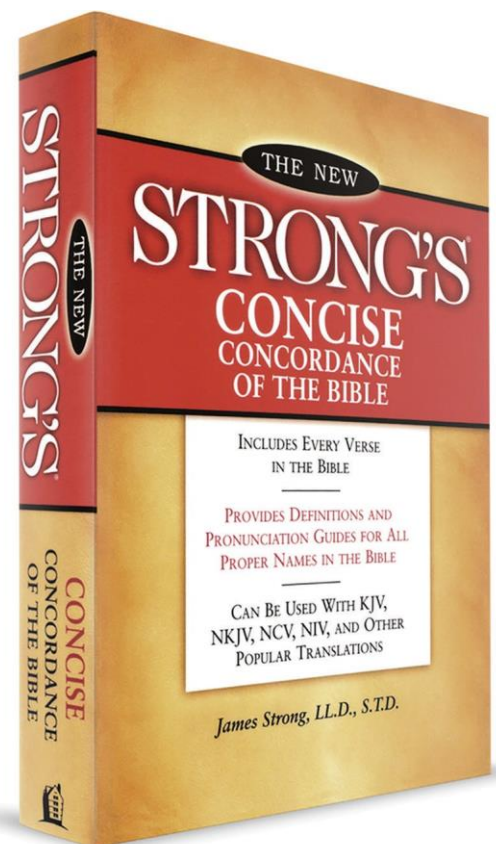
“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” – Revelation 2:10

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLES

LESSON 17: HOW TO USE A CONCORDANCE

Using a concordance is an outstanding tool in Bible study. One of the best is the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. It was compiled by Dr. Strong in the 19th century and is keyed to the King James Version. It can also be purchased in other versions as well. If you use the Strong's, be sure and have a King James Version along with the version you use in order to match up the exact wording. The exhaustive concordance unlike those in the back of your Bible contains every word in the Bible. You can use it to:

1. Locate any word in the Bible.
2. Locate a scripture (by using key words in the verse)
3. Understand a simple definition of the word in Greek (New Testament) or in Hebrew (the Old Testament). This is logged in the back of the concordance, and can be located by the number posted to the far right of each word.
4. Use it as a word study. Count the number of times this word is used in the Old Testament vs how many times it is used in the New Testament.
5. Also, you can see how your word or verse is used in other passages of scripture. *If you do this, use words with the same index number located to the far right of the word (if possible).*



GET INVOLVED! The following words are used in Christian circles today. Look up the word in your concordance. Count the number of times it is used. Then use the dictionary in the back of the concordance to find its meaning.

CHRISTIAN - the called, found 2 times & 1 time as Christians in N.T.

BAPTISM - immersion or submersion found 20 times & 8 times as baptize.

PROPITIATION – an action of appeasing, found 4 times in N.T.

ORIGINAL SIN – in this form, not found in Bible.

PRIEST – intermediary or one who offers sacrifice, found 535 times in O.T. & N.T.

ALTAR CALL – A summons to the altar at a Christian worship service to those wishing to show their commitment, not found in Bible

SAINT – all believers of God & Jesus, found 2 times, 89 times as saints in O.T. & N.T.

PASTOR – shepherd or elder, form of the word found 1 time in O.T. in KJB & 1 time in N.T. in NAS & NIV

BAPTIST – a member of a protestant Christian church denomination, found 12-15 times in N.T., all referring to John the Baptist.

EASTER – Man-made celebration of the resurrection founded on paganism, not found in the Bible

LOVE – an intense feeling of deep affection, found over 330 times in the O.T. & N.T., but can be found in other forms of the word also.

PRIEST – administers the sacrifice to the deity; 530 times, mostly in O.T.

PULPIT – a raised platform, found 1 time in O.T.

CHURCH OF CHRIST – Christian church found 1 time in the Bible, but implied many times Rom. 16:16.

THE SINNER'S PRAYER – Man-made prayer for salvation, not found in the Bible.

CATHOLIC – of the Roman Catholic faith, not found in the Bible.

SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT- A supposed movement by the Holy Spirit upon a person who falls to the ground, being completely overcome. It is not found in the Bible.

SPRINKLING – form of baptism invented by Catholic Church, not found in the Bible.

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