

# **DISCIPLESHIP BASICS**

**Foundational Truths  
for Disciples of  
Jesus Christ**

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*The most devastating consequence of sin  
is that man is no longer able to fulfill his purpose  
for existence—to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!*

## SUPPLICATION

To be filled with the Spirit, you must ask the Lord to fill you. It may be that you reach this point after great trial or failure or coming to the end of your rope. It may be that there is a great hunger in you for all that God has for you. You must ask Him to fill you.

**Luke 11:13** “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

*Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to fill you—take total control?*

Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to fill you (take total control) after examination and presentation? You can ask in faith, because He tells us that it is His will. We ask believing that God will give us what He promised.

## APPROPRIATION

To appropriate something is to count it as true and act like it is true because God said it is true. If we have emptied out the sin that was grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit, and we have yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit, and asked God the Father in faith to fill us with His Spirit, then all that is left is for us to simply count it as done and begin to walk in total dependence on the Holy Spirit who fills our life. There will not necessarily be a giant emotional experience when we are filled with the Spirit. We simply launch out in complete obedience to His guidance, trusting Him for power. That is what the phrase *walk in the Spirit* means.

**Galatians 5:16** “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

Walking is a great illustration of a life of total dependence on the Holy Spirit. When we walk, if we don't put our weight on the next leg, we will fall. So we step and depend, step and depend, etc. That's the glorious and adventurous Spirit-filled life!

## LESSON 1

### THE PURPOSE AND PROBLEM OF ALL MANKIND

Could anything be more devastating than to come to the end of your life and realize that you have never understood (much less accomplished) the purpose for which you were created? Yet, millions of people do just that; they die having never understood the reason they were born.

To find our purpose for living, we must go to God's word, the Bible. In the Bible, we discover that our purpose in living is tied to the glory of God. The problem in grasping that purpose is that most people (even believers in Christ) do not understand the meaning of the glory of God or how believers can glorify Him.

The Puritans developed a catechism (question and answer format) for teaching their children truth from God's word. Perhaps the best known of the catechisms is the Westminster Shorter Catechism. This first catechism asks the question, *What is the chief end of man?* The answer given in the catechism is *to glorify God and enjoy Him forever*. The Puritans had it right! Let's see the biblical basis for that answer.

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*The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.*

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### GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATING MANKIND

God is concerned about His own glory. In Isaiah 48:9, 11, what do we learn about God and His glory? *Hint: God's name and God's glory are practically synonymous.*

**Isaiah 48:9, 11** “For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, and for My praise I restrain it for you, in order not to cut you off...For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; for

how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.”

***God is zealous for His glory.  
He does all that He does for His glory.***

### **Why did God create us?**

**Isaiah 43:7** “Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”

### **Why did God choose us and adopt us into His forever family?**

**Ephesians 1:4-6a** “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace.”

### **Why did God do what He did for Israel?**

**Ezekiel 20:14** “But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, before whose sight I had brought them out.”

**Romans 15:8-9** “For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, ‘Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, and I will sing to Your name.’”

### **1 Thessalonians 5:19** “Do not quench the Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is often pictured as a fire that guides and ignites us. To quench the Holy Spirit is to put out the fire. This refers to our refusal to obey the Holy Spirit’s guidance. It may be some biblical command (like baptism, sacrificial giving, or proclaiming the gospel) that He has illuminated for us and convicted us about and we refuse to obey. It may be that we sense His leading to speak to someone about Christ, to encourage someone, to give to a need, to lovingly confront someone, and we refuse, and so, quench the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will not fill the one who has quenched Him and refused to confess and repent. We grieve the Spirit when we do that which we should not do, and we quench the Holy Spirit when we refuse to do what He has led us to do. There needs to be an all-out examination of our lives for anything that has grieved or quenched the Holy Spirit. When He reveals anything, we mourn that we have treated so horribly this One who has loved us so; agree with Him that it is sin (confession), and turn from it (repentance).

### **PRESENTATION**

If He is going to be in control, we have to present all that we are to Him for Him to control.

**Romans 12:1** “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

Our bodies and all they contain—mind, emotions and will—must be totally surrendered to God! He will not fill the Christian who holds back anything!

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*Romans 12:1b  
“...present your  
bodies a living  
and holy  
sacrifice...”*

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## HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Look once again at the command to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 5:18 (HCSB)** "And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit."

Believers  
can both  
grieve and  
quench  
the Holy Spirit!

Every true Christian has the Holy Spirit indwelling them, but every Christian does not have the Holy Spirit controlling them. Remember that the word *filled* means *to be controlled by*.

### EXAMINATION

The New Testament tells us two things we do to hinder the Holy Spirit from filling our lives.

#### 1. We Can Grieve the Holy Spirit

**Ephesians 4:30** "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

We grieve the Holy Spirit when there is unconfessed, unrepentant sin in our life. The context of Ephesians 4:25-29 gives us some examples of sins that grieve the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is grieved by such things as lying, improper anger, giving in to Satan's temptation and thus giving him a place in one's life, stealing, corrupt talking, negative criticism, bitterness, and a failure to forgive those who have wronged us. Again, these are only representative of sins that grieve the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not fill a life that is grieving Him and has not repented.

#### 2. We Can Quench the Holy Spirit

## Why did Jesus go to the cross?

**John 17:1, 4** "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You...I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.'"

In light of God's concern for His glory, what ought to be our purpose in all that we do?

**1 Corinthians 10:31** "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

What ought  
to be our  
purpose in all  
that we do?

## What is the glory of God?

There are several Old Testament and New Testament words translated *glory*.

*Kavodh* (Hebrew) – to have weight, worthy of honor, to esteem, to show oneself great or mighty

**1 Chronicles 16:24** "Tell of His **glory** (emphasis added) among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."

**Isaiah 60:1** "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the **glory** (emphasis added) of the Lord has risen upon you."

*Tipharah* (Hebrew) – beauty, fair, honor, magnificence, renown, of highest rank

**1 Chronicles 29:11** "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the **glory** (emphasis added) and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all."

*Hode* (Hebrew) – grandeur, imposing in form and appearance, excellence, majesty

**Job 40:10 (ESV)** “Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with **glory** (emphasis added) and splendor.”

*Doxa* (Greek) – The recognition belonging to a person, honor, renown, excellence, perfection

**Colossians 3:4** “When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in **glory** (emphasis added).”

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*Kavodh*

**1 Peter 5:10** “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal **glory** (emphasis added) in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

*Tipharah*

*Hode*

*Doxa*

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### How do disciples glorify God?

Disciples glorify God when they treat Him for who He is. We glorify God when we praise Him and treat Him as weighty, with honor, with esteem, as the One with the highest rank and majesty. The primary way disciples glorify the Lord is through worship, but we also glorify Him by how we live, how we magnify Him, and when we see Him as being connected to all that we do.

Do you remember **1 Corinthians 10:31**? It says, “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

The Apostle Paul described a life that glorifies God in **Philippians 1:20b** “...but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

### TRIALS, DISAPPOINTMENT, AND PAIN

God uses the unpleasant circumstances of life to break us of our self-will and to allow the Holy Spirit to be enthroned in our life. Through the trials, disappointment, and pain, He seeks to bring us to total surrender and to mature us and conform us to the likeness of Christ.

**Romans 8:28-29a** “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...”

Because we know what is accomplished through our trials, we can praise Him and even be thankful in our time of trials.

**1 Peter 5:10** “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

### OTHER BELIEVERS

It is God’s plan that believers in the church love one another enough to confront, challenge and motivate to total surrender, allowing Christ on the throne of our lives.

**Hebrews 10:25** “not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

The word translated *encouraging* means to come to another person’s side and comfort, exhort, rebuke, or whatever needs to be done to truly help the fellow believer.

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COMFORT

EXHORT

REBUKE

LOVE

PRAY

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Spirit against the flesh [self life]; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

### GOD’S “SELF” REMOVAL PLAN

From the moment of our salvation, our Lord begins working in us to mature us and to teach us to deny the self life and allow the Holy Spirit to occupy the throne of our life. This process to remove self from the throne and enthrone the Holy Spirit has been called *brokenness*. God uses many different tools to break us from the self life.

### THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD

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*When we come to God’s Word with an open and surrendered heart, He leads us to total surrender!*

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**Hebrews 4:12-13** “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

**Jeremiah 23:29** “‘Is not My word like fire?’ declares the Lord, ‘and like a hammer which shatters a rock?’”

The Word of God, like a fire, reveals the self life, and like a hammer, crushes this usurper on the throne of the believer’s life. When we come to God’s Word with an open and surrendered heart, He reveals the self life in all of its ugliness, breaks our stubborn will, and leads us to a total surrender to Him.

As we live in a way that glorifies, honors, exalts, and displays God, a deep and intimate love relationship develops that involves fellowship between God and man. In **2 Corinthians 6:16b**, God says, “...I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

### WHAT WENT WRONG?

#### Why does mankind as a whole not glorify God?

Why is mankind *man-centered* instead of *God-centered*? Why has mankind fallen from their lofty purpose? The answer is found in Genesis 1-3.

According to Genesis 1:26, God made man in His \_\_\_\_\_ according to His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Genesis 1:26a** “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...’”

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In whose likeness are *you* made?

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#### What is meant by the *image* and *likeness* of God?

Colossians 3:10 indicates a *mental likeness* to God.

**Colossians 3:10** “and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

Ephesians 4:24 indicates a *moral likeness* to God.

**Ephesians 4:24** “and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11b indicates a *consciousness of destiny*.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11b** “He has also set eternity in their heart.”

## God made man a tri-part being.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit** and **soul** and **body** (emphasis added) be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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Spirt	<i>With the spirit</i> , mankind relates to God. <i>With the soul</i> , mankind relates to others. The soul consists of the mind, the will, and the emotions. <i>With the body</i> , mankind relates to His environment.
Soul	
Body	
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## What was God's assessment of His creation (including man) in Genesis 1:31?

**Genesis 1:31** "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

According to Genesis 2:16-17, God gave mankind access to all He had created with one exception.

What was that exception? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the consequences of disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 2:16-17** "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.'"

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**Ephesians 5:18 (HCSB)** "And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit."

In the original language of the New Testament, the word *filled* was used in three different ways. First, it meant to *empower*. This word was used of the wind filling the ship's sails to empower it to get to its destination.

Second, the word was used to communicate something that *permeated*. For instance, when Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus took costly aromatic oil and anointed Jesus with it, we read in **John 12:3b**, "So the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil." The pleasant smell of the oil permeated every part of the house they were in.

The third (and most common) way that the word *filled* was used meant to *control*. In Luke 6, Jesus had healed a man on the Sabbath, and the response of the religious leaders is given in **Luke 6:11a**, "But they themselves were filled with rage..." To be filled with rage means to be controlled by rage. Of the three shades of the meaning of *filled*, the one that best describes being filled with the Spirit, is the word *controlled*.

The question each Christian must answer is "Who is in control?" Think of the control center of your life as being like a throne. Who is on the throne of your life? It is either self or the Holy Spirit—it cannot be both. Another word for *self* is the biblical word *flesh*. Christians who have flesh in control may do many good things, but it is self that determines what good things they will do and not do. The issue is, "Who is in control?"

**Galatians 5:16-17** "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh [self life]. For the flesh [self life] sets its desire against the Spirit, and the

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**Who is in control?**

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What is it that is not *our own doing*? The **grace** is not our own doing, but the grammar indicates that **neither is the faith** our own doing. The point is that from beginning to end, salvation is supernatural. And that is just the beginning! Following salvation the Holy Spirit desires to fill the believer's life and supernaturally live out Christ's resurrection life through each saved person. What does Christ's life look like? It is described in **Galatians 5:22-23a**, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..."

The Christian life is only possible when the Holy Spirit fills the believer's life, enabling the Christian to live a life characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The power to live the Christian life is found only in being filled with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus gave His disciples their *marching orders* just before He ascended back into Heaven, He made very clear the role of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 1:8** "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

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The Christian life is impossible apart from the work of the Holy Spirit!

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Disciples cannot consistently make disciples apart from being filled with the Holy Spirit.

We see what Jesus described in Acts 1:8 put into action in **Acts 4:31**, "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."

The work of making disciples and manifesting the nine characteristics of the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is dependent on being filled with the Spirit.

**What was Adam and Eve's response to this prohibition?**

**Genesis 3:4-6** "The serpent said to the woman, 'You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."

### THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

The consequences of that *death* God promised in Genesis 2:17 was beyond Adam and Eve's comprehension. It affected every part of mankind, and the consequences were passed on to every descendent of Adam. Let's examine some of the consequences.

#### The Spirit

The spirit died to God (was separated from God), which meant that man could no longer know God and walk in fellowship with Him.

The nature of Adam took over man's spirit (the desire to be his own god). This nature is sometimes called **the Adamic nature, the sin nature, or the old nature.**

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Death affected every part of mankind...

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## The Soul

The mind was darkened and the reasoning was distorted.

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When the mind is darkened and the emotions are warped, it is inevitable that ungodly decisions will result.

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**Romans 1:22-23** "Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures."

**1 Corinthians 2:14** "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."

**Ephesians 4:18** "being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart."

The emotions respond to the mind and, therefore, begin to contradict the truth and reflect the distortion of the mind. These distortions lead to damaged, warped emotions that pull man away from the truth and lead to doubt, confusion, depression, etc.

The will gets its input for decisions from the mind and emotions. When the mind is darkened and the emotions are warped, it is inevitable that ungodly decisions will result.

## The Body

The body began to die and became susceptible to disease and weakness. A power called *sin* moved into man's body. This power is Satan's inroad into our mind and serves to tempt man and pull him away from God and His will.

**Romans 7:20, 23** "But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells

## LESSON 4

### POWER TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Christian life—from inception to conclusion at physical death—is a supernatural life.

That a lost person would even know that he needs salvation is a supernatural act of God!

**Ephesians 2:1** "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins."

A spiritually dead person does not even recognize that he is dead and in need of spiritual life. It is the Holy Spirit who opens the spiritual eyes of the lost to see their sin and lostness.

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*The Holy Spirit  
opens our  
spiritual eyes.*

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**John 16:8b** "when He [the Holy Spirit] comes, [He] will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."

Not only is the conviction of our sinfulness supernatural, repentance and faith are supernaturally enabled by God.

**2 Timothy 2:25-26** "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance (emphasis added) leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."

We read in **Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

*The work of making disciples and manifesting the nine characteristics of the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is dependent on being filled with the Spirit.*

in me...but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members."

***The results of sin are passed on to each new generation.***

**In whose image were Adam's descendants?**

**Genesis 5:3** "When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth."

What is the result of being ***in Adam***?

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

**1 Corinthians 15:22a** "For as in Adam all die..."

The most devastating consequence of sin is that man is no longer able to fulfill his purpose for existence—to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

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All mankind was ***in Adam*** when he sinned and received the consequences of that sin.

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*“Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.  
Now not for his sake only was it written that  
it was credited to him, but for our sake  
also, to whom it will be credited,  
as those who believe in Him  
who raised Jesus our  
Lord from the  
dead.”*

**Romans 4:22-24**

Belonging to God puts us in a very secure position. A seal signifies protection. It says, “No one can tamper with the thing sealed who does not have more authority than the one whose seal is attached.” Since God has all authority, no one has the authority to steal us from God. The seal says that we are secure. That security is the environment in which spiritual growth takes place.

From verse 14, we see that the Holy Spirit not only gives us security, He is also the guarantee that all God has promised is indeed ours. That word *pledge* is translated *down payment* (HCSB) and *deposit* (NIV). Probably the best comparison to today would be *the earnest* of our inheritance. When you want to buy something such as a house or other product, and you have to make arrangements for the money, you can leave a part of the amount to insure the seller that you mean business so that he will hold the item for you until the final price is paid.

*Our redemption is complete when  
we are absent from the body and  
present with the Lord!*

In time, our inheritance is still future, but God says, “I am going to give you the Holy Spirit as earnest that the full inheritance will be yours in time.” Heaven and all the delights of the full inheritance that God has laid up for us is secure and protected because God has given us His indwelling Spirit as a guarantee, a down payment, a deposit, as earnest that in time it will all be ours. When will that be? It will be when our redemption is complete, and we are absent from the body and present with the Lord.

There are many more identity truths than the five in this lesson. The Christian life takes on new excitement when we stay in the Word and learn more and more of our true identity in Christ, and then appropriate by faith that identity in our everyday challenges and decisions. In Christ, you are loved, accepted, redeemed, forgiven, and secure!

satisfied, the Father as payment for our breaking of His law. Then our sins were sent away—never to be brought up again!

How far are they taken away?

**Psalms 103:12** “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

**Hebrews 10:17** “And their sins and their lawless deed I will remember no more.”

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God has buried  
our sins in the sea  
of His  
forgetfulness!

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God has taken our sins, propitiated by the blood of Jesus, and forgiven them—sent them away as far as the east is from the west, and buried them in the sea of His forgetfulness.

#### **IDENTITY TRUTH #5: IN CHRIST, WE ARE SECURE**

**Ephesians 1:13-14** “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

The seal, spoken of in verse 13, was heated wax that was dripped on a legal document and then had an imprint placed in the hot wax that identified the one who was doing the sealing. When the document was sealed, the transaction was finished. When the Holy Spirit seals a person, that indicates that they are saved. The Holy Spirit’s seal is also symbolic of the fact that we belong to God.

**Isaiah 43:1b (NKJV)** “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; **You are Mine** (emphasis added).”

## **LESSON 2**

### **GOD’S SOLUTION TO MANKIND’S GREATEST PROBLEM**

There is no human solution to man’s sin problem. In Genesis 3:7, we see the sad way that Adam and Eve tried to cover the shame of their sin.

**Genesis 3:7** “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

This attempt to cover themselves represents mankind’s futile attempt to remedy sin’s devastation by human works. All human-works-based religion is only fig leaves. The fig leaves had no effect with God.

What can be done about this problem? Job put it this way in **Job 25:4**, “How then can a man be just with God? Or how can he be clean who is born of woman?”

God’s answer comes echoing through the whole New Testament—*only through the cross of Jesus Christ!*

In Lesson 2, we will learn two important truths that summarize God’s solution to mankind’s greatest problem, which is sin.

#### **JUSTIFICATION**

The great reformer, Martin Luther, said, “I have preached justification by faith so often, and I feel sometimes that you are so slow to receive it, that I could almost take the Bible

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*Fig leaves  
have no  
effect with  
God!*

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and bang it about your heads.” If we miss the biblical concept of justification, we miss salvation and heaven.

The word *justify* or *justification* is used over sixty times in Scripture. The word in Greek for justification (*dikaiosis*) is very similar to the word for righteousness (*dikaios*). It is easy to see that these two words (*justification* and *righteousness*) are from the same root.

The definition of *justification*—to be justified is *to be declared by God to be righteous (in right standing) before Him*.

At first glance, there seems to be a dilemma with that definition of justification. How could God (who is perfectly holy) declare a sinner to be righteous before Him without God ceasing to be just and righteous Himself? The apparent dilemma is solved by the cross of Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus shed His blood on the cross and paid the sin debt that we owed, we can be righteous before God because of the shed blood of Christ on our behalf. This is called *the doctrine of the penal substitutionary atonement*. The word *penal* refers to *penalty*. The word *substitutionary* refers to a *substitute who paid the penalty that we deserved*.

**Romans 3:24-26** “being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

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Jesus paid  
the debt we  
owed!

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fell, and make it a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.”

Allow me to narrate the remainder of this passage. The high priest would slay the goat called *the one for the Lord*, and put the blood in a basin and take the blood of that sacrificial goat into the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle and later the Temple. Inside the Holy of Holies, he would sprinkle the blood on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant called *the Mercy Seat*.

The symbolism here is amazing! Inside that ark were the tablets of the law—the Ten Commandments. The lid on the Ark is called the *Mercy Seat*, but in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint), this was the same word that is translated *propitiation* in the New Testament.

**1 John 2:2** “and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

*Propitiation* means *to make a satisfactory payment to one who has been offended*. Notice the symbolism: We have all broken God’s law. Jesus is our mercy seat, our propitiation, and the propitiating payment is not the blood of a goat, *but His own blood!*

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WE HAVE  
**ALL** BROKEN  
GOD’S LAW!

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Let’s get back to the Day of Atonement. When the High Priest came out of the Holy of Holies, he would go to the other goat—called the scapegoat—and put his hand on the goat symbolizing the placing of Israel’s sin on this goat. Because of the sacrifice of the first goat, the sins of the nation are propitiated, satisfied, and now the sins are sent away into the wilderness never to return.

What an amazing picture in the Old Testament of a New Testament truth. Jesus fulfills the picture of this whole process. Jesus took our sins and then suffered the wrath of God that those sins deserved. His shed blood propitiated, or

**John 8:34 (ESV)** “everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”

Notice the price paid for our redemption.

**Ephesians 1:7a** “In Him we have redemption **through His blood** (emphasis added)...”

The price of our redemption was the blood (the poured out life) of Christ on the cross. In Christ, we are no longer slaves of sin; we are redeemed!

**1 Peter 1:18-19** “knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with **precious blood** (emphasis added), as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

#### **IDENTITY TRUTH #4: IN CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN**

**Ephesians 1:7b-8a** “...through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”

The literal meaning of the word translated *forgiveness* is *to send away*. We get a clearer picture of what it means to be forgiven by looking at the roots of forgiveness in the Old Testament. Israel’s greatest holy day was Yom Kippur or the Day of the Atonement. Leviticus 16:7-22 tells us what happened on that day.

**Leviticus 16:7-10** “He [the High Priest] shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the doorway of the tent of meeting. Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the Lord

This is amazing! Because of what Christ accomplished on the cross, it is now possible for God to “be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

In 2 Corinthians 5:21, we see again what God did to make it possible for us to become righteous before Him (to be justified). **2 Corinthians 5:21** “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- What was the price paid for our justification?

**Romans 5:9** “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

**Romans 3:25a** “whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.”

*Propitiation* means *to provide a satisfying payment*. Jesus’ blood was a satisfying payment to the Father for our sins. The shed blood made it possible for God to forgive us and declare us righteous and still be a holy, just, and righteous God.

- How is justification obtained?

**Romans 4:5** “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

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

**Galatians 3:24** “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.”

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#### **Romans 3:28**

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”

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According to Romans 3:28, 4:5, and 5:1, and Galatians 3:24, we are justified by \_\_\_\_\_.

The word *faith*, as it is used in these verses, means *to turn from every false hope for righteousness and to step out in total trust and reliance on Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross on our behalf*. It is much more than intellectual assent.

A. W. Tozer said, "The faith of Paul and Luther was a revolutionary thing. It upset the whole life of the individual and made him into a new person altogether. It laid hold on the life and brought it under obedience to Christ. It took up the cross and followed along after Jesus with no intention of going back. It said 'good-bye' to its old friends as certainly as Elijah when he stepped into the fiery chariot and went away in the whirlwind. It had finality about it. It snapped shut on a man's heart like a trap; it captured the man and made him from that moment forward a happy love-servant of his Lord."

- According to Romans 6:17-18, what is the effect of true, saving faith?

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*"The faith of Paul and Luther was a revolutionary thing!"*  
—A. W. Tozer

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**Romans 6:17-18** "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

In Romans 6:17-18, what parts of mankind's soul are involved in saving faith?

- The Will (*you became obedient*)
- The Emotions (*from the heart*)
- The Mind (*that form of teaching*)

## **IDENTITY TRUTH #2: IN CHRIST, WE ARE ACCEPTED BY GOD**

**Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV)** "to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."

All Christians have accepted Christ as the means of salvation, but most have not accepted their acceptance by the Father because they are in Christ, the Beloved. The world bases acceptance upon looks, brains, and performance. At one time or another, every person has experienced rejection by those influenced by the world. We aren't *smart enough* or *attractive enough* or *good enough*.

When we appropriate our acceptance in Christ, three things happen:

1. We can now live with the rejection of others.
2. We have a consuming desire to please the One who has accepted us.
3. We can now serve God with a correct motive. Our motive is no longer to gain something (acceptance); our motive is now gratitude for His acceptance of us simply because we are in Christ.

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The world bases acceptance upon looks, brains, and performance!

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## **IDENTITY TRUTH #3: IN CHRIST, WE ARE REDEEMED**

**Ephesians 1:7a** "In Him we have redemption through His blood..."

The Greek word used in this text for *redemption* means *to purchase from the slave market to set free*. We were in slavery to sin. In Christ, the price was paid for us, and we have been set free. Apart from Christ, we were all slaves to sin.

**Ephesians 1:4b-5** "In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."

The word *predestined* should not scare us. To predestine is to *mark out beforehand*. Predestination flows out of God's love for those in union with Christ. God's love for those in Christ moved Him to adopt them as sons.

Here are some facts about the kind of adoption referred to in Ephesians 1:5.

1. The adopted person lost all ties with his old family.
2. The adopted one became an heir of his new father and a joint heir with the other siblings.
3. The adopted person's past was forgotten, his legal debts canceled, and he was given a new name.
4. The adoption was a permanent transaction; it could never be reversed.

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*God's love for those in Christ moved Him to **adopt** them as sons!*

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In **John 17:23**, this love with which God loves those in Christ is described as, "You...loved them, even as You have loved Me." This means that God loves those in Christ with the same love with which He loves Christ!

In the Old Testament, Jeremiah describes the endurance of God's love. **Jeremiah 31:3** "I [God] have loved you with an **everlasting love.**"

**2 Timothy 1:12 (NKJV)** "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

According to 2 Timothy 1:12, this faith involves a commitment of our life to Christ. The word translated *committed* means *to entrust with a deposit*.

When our faith is placed in Christ alone, our sins are paid for by His blood shed on the cross and He gives us His righteousness (right standing with God).

In Romans 5:17-19 (NKJV), we see a contrast between Adam and Jesus. "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

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(Saving) faith involves a commitment of our life to Christ.

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**Adam**

**Jesus**

Rom. 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_ reigned

the gift of \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_ came resulting in condemnation

the free \_\_\_\_\_ resulting in justification of life

Rom. 5:19 many were made \_\_\_\_\_

many will be made \_\_\_\_\_

What are the most common counterfeits for justification?

- Human Religion
- Self-righteousness

### SUMMARY

Jesus took our sin on the cross and paid the satisfactory price (His blood). When we place our faith in Him, His righteousness is credited to us (put on our account) so that God can declare us righteous before Him (justification).

**Romans 4:22-24** "Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead."

### UNION WITH CHRIST

At the moment of salvation we are not only justified, we are also placed in union with (also called *identified with* and *baptized into*) Jesus Christ. This concept of our union with Christ is foreign to most Christians, but it is one of the most important truths of Scripture.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

From the context, we know that the *one body* in 1 Corinthians 12:13 is the body of Christ. The word *baptized* means to be *immersed into* or *to be identified with*. One of the common descriptions of Christians in the New Testament is that they are *in Christ*. At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ. We truly are placed in union with Christ.

Not only were we a partaker in Christ's death, we are also a partaker in His resurrection life.

**1 Corinthians 15:22** "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive." Christ's life is eternal life.

**1 John 5:20b (NIV)** "And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."

Eternal life is more than just living forever; it is Christ's life that we have as a present possession.

It isn't enough to simply know with our intellect that everyone saved is in union with Christ and has become a new creation. We must appropriate our new identity in order for it to be real in our experience. To *appropriate* means *to take full possession by faith*. Though we receive our identity in Christ at salvation, we must daily appropriate it by faith in our experience.

The New Testament tells us many things about this new identity. Perhaps the clearest description of this identity is in Ephesians 1-3. Read these three chapters and make a list of truths about you because you are *in Christ*.

What follows are a few of the many truths about all who are *in Christ* or *in union with Christ*.

### IDENTITY TRUTH #1: IN CHRIST, WE ARE LOVED

While it is true that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16), those who are *in Christ* are loved with a *family love* by God, our Father.

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Eternal life is more than just living forever; it is Christ's life—a present possession!

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## LESSON 3

### THE DISCIPLE'S NEW IDENTITY

Salvation isn't an end—it's a beginning! Once a person repents of sin and turns to Christ in faith, that person begins an exciting adventure of walking with Christ. One of the most important parts of that walk with Christ is to understand and appropriate by faith our new identity in Christ.

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We are in union with Christ—a partaker in His resurrection life!

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The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." The phrase *in Christ* speaks of our union with Christ. In Lesson 2, we learned that this union with Christ is often called *the baptism by the Holy Spirit*.

That baptism is described in **1 Corinthians 12:13** "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." The phrases *in Christ*, *in Him*, or *in the Beloved* are referring to our union with Christ which is also called *the baptism by the Holy Spirit*. Those phrases are used in the New Testament 164 times!

In Lesson 2, we learned that because we are in union with Christ, we are a partaker in His death.

**Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

**Romans 6:6 (HCSB)** "For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin."

The doctrine of our union with Christ is very practical. It is one of the keys to the victorious Christian life.

What does being in union with Christ mean?

- We are in union with or identified with Christ in His death.

**Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

**Romans 6:6 (HCSB)** "For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin."

- We are in union with or identified with Christ in His life.

**Colossians 3:4** "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed..."

Another name for His life is *eternal life*.

**1 John 5:20b** "... and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit places us in union with Christ. This act of putting us in union with Christ is also called baptizing us into Christ or identifying us with Christ. The old person who was in Adam is now crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20).

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Another name for Christ's life is

**ETERNAL  
LIFE**

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**Romans 6:7**

*“For he who has died is freed from sin.”*

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The power called *sin* that dwells in us, held the old us in Adam in slavery to sin. Now that the old us in Adam is crucified with Christ, we still must *deal* with the power of sin, but we are *no longer enslaved* to sin.

The result of no longer being enslaved to sin is given in **Romans 6:11-14**. “Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

Because we are *in Christ*, we now have a new identity. Lesson 3 will detail that new identity.

*Not only were we a partaker in Christ's death, we are also a partaker in His resurrection life.*