

# **VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING CONFERENCE**

2016 12E

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VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING Conference

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## HOW TO COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

The beginning of victorious Christian living has to be an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Without that relationship, you have no power or ability on your own to live victoriously.

What God's Word says about committing your life to Christ:

- ◆ **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).**  
Has the Holy Spirit shown you the truth of your sinful choices?
- ◆ **“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).**  
Have you realized you are without hope, facing death—eternally separated from God because of your sin?
- ◆ **“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross” (1 Peter 2:24).**  
Do you understand that Jesus came to die on the cross to bear the penalty for your sin—that only His shed blood is sufficient to meet God's requirements for eternal life?”
- ◆ **“He who has the Son has the life” (1 John 5:12).**  
Do you see that eternal life is in the person of Jesus?
- ◆ **“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).**  
You may believe Jesus lived and died for you, but have you received Him into your life as your Savior and Lord?
- ◆ **“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him” (Revelation 3:20).**  
Have you opened the door to your heart and life and invited Him to come into you? If you have you can rejoice and thank Jesus for His free gift of eternal life!

If you have not, now would be a wonderful time to simply pray and admit you have sinned, thank Him for dying for your sins, and then open the door to your heart and life and ask Him to come into you and be your Savior and Lord.

# **Self-Evaluation**

Circle “yes” or “no” for each of the following questions. (If your answer is “yes” and “no,” circle both.)

- |            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| <b>YES</b> | 1. Are you uncomfortable when you are not in control?                      | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 2. Is it difficult for you to say to God, “I’ll give up anything you ask”? | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 3. Do you tend to become impatient when people don’t do things right?      | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 4. Do you reject or avoid those who mistreat you?                          | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 5. Does it bother you when others don’t approve of you?                    | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 6. Do you try to be independent?   | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 7. Does it bother you when someone treats you like a “doormat”?            | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 8. Does it bother you when you do not get good service?                    | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 9. Do you worry about being physically attractive?                         | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>YES</b> | 10. Does it bother you when you don’t have the money to buy something?     | <b>NO</b> |

# My Purpose

## **John 10:10:**

*"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly."*

Our goal at Victorious Christian Living is to help a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ experience the abundant life He came to give.

We believe the key to experiencing this abundant life daily, and in an increasing manner, lies in functioning in your highest calling. What is your highest calling? What is the point of life, here on planet earth ?

Jesus Himself said in **John 6:44**, *"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."*

Have you ever thought about why God the Father drew you to His son? What is He looking for? What is the point, pinnacle, and purpose of life?

Many have said our highest calling is to serve God.

Jesus Himself illustrated, in **Luke 10:38-42**, that while service is a part of the Christian life it is not the believers highest calling. It is not what He redeemed us for.

Many have said that our highest calling is to glorify God.

Jesus said in **John 15:8**, *"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."*

How do we bear much fruit? Jesus said in verse five of the John 15 it is an issue of staying connected to Him as a branch does to its vine. Our highest calling, the point, pinnacle, and purpose of life is to know Him, to learn to stay connected to Him in utter dependence, day by day, and moment by moment. To truly believe Jesus' statement, *"apart from me you can do nothing."* (**John 15:5**).

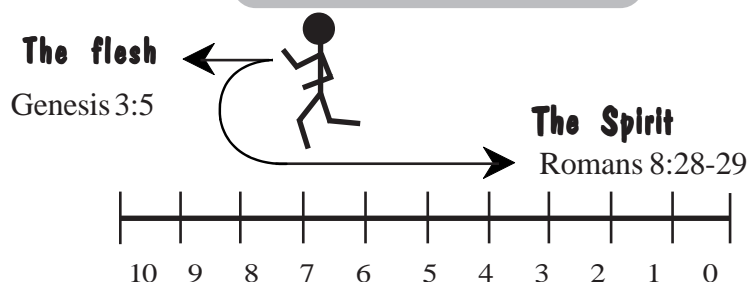
Jeremiah said it this way (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**): *"Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things, declares the Lord."*

What are some of the consequences of missing our highest calling? DEPRESSION, FRUSTRATION, FEELINGS OF HOPELESSNESS, ETC. But it gets worse. (**Romans 1:21**) *Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused.*

One of the ways that we can come to know the Lord is by the Spirit of God teaching us through scripture.

# REAL LIFE Challenge

| The Father                                     | You  | The Son of Man                                   |
|--|--|--|
| Controls all of life<br>Psalm 135:5-7          | <b>YES</b> 1. Are you uncomfortable when you are not in control? <b>NO</b>                     | Trusted God's control<br>1 Peter 2:23            |
| Does His own will<br>Daniel 4:34-35            | <b>YES</b> 2. Is it difficult for you to say to God "I'll give up anything you ask"? <b>NO</b> | Did only the Father's will<br>John 6:38          |
| Lawgiver and Judge<br>James 4:12               | <b>YES</b> 3. Do you get impatient when people don't do things right? <b>NO</b>                | Came not to judge<br>John 12:47                  |
| Exercises vengeance<br>Romans 12:19            | <b>YES</b> 4. Do you reject or avoid those who mistreat you? <b>NO</b>                         | Forgave and interceded<br>Luke 23:34             |
| Seeks worshipers<br>John 4:23                  | <b>YES</b> 5. Does it bother you when others don't approve of you? <b>NO</b>                   | Became of no reputation<br>Philippians 2:7 (KJV) |
| Is independent<br>Isaiah 40:13-14              | <b>YES</b> 6. Do you try to be independent? <b>NO</b>  | Was dependent upon the Father<br>John 5:19       |
| Exalts Himself above all<br>1 Chronicles 29:11 | <b>YES</b> 7. Does it bother you when someone treats you like a "doormat"? <b>NO</b>           | Humbled Himself<br>Philippians 2:8               |
| Is to be served<br>Deuteronomy 10:12           | <b>YES</b> 8. Does it bother you when you don't get good service? <b>NO</b>                    | Came not to be served<br>Matthew 20:28           |
| Is too glorious to behold<br>Exodus 33:22-23   | <b>YES</b> 9. Do you worry about being physically attractive? <b>NO</b>                        | Was not physically attractive<br>Isaiah 53:2-3   |
| Owens everything<br>Psalm 50:10-12             | <b>YES</b> 10. Does it bother you when you don't have the money to buy something? <b>NO</b>    | Had no place to lay His head<br>Matthew 8:20     |







GODSHIP 

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT’S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# GODSHIP

*... your eyes will  
be opened, and you  
will be like God ...*

Genesis 3:5

This lesson pinpoints the beginning of man's original rebellion against God and the results. Ever since Eve's conversation with Satan, man has sought to be like God. We coined the term "godship" for this basic problem of mankind. Godship (sin) is the term used to identify: **(1) an individual functioning as his or her own god, (2) the self-life or walking after the flesh, (3) an individual living without considering what God has to say in His Word, or (4) allowing feelings and circumstances, from my 5 senses to rule, instead of God.**

This lesson has often been used by God to change people's lives. Ask the Lord to open your heart to His truth.

## **EXERCISING GODSHIP**

- ☐ **Determining standards of conduct for myself, others, and God.**
- ☐ **Demanding absolute obedience to those standards.**
- ☐ **Judging God, others, and my life, attitudes, and actions by those standards.**
- ☐ **Seeking revenge.**
- ☐ **Selfishly endeavoring to control circumstances and people.**
- ☐ **Exercising “sovereign” independence, doing whatever I please.**
- ☐ **Seeking praise, approval, & acceptance from others and not from God.**
- ☐ **Asking no help or guidance from anyone, not even God.**

100-A

## ***NOTES***

# Godship

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **100-A**:

*To show how people try to be like God.*

? 1. What is godship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



2. Study Genesis 3:1-7.

? 3. Whose idea was it to be like God? \_\_\_\_\_

? 4. What actions of godship do you see in verses 6-7? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 5. Which of these eight expressions of godship are most common in your life?

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

*... your eyes will be opened,  
and you will be like God . . . .*

Gen. 3:5

? 6. Have you said, "I wish people would just do things right!" Right according to whom—you? Who made you the standard setter for others to follow? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 7. Have you judged yourself and condemned yourself recently? Why? Whose standards did you break? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 8. Have you ever tried to control people by silence, yelling, intimidation, or kindness? Do you see your use of alcohol, drugs, food, or sleep as an attempt to control your life? \_\_\_\_\_

? 9. Do you try hard to please people? \_\_\_\_\_

? 10. Do you see these actions as sin? \_\_\_\_\_

*"It will wear me out to try to be like God.  
I am not equipped to be God."*

## **GOD BEING GOD:**

- **Determines standards of conduct for mankind**—*Ex. 20:1-17*
- **Demands absolute obedience to those standards**—*Gen. 22:1-12*
- **Judges the lives, actions, and attitudes of man**—*Gen. 18:25; Acts 17:31*
- **Takes vengeance**—*Ps. 94:1; Rom. 12:17-19*
- **Controls all of life**—*Job 12:13-25; Acts 17:24-28a*
- **Exercises sovereign independence, doing whatever He pleases**—*Ps. 135:5-6; Dan. 4:35*
- **Seeks the praise, worship, and acceptance of mankind**—*Isa. 42:8; John 4:23*
- **Asks help and guidance from no one**—*Isa. 40:13-14; Rom. 11:33-34*

**100-B**

## **NOTES**

# Godship STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **100-B:**

*To illustrate the “rights” of God.*

? 1. Why is it God’s right to perform all these actions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 2. Study Job 12:13-25.

? 3. How much of life does God control? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 4. Why is it foolish for us to try to  
play god in our lives or someone  
else’s life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***I am the Lord, and there  
is no other . . . .*** Isa. 45:5

 5. Study Isaiah 42:8.

? 6. What is God’s attitude toward someone who would usurp His place?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 7. How do you know when you are exercising godship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***God is God and I am not!***

| JUDGING   | GOOD  | AND               | EVIL   |
|---|---|-------------------|--|
| <p><b>GOD'S LAWS</b><br/>(Absolute)</p> <p><b>MAN'S LAWS</b><br/>(Relative)</p> <p>Judges 21:25</p> | <p><i>Whatever God, out of His infinite goodness, justice, and love, states to be ultimately for man's blessing and God's own glory</i></p>         | <p><b>GOD</b></p> | <p><i>Whatever God rejects as being inconsistent with His perfect righteousness and therefore against His good purposes in the world</i></p> |
|   | <p><i>Whatever is personally thought at present to be beneficial to the greatest number of persons or to the persons of greatest importance</i></p> |                   | <p><i>Whatever is rejected by the present consensus and therefore is perceived as being bad for society</i></p>                              |

100-C

## NOTES



# Godship

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **100-C**:

*To distinguish between God's absolute law and man's relative law.*

? 1. What things have society decided are good based on the beliefs of the majority of the people? \_\_\_\_\_

? 2. What things have you decided are good based on your own benefit without considering what God says? \_\_\_\_\_



3. Study John 7:24

? 4. What determines good or evil? \_\_\_\_\_

? 5. How do God's values differ from society's values? \_\_\_\_\_



6. Study Proverbs 16:25.

? 7. How does that passage apply to you?

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*There is a way which  
seems right to a man,  
But its end is the way  
of death.*

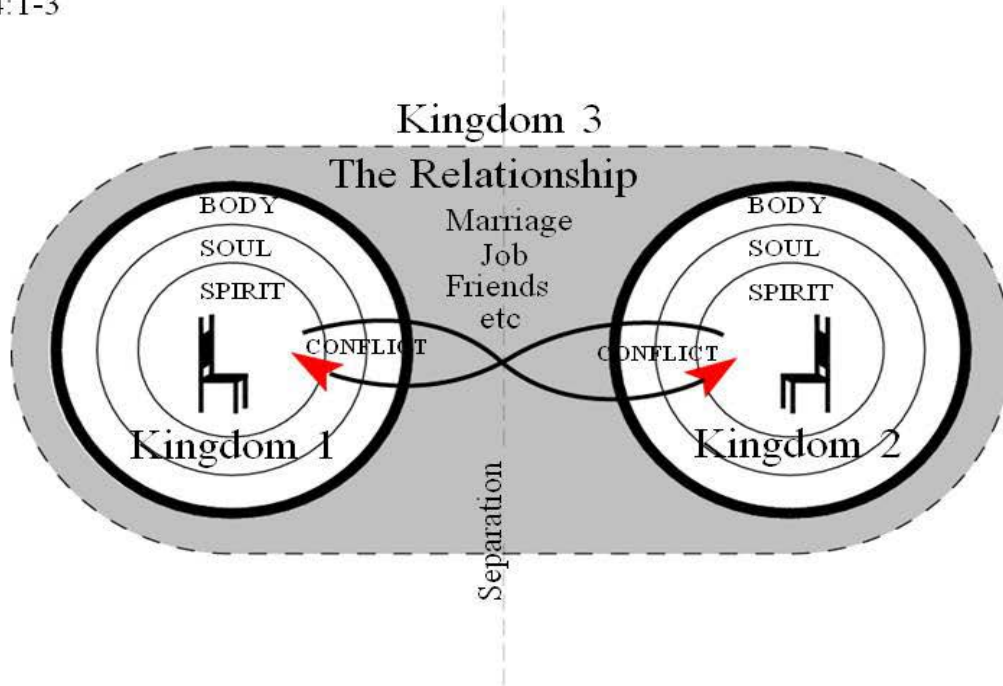
Prov. 16:25  
(NKJV)

? 8. Study the last verse in the book of Judges. How does that apply to today?

*"Everybody could be wrong."*

# THREE KINGDOMS

James 4:1-3



100-D

## NOTES

# Godship

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **100-D**:

*To illustrate conflict between two parties  
when either or both are functioning in godship.*

? 1. Are you in a relationship where there is a conflict? \_\_\_\_\_

 2. Study Matthew 7:1-5.

? 3. Have you been judging another person?  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 4. Have you been trying to change the  
person in the other kingdom?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*For where you have  
. . . selfish ambition,  
there you find  
disorder . . . . James 3:16  
(NIV)*

? 5. How's it going? Do you find yourself feeling frustrated or angry?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 6. What areas of godship (Diagram 100-A) does your frustration or anger  
reveal? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

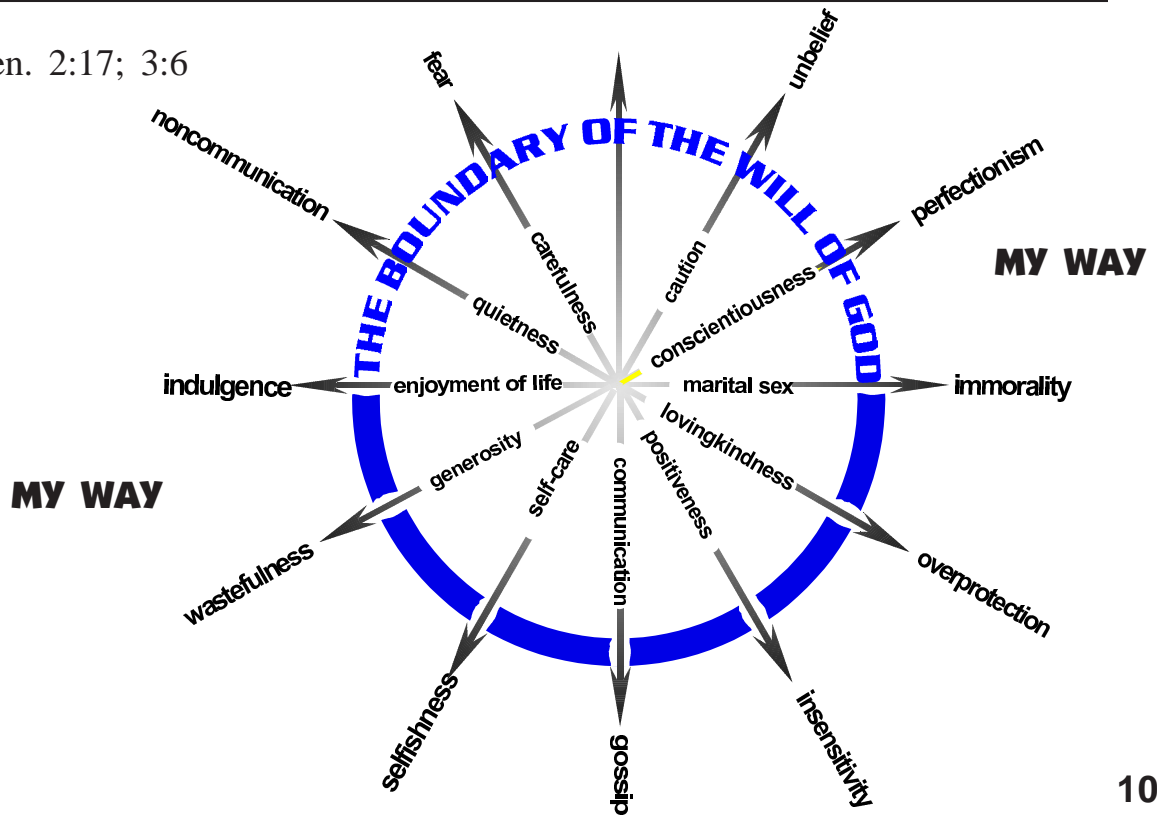
? 7. Have you thought about or talked about ending the relationship?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 8. Are you ready to yield yourself to the Lord to rule your kingdom?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If I play god of my own kingdom,  
I shouldn't expect another person to  
be my subject.*

## “GOOD” TAKEN BEYOND THE BOUNDS—IS SIN

Gen. 2:17; 3:6



100-E

### **NOTES**


**PURPOSE** for Diagram **100-E**:

*To illustrate that what God created as good  
can be pushed beyond the boundaries of His will.*

- ? 1. In the Garden of Eden, did God make fruit of the trees for Adam and Eve's enjoyment? YES NO
- ? 2. In Genesis 2:17, what did God say would happen if Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 3. Did God put a boundary on what was good? YES NO

*. . . do not turn your freedom into  
an opportunity for the flesh . . .*

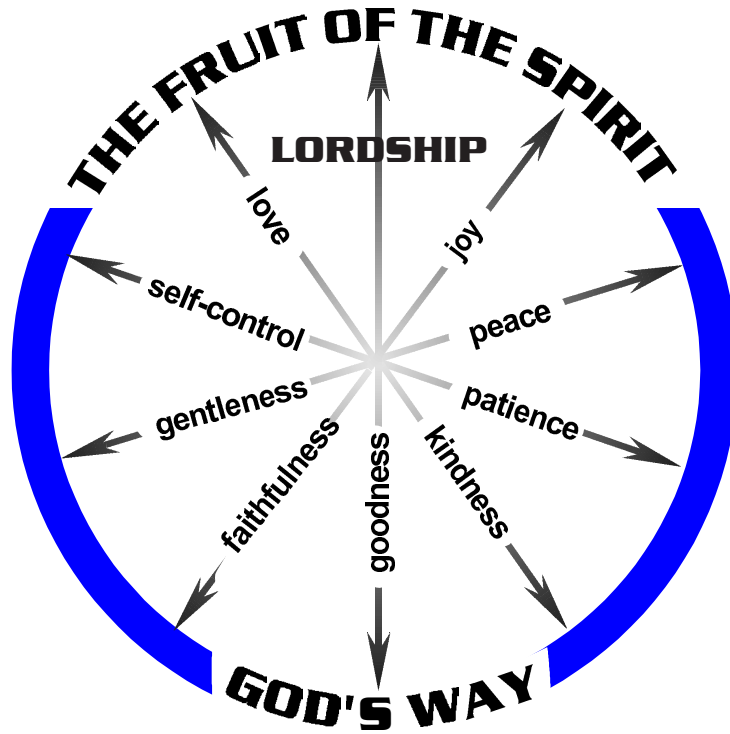
Gal. 5:13a

-  4. Read Genesis 3:6. Is sin often appealing to us as humans? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 5. Which of those attributes in Diagram 100-E cross over the boundary of God's will in your life? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 6. How did the boundary get crossed? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 7. Do you agree that crossing these boundaries is deciding for yourself what is good and evil? YES NO (If yes, that is godship.)

*My way is not God's will.*

## GOD'S WAY

Gal. 5:22-23



100-E1

## **NOTES**

# Godship STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **100-E1**:

*To demonstrate that the fruit of the Spirit will be evident  
in our lives when we abstain from walking in godship.*

? 1. What is the difference between godship and Lordship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 2. Where do you see yourself—in godship  
or Lordship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*against such things  
there is no law.*

Gal. 5:23b

 3. Study Galatians 5:16-23.

? 4. What do you see in your life—the fruit of the Spirit or the deeds of the  
flesh? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 5. Study Romans 10:9.

? 6. What position is Jesus to have in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 7. Are you ready to admit exercising godship in your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8. Admit your sin of trying to be god.



9. Receive His forgiveness and cleansing.



10. Reject the actions of godship in your life!



11. Yield yourself to Christ and let Jesus reign as LORD!

*Jesus—Lord of all or not Lord at all.*

## **REVIEW**

- God is God and I am not.
- God is God and only He has the right to set standards, judge, and demand absolute obedience of people.
- There is something within me that desires to be like God.
- Godship is sin and leads to withdrawal from God and others and doubting instead of trusting.
- Only when God rules over our relationships with others will we experience relationships that bring glory to His kingdom.
- Good taken beyond God's boundaries leads to sin.



## ***NOTES***



GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

**REJECTION** 

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

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LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT’S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# REJECTION

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

Rejection is one of the most common reactions when another person does something that doesn't please you or you do something that doesn't please some other person. If your parents didn't reject you, your peers, or the public probably did. You may have even rejected yourself.

Those who feel rejection tend to reject the "rejecter" setting up a cycle of hurt and retaliation. This lesson shows the trauma of rejection in a person's life, its transferal from the rejected person to others, even God, and how the rejection cycle can be broken. We believe that rejection is a consequence of man playing god in his own life or the lives of others—what we call godship.

## THE REJECTION CYCLE

Esau

Genesis 25:31-34

Ananias

Acts 23:1-5

Jonah/Martha

Jonah 1:1-4

Luke 10:40

King Saul/Cain

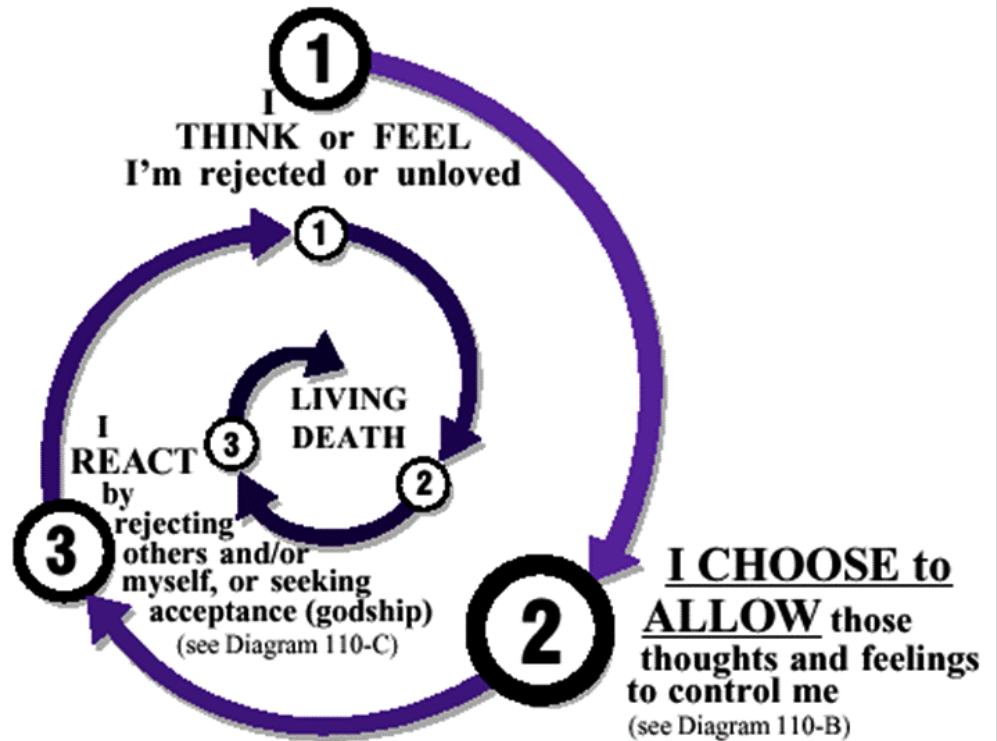
1 Sam 18:5-9,

18:25, 19:10

Genesis 4:4-8

Hagar

Genesis 21:9-21



**110-A**

## *NOTES*

**TLM 12E**

# Rejection

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **110-A**:

*To show the three steps of the rejection cycle and how they are repeated.*



1. Study Genesis 4:1-16.



2. When was a time you were rejected? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Who overtly rejected you? \_\_\_\_\_ Who covertly rejected you? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



4. How did you feel? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



5. What did you think? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



6. How did you choose to allow those thoughts and feelings to control you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.* Gen. 4:5b



7. What did you do: reject others, reject yourself, seek acceptance from others? Circle those that apply.



8. Do you see your reaction was godship? Yes No

*I own my feelings.  
My feelings don't own me!*

## **FEELING REJECTED . . .**

**John 12:25a**

- ☐ 1. I am self occupied
- ☐ 2. I am filled with worries, doubts and fears
- ☐ 3. I am focused on my feelings
- ☐ 4. I am continually examining myself
- ☐ 5. I am easily depressed
- ☐ 6. I am irresponsible
- ☐ 7. I am lacking in self discipline
- ☐ 8. I feel guilty
- ☐ 9. I am perfectionistic
- ☐ 10. I insulate myself emotionally
- ☐ 11. I am self-condemning
- ☐ 12. I answer only what I think others want to hear
- ☐ 13. I try to hard to please
- ☐ 14. I am unable to express my feelings
- ☐ 15. I feel every conversation relates to me and take it personally
- ☐ 16. I cling like a leech to anyone who finally accepts me
- ☐ 17. I am filled with self pity
- ☐ 18. I feel that life "isn't worth it"

**110-B**

## ***NOTES***

## Rejection STUDY GUIDE

### PURPOSE for Diagram 110-B:

*To illustrate how a rejected person's thoughts and feelings control the person.  
(See step two of the rejection Diagram 110-A.)*

- ✓ 1. Look down the list and check the numbers that apply to you.
- ? 2. Are you being controlled by your thoughts or feelings of rejection?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 📖 3. Study John 12:25. If you love your life, are you more or less likely to experience rejection? How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 4. Who or what is responsible for you feeling this way?
  - a. others
  - b. myself
  - c. circumstances

**You can't blame others for your thoughts and feelings.**
- ? 5. If you are controlled by those thoughts and feelings, is it because you love your life?    Yes    No

*He who loves his life  
loses it . . . . John 12:25*

*Loving myself is destructive!*

## **REACTING TOWARD OTHERS . . .**

**1 Thessalonians 5:15**

- ☐ 1. I AM RESENTFUL.
- ☐ 2. I AM BITTER.
- ☐ 3. I REBEL AGAINST AUTHORITY.
- ☐ 4. I HAVE CONFLICTING FEELINGS OF LOVE AND HATE.
- ☐ 5. I AM DISTRUSTFUL.
- ☐ 6. I AM UNABLE TO ACCEPT OR EXPRESS LOVE.
- ☐ 7. I HAVE DIFFICULTY TOLERATING OTHERS.
- ☐ 8. I SPEND LITTLE TIME WITH THEM.
- ☐ 9. I VENT HOSTILITY IN PUNITIVE WAYS.
- ☐ 10. I MAKE OPEN STATEMENTS OF REJECTION.
- ☐ 11. I GIVE VERBAL ACCEPTANCE WITH EMOTIONAL REJECTION.
- ☐ 12. I MAKE TOO MANY DECISIONS FOR THEM.
- ☐ 13. I GIVE TOO LITTLE GUIDANCE.
- ☐ 14. I MAY ABUSE THEM PHYSICALLY.
- ☐ 15. I REFUSE TO COMMUNICATE.
- ☐ 16. I GIVE MORE IMPORTANCE TO OTHER PEOPLE OR THINGS.
- ☐ 17. I INTENSELY REJECT ANYONE WHO REMINDS ME OF  
SOMEONE WHO HAS REJECTED ME.

**SUMMARY: “*You reject me; I’ll reject you!*”**

**110-C**



## Rejection STUDY GUIDE

### PURPOSE for Diagram 110-C:

*To show the reactions (step three of the rejection cycle) toward others when a person is being controlled by thoughts and feelings of rejection.*

- ✓ 1. Go through this list asking, “Am I resentful? Am I bitter? Do I rebel against authority?” Check those that apply.

*See to it . . . that no root of bitterness springing up . . . defiles;* Heb. 12:15

- ? 2. Who are you currently rejecting or who feels rejected by you? \_\_\_\_\_

- ? 3. Has that person rejected you? \_\_\_\_\_

- ? 4. How have your reactions brought about more rejection? \_\_\_\_\_

- 📖 5. Study Matthew 5:11-12, 39-42.

- ? 6. What is to be our attitude toward someone who rejects us? \_\_\_\_\_

This is impossible apart from Christ!!  
2 Corinthians 3:5

*Reacting by rejecting is revenge.  
“You hurt me, I’ll hurt you!”*

## **REACTING TOWARD GOD . . .**

- ☐ 1. I RESIST GOD'S AUTHORITY.
- ☐ 2. I AM UNABLE TO TRUST GOD.
- ☐ 3. I THINK GOD IS UNFAIR
- ☐ 4. I AM ANGRY AT GOD.
- ☐ 5. I REJECT GOD.
- ☐ 6. I HAVE LITTLE REAL FELLOWSHIP OR COMMUNION WITH GOD.
- ☐ 7. I AM UNABLE TO RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE.

**Job 40:1, 4-8**  
**Romans 9:20-21**

**110-D**

## ***NOTES***

# Rejection

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **110-D**:

*To show how a person's reaction to rejection affects the person's relationship with God.*

✓ 1. Check any of the statements that apply to you.

? 2. Why have you rejected God? \_\_\_\_\_

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

***You shall not  
curse God . . . .***

Ex. 22:28

? 3. Do you see how being “stuck” in the rejection cycle affects your walk with God? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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

📖 4. Study 1 John 4:20-21.

? 5. How has your relationship with God been affected by your negative feelings toward another person who has rejected you? \_\_\_\_\_

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

📖 6. Study Isaiah 65:2.

? 7. What is preventing you from receiving God's love? \_\_\_\_\_

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

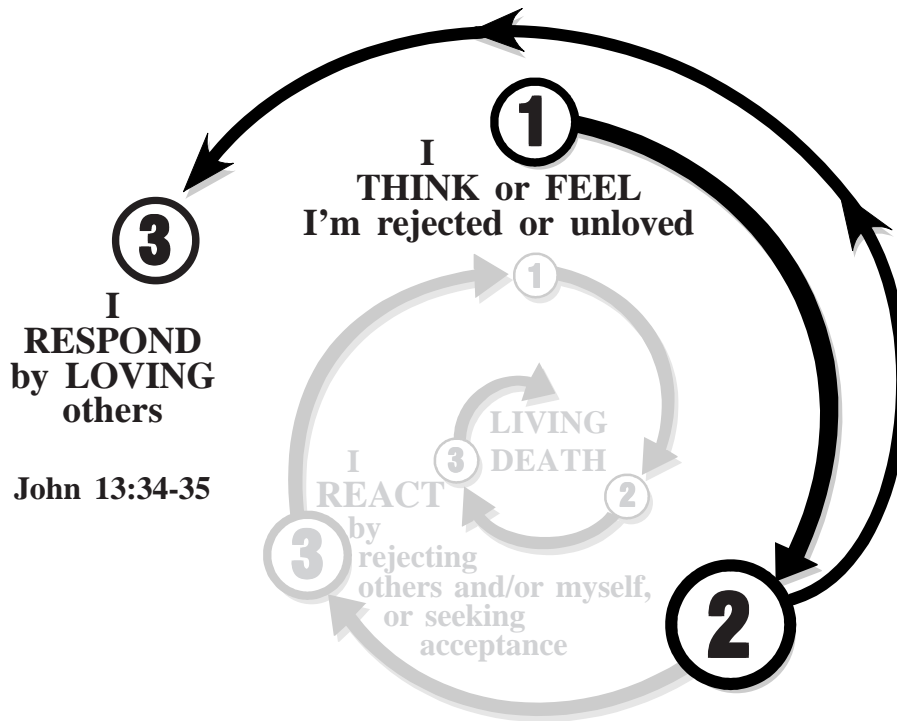
? 8. Would you like to admit to God the statements you checked and receive both His forgiveness and His love? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Being angry at God is judging God!***

# STOPPING the REJECTION CYCLE

2 Cor. 5:17



## NOTES

## Rejection STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 110-E:

*To explain how to break the rejection cycle by  
choosing to believe our true identity in Christ.*

? 1. When you last experienced rejection, which choice did you make—2A or 2B? \_\_\_\_\_

 2. Study Ephesians 1:3-8.

? 3. Do you believe all these statements are really true about you, even if you don't feel all these things? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 4. Study 2 Corinthians. 5:17.

? 5. How does God see you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Bless those who  
curse you . . . .***

Luke 6:28

? 6. What speaks louder to you, the voice of your rejecter or what God says? \_\_\_\_\_

 7. Study Acts 7:54-60. Stephen was being rejected—unto death.

? 8. Where was Stephen's focus (verses 55-56)? \_\_\_\_\_

? 9. When you choose to allow rejection to control you, where is your focus? \_\_\_\_\_ Where should you focus be? \_\_\_\_\_



10. Can you pray and ask God to fill your heart with love for your rejecter? Will you do that now? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Choose truth!***

## **REVIEW**

- Rejection happens to everyone.
- A rejection cycle begins when we allow thoughts and feelings of rejection to control us.
- The person who believes he or she is rejectable and unlovable makes a number of decisions that reinforce his or her view of being rejectable. These decisions create a lifestyle consistent with that point of view, bringing more rejection upon the person.
- People who live in a rejection cycle react by becoming self-centered. They also react by rejecting others, even God.
- Choosing to believe who I am in Christ will stop the rejection cycle.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

**EXTERNAL/INTERNAL** 

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT’S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE





# EXTERNAL/INTERNAL

EXT/INT

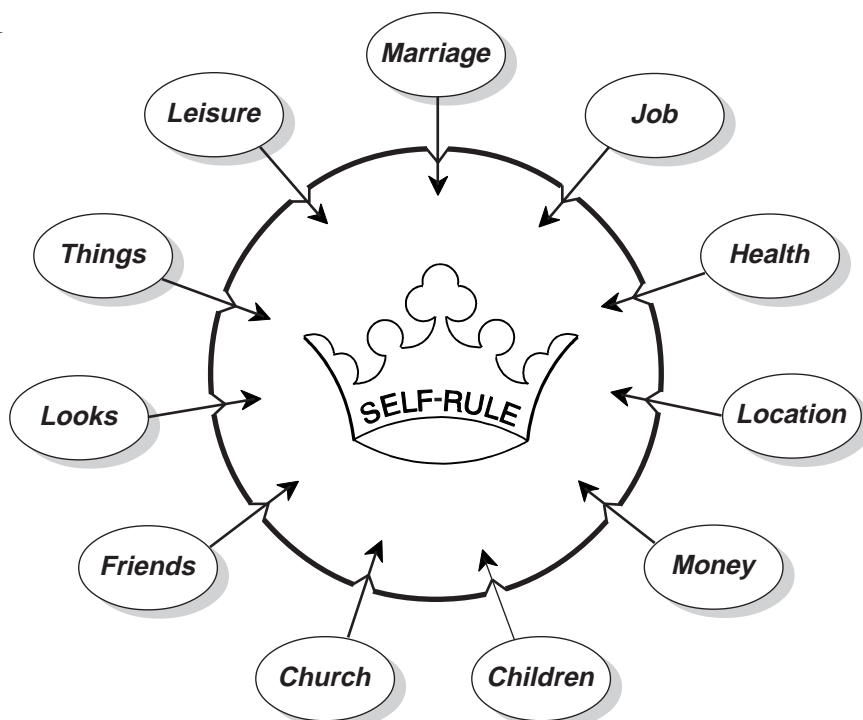
We look not at the things  
which are seen, but at  
the things which are not  
seen . . .

2 Corinthians 4:18

How have you been pursuing happiness? Jesus said that life does not consist in the abundance of the things that man possesses (Luke 12:15). Rather, life is to be found INternally, not EXternally. Yet we are tremendously influenced by what the world tells us is important. Most Christians easily stand against the idea that fulfillment is found in drugs or alcohol or illicit sex—and yet, more often succumb to the seductive idea that education determines success or that financial security assures happiness or that psychological understanding provides satisfying answers to life's problems. This lesson will uncover the deceptions of the world. Where is *life*? Could Jesus say of us that we are unwilling to come to Him to have *life*? (John 5:40).

# THE DECEPTION OF EXTERNAL FULFILLMENT

Eccl. 2:1-11



130-A



## **NOTES**

## External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **130-A**:

*To show that happiness and fulfillment  
cannot be attained through external things.*

EXT/INT

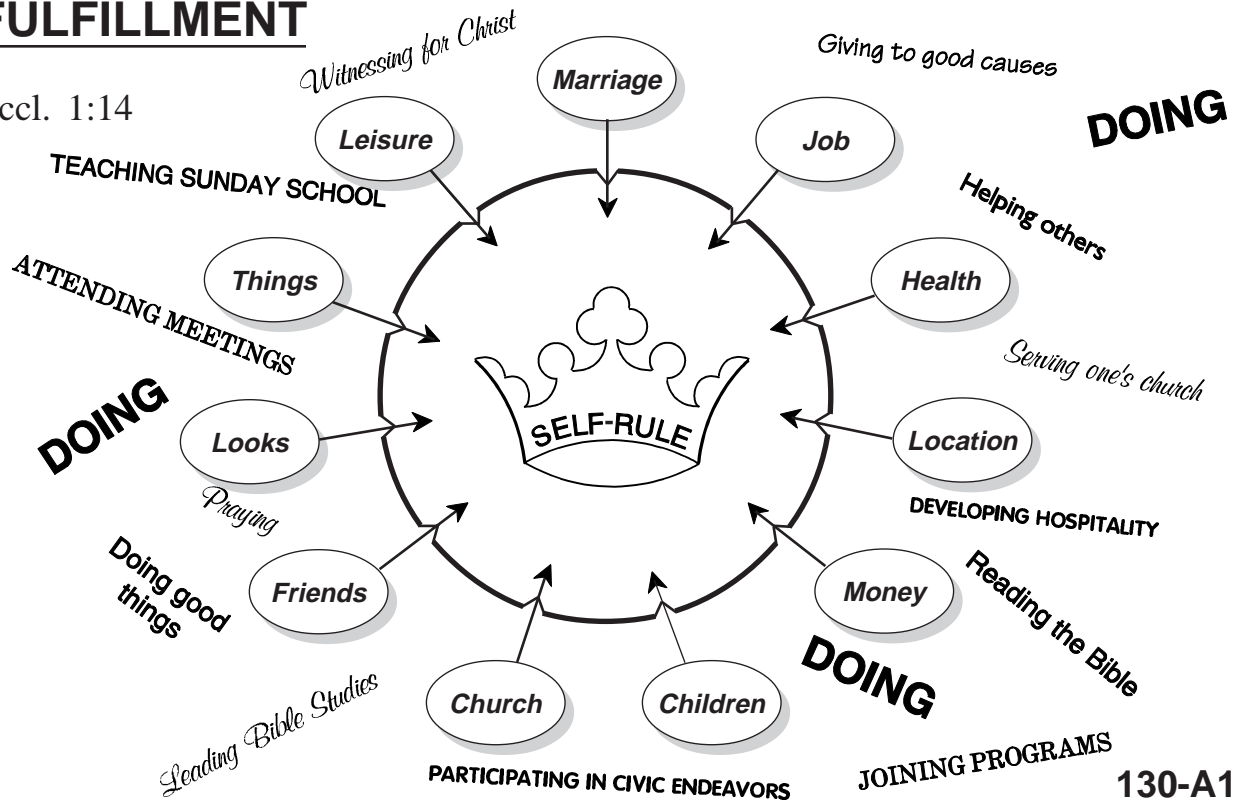
- ? 1. Have you tried to find happiness in any of these areas? Describe.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 2. Which of these areas would you consider to be a negative in your life?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 3. Have you pursued fulfillment through turning the negatives into positives?  
How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 4. Which ones are you currently pursuing to change into a positive?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  5. Study Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. Notice how many times the pronouns “I”, “my”, or “myself” are used.
- ? 6. Did the positives in Solomon’s life bring contentment? Yes No
-  7. Study Luke 12:15. Where does Jesus say life is not found?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 8. Do you see how you have been deceived into believing that life is found in any of these areas? \_\_\_\_\_

*... everything is  
futility . . . . Eccl. 2:17*

*External fulfillment is a lie!*

# THE CHRISTIAN'S DECEPTION OF EXTERNAL FULFILLMENT

Eccl. 1:14



## NOTES

## External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **130-A1**:

*To reveal the futility of a Christian trying to find fulfillment  
and meaning in DOING good things.*

EXT/INT

? 1. Which of these activities are you doing now? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 2. Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 3. Have you been deceived into thinking that God wants you to do  
things? \_\_\_\_\_

? 4. Do you believe doing good things  
will gain God's favor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*... our righteousnesses  
are as filthy rags.* Isa. 64:6  
(KJV)

 5. Study Luke 10:38-42.

? 6. Do you see that Martha's focus was activity FOR Christ while Mary's  
focus WAS Christ and knowing Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 7. Can Christian service become an idol? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 8. Is it possible that your Christian service for God is an attempt to find  
fulfillment in external activities? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*I wasn't created to be a human doing.*

## **EVERYTHING BUT GOD**

Jeremiah 2:13

- ◆ Call a friend for advice.
- ◆ Eat food to fill the vacuum.
- ◆ Use uppers, downers, or alcohol to relieve anxiety or depression.
- ◆ Try to figure it out with your mind.
- ◆ Buy something to distract you from the pain.
- ◆ Get educated to solve problems.
- ◆ Get angry to get results.
- ◆ Work harder to overcome.
- ◆ Get overly busy to forget.
- ◆ Give money to soothe your conscience.
- ◆ Get divorced or get a new spouse.
- ◆ Spend time sleeping to escape overwhelming life situations.

Lastly, call on God!

**130-B**

### ***NOTES***

## External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

### PURPOSE for Diagram 130-B:

*To illustrate how believers act like nonbelievers and turn to worldly ways of coping, rather than turning to God.*

EXT/INT

- ? 1. Look at this diagram and note which actions apply to you.

---

---

- ? 2. Why isn't God considered first? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

*... come to Me, that  
you may have life.* John 5:40

-  3. Study Jeremiah 2:13. What are the two sins you see? \_\_\_\_\_

---

- ? 4. What pots or cisterns are you going to for life? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ? 5. Are they really satisfying? \_\_\_\_\_

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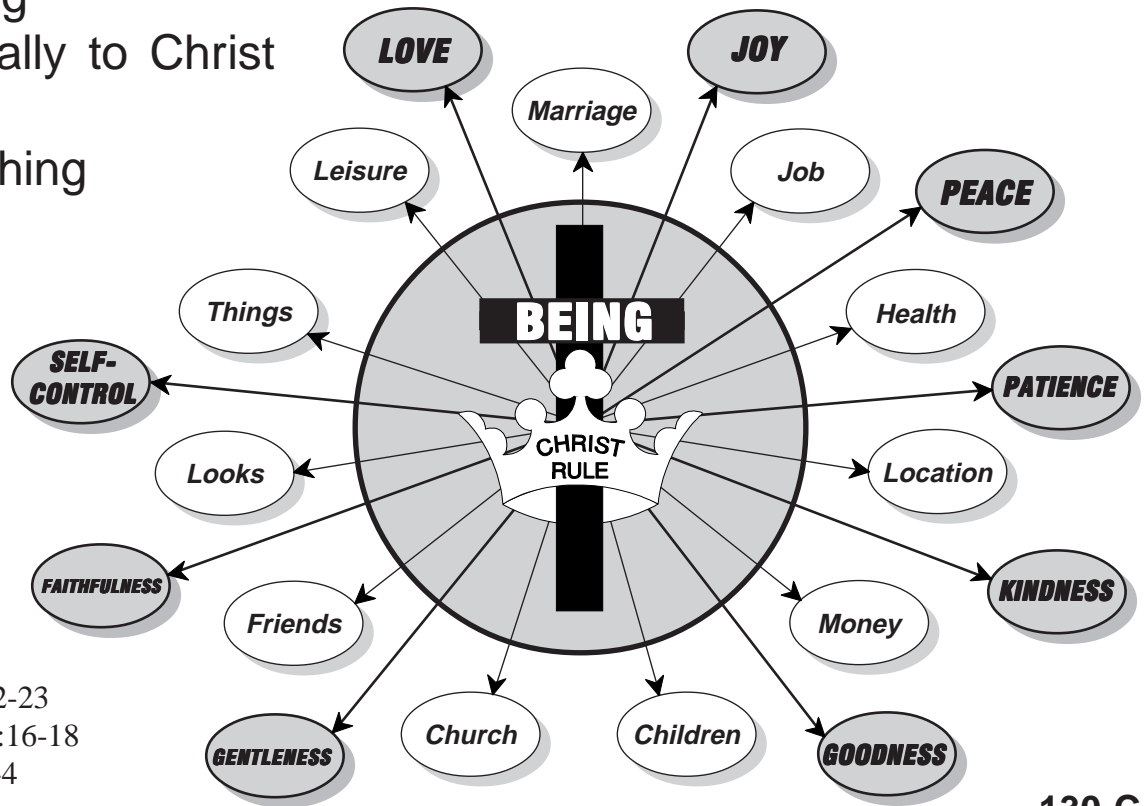
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- ? 6. What are some of the consequences you are suffering because of your worldly choices? \_\_\_\_\_

---

*Nothing but God will work.*

Looking  
Internally to Christ  
For  
Everything



Gal. 5:22-23  
2 Cor. 4:16-18  
Col. 3:1-4

130-C

**NOTES**



## External/Internal STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **130-C**:

*To illustrate that a Christian's fulfillment is based  
internally on being one with Christ.*

EXT/INT



1. Study Matthew 6:33.



2. Why has the direction of the arrows changed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. What is your main focus—God's kingdom or external fulfillment?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*... Christ in whom are  
hidden all treasures ...*

Col. 2:2-3



4. Study Colossians 3:1-4.

Where is your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. Are you allowing Christ to rule your life? How is it demonstrated?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. Are you allowing Christ to meet your needs or are you looking to  
externals to meet your needs? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. Will you admit to God your focus has been in the wrong direction?  
Will you invite Him to sit on the throne of your life and rule it now?

*Jesus is Life!*

## **REVIEW**

- Happiness is not found in things or people.
- Fulfillment comes from God being my focus.
- Joy comes from **Looking Internally to Christ For Everything.**
- I must repent of all external idols such as relationships, possessions, accomplishments, job, and even Christian work.
- Real life comes from Jesus Christ.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

**PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS?** 

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT’S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS?

... God causes all  
things to work together  
for good . . . .

Romans 8:28

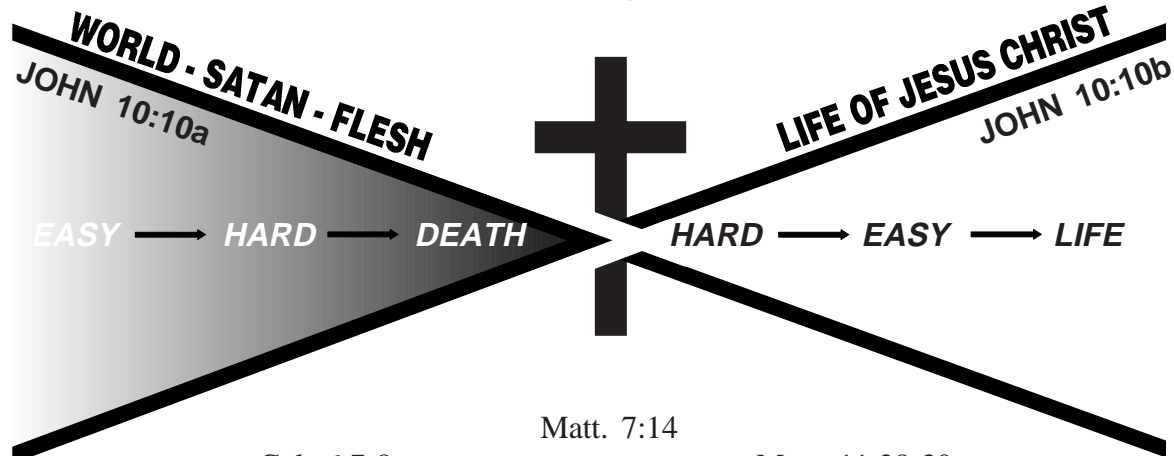
Scripture says that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Is this true in your experience as well as in your theological belief? If so, do you become aware of the process only after the good has been worked out? Do you know God's heart and walk with Him, so that you can rejoice in the completion of God's good purpose while actually *in the pressures* of the moment?

Seek to understand the experiences of your life from God's perspective. Victorious Christian living is rooted in victorious Christian thinking—especially in regard to the problems of life. There are four kinds of problems in life:

- 1) **problems that are the result of our own wrong choices (90%),**
- 2) **problems due to the wrong choices of others (5%),**
- 3) **problems God allows because He loves us and wants to bring us to maturity (4%), and**
- 4) **problems God allows for His glory (1%).**

# DEATH TO LIFE

Rom. 8:3-4, 12-13



Matt. 7:14

Gal. 6:7-8

Matt. 11:28-30

Matt. 7:13

James 1:13-15

Rom. 8:1-2

John 5:24

Prov. 14:12

Matt. 16:24-26

**140-A**

## **NOTES**

# Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **140-A**:

*To show how the world's ways start out easy, but lead to death and to show how God's ways start out hard, but lead to life.*



1. Study Luke 15:11-32. What appealed to the son that started out easy? \_\_\_\_\_ How did it get hard and lead to death? \_\_\_\_\_ What hard thing did the son have to do that led to life? \_\_\_\_\_



2. What problem have you had that started appealing or easy and ended in misery or death? \_\_\_\_\_



3. What is the most pressing problem you face today? Describe. \_\_\_\_\_



4. Where are you on this diagram? \_\_\_\_\_

***Enter by the narrow gate.***

Matt. 7:13a



5. Study John 10:10. In which part are you living? \_\_\_\_\_

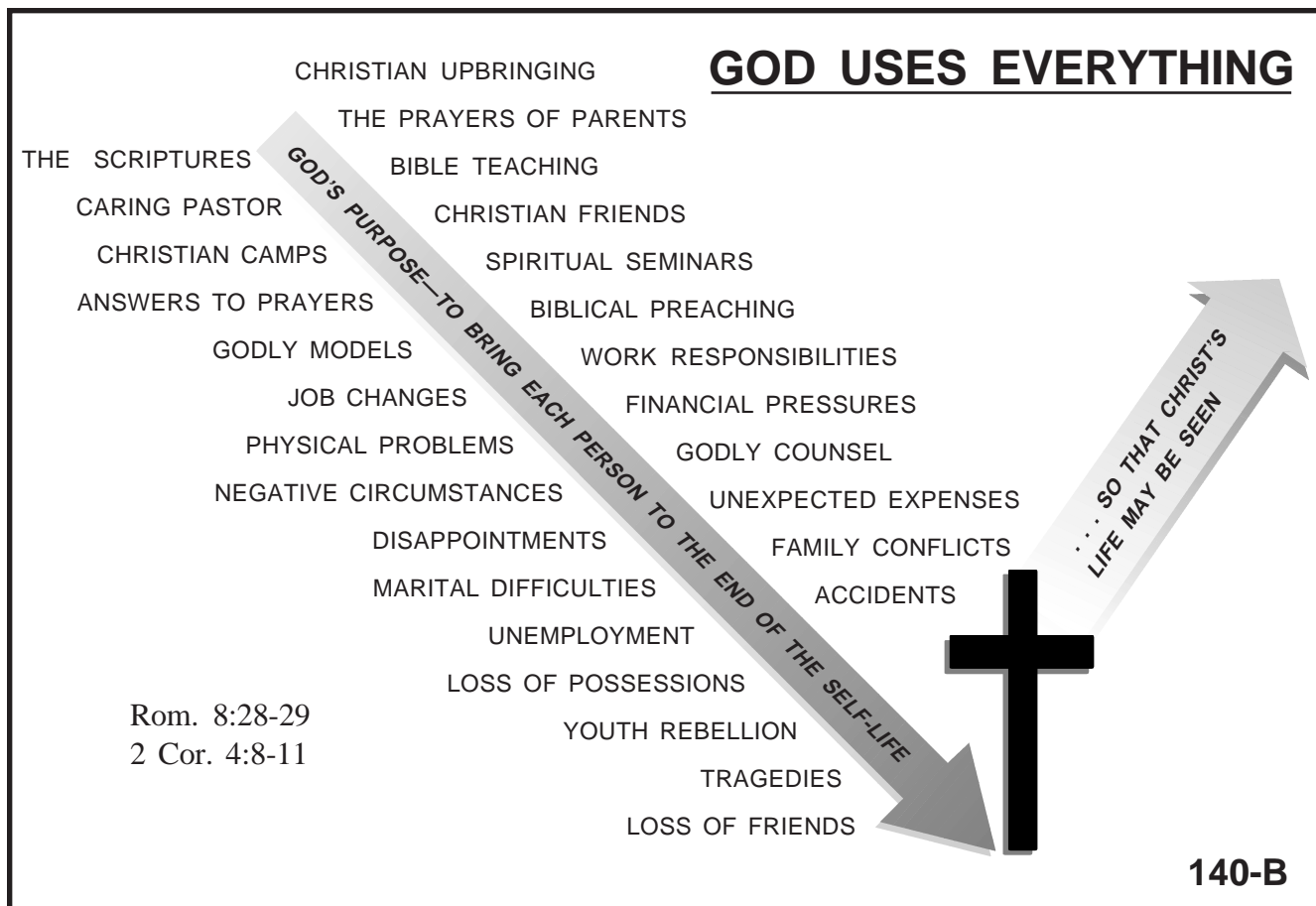


6. Do you want to stay where you are? \_\_\_\_\_



7. What would entering the narrow gate look like for you? \_\_\_\_\_

*Give it up!  
My way isn't working anyway.*



## NOTES

**TLM 10E**

**TLM 12E**



# Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **140-B**:

*To show that God uses all that happens to us  
to bring about His eternal purposes.*



1. Study Romans 8:28-29.



2. What does God say is the good that He predestined for us? \_\_\_\_\_

How have you defined what would be good for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Whose good is guaranteed? \_\_\_\_\_



3. How do you see God conforming you to the image of His Son by the problems you are now facing? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Study 2 Corinthians 4:8-11. How is this problem being used to bring you to death? How can Christ's life be seen in you as you walk through your problem? \_\_\_\_\_

*... death ... that the life  
of Jesus be manifested ...*

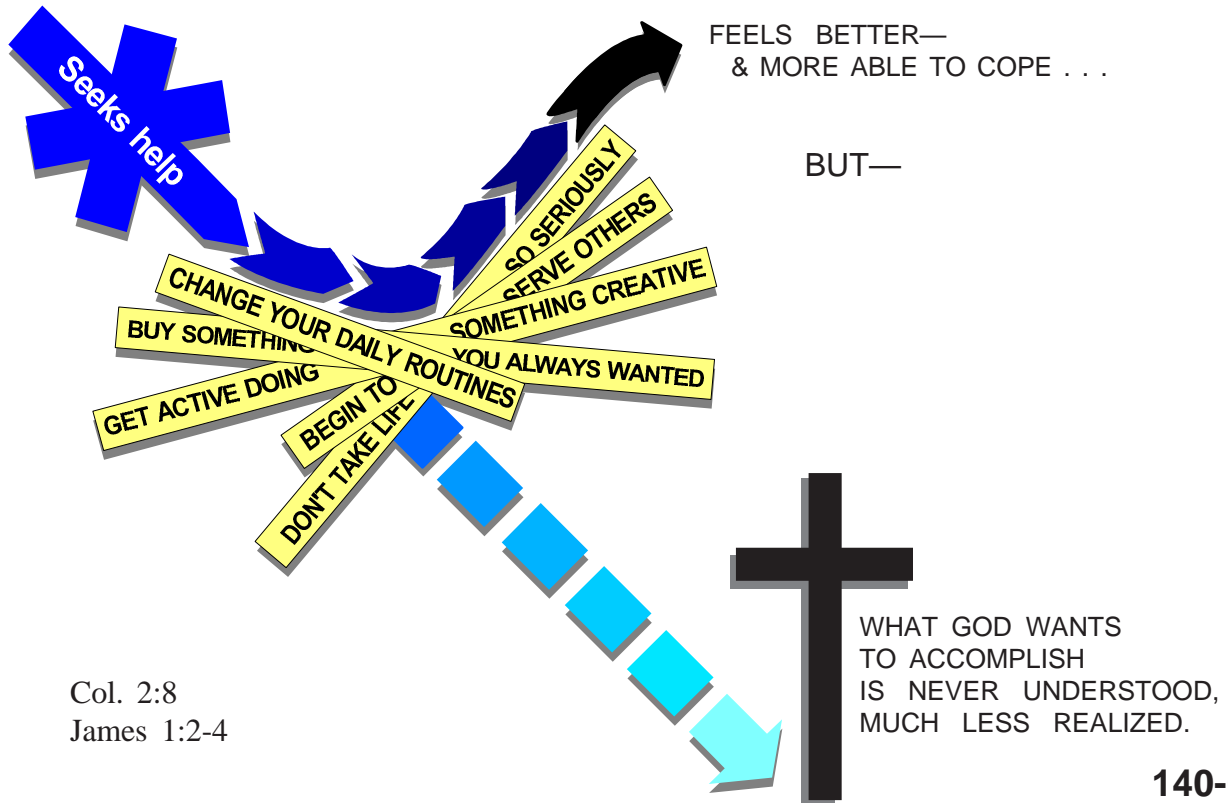
2 Cor. 4:11



5. What area of your self-life (godship) does God want to bring to death? \_\_\_\_\_

*God uses everything to conform me to  
Christ's image.*

## WELL-MEANING DETOURS



### NOTES

# Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

## STUDY GUIDE

PURPOSE for Diagram 140-C:

*To warn of the danger of being sidetracked before  
God's purposes can be accomplished.*



1. Study James 1:2-4. How are we told to consider trials? \_\_\_\_\_  
What do trials produce in us? \_\_\_\_\_



2. What are you doing to get out of your trials? \_\_\_\_\_



3. If you get out of your trials, how will you become mature? \_\_\_\_\_

*. . . philosophy  
and empty  
deception . . . .*

Col. 2:8

*Let God finish what He started.*

## DEAD TO THE SELF-LIFE AND ALIVE TO CHRIST'S LIFE

1 Thess. 5:18  
Eph. 5:20



140-D

### **NOTES**

# Problems, Problems, Why Problems?

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **140-D**:

*To move a person to godly action concerning a problem.*



1. Study Philippians 3:8.



2. What would it take to bring you to the point where you could say with Paul, "I Count all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ."? \_\_\_\_\_

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



3. Study Jeremiah 29:11-12.



4. Why can you trust God? \_\_\_\_\_

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

*... to become  
conformed to  
the image of  
His Son . . . .*

Rom. 8:29



5. Study Ephesians 5:20 & 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Can you thank God in what's happening? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



6. Are you ready to be obedient to God in what is happening? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*LIFE comes out of death!*

## **REVIEW**

- Problems in life cannot be avoided.
- God uses *everything* in our lives to accomplish His purposes.
- Often problems cause us to come to a point of weakness either physically, spiritually, financially, or relationally so we will give up doing things our way.
- God wants us to trust Him because of His sovereignty, love, and power.
- We can even thank God for the problems He permits, because they cause us to come to Him and totally depend on Him.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

**MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY** 

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

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NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE





# MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY

Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so . . . .

Romans 8:7

FLESH

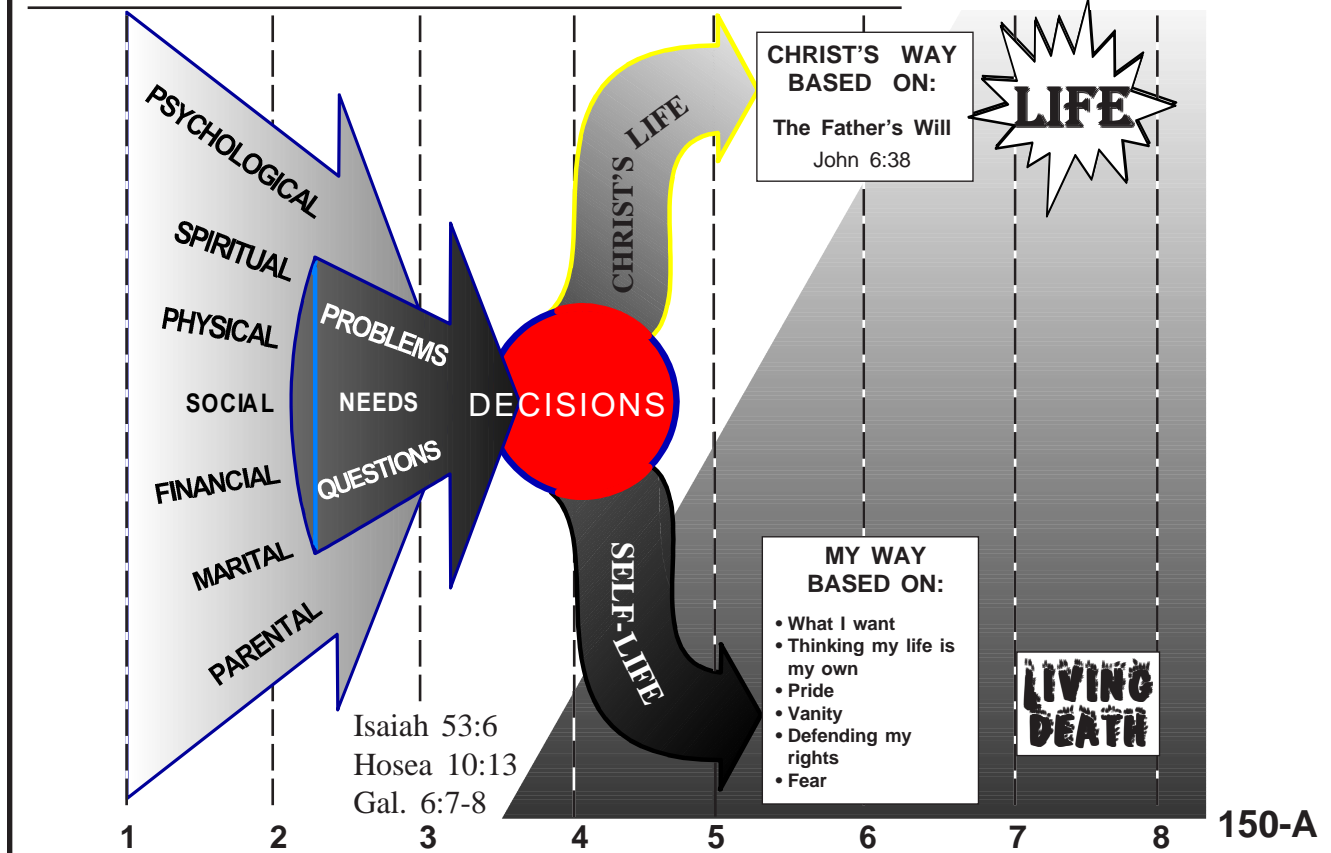
This lesson deals with the condition within each of us whereby we desire to operate in our own strength, reason, and selfish desires. This condition is called the flesh or the self-life. The flesh may be described as “my claim to my right to myself” (Oswald Chambers). Paul says in Romans 8:6 that “The mind set on the flesh is death.” This is a crucial lesson to uncover a basic reason Christians are not living in victory. They are choosing to walk after the flesh. There is good news—victory is possible because **I am not my flesh.**

Consider this quote to help clarify the “flesh.”

“We have all learned to rely on our own strategies for getting our needs met. The Bible calls this mechanism for servicing our own needs the *flesh*. Every person has developed his flesh-life in order to get what he wants out of life as much of the time as possible. Don't think of flesh as skin, but as personal *techniques* for meeting your own perceived needs, apart from Christ. . . .” From *Grace Walk* by Steve McVey, page 28.

# MAKING LIFE OR DEATH DECISIONS

Deut. 30:19-20



## NOTES

# My Flesh—God's Enemy

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **150-A:**

*To show that all decisions will reap life or death  
depending upon whether they are made my way or Christ's way.*



1. Study Deuteronomy 30:19-20.



2. What is God's desire for you? Is He interested in every decision you make? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. List a decision you need to make in one of the seven areas of life.

\_\_\_\_\_



4. How have you typically made decisions in the past? Which of the six ways of deciding "my way" have you used? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



5. How have you experienced a living death? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



6. Study John 6:38.



7. How can you know what God's will is regarding your decision? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



8. Study John 5:30. Is doing your own will hindering you from considering God's will? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

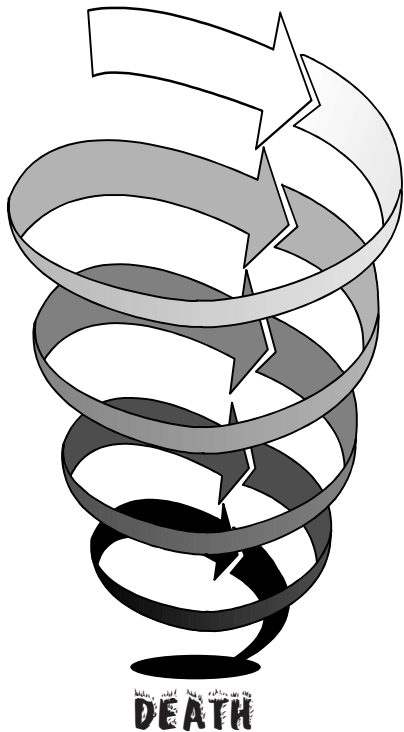
*My life is not my own.*

FLESH

***Choose life!***

Deut. 30:19

## SELF-LIFE



Matthew 16:25a

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| SELF-LIFE          | <i>James 3:16</i>      |
| SELF-COMMENDATION  | <i>2 Cor. 10:17-18</i> |
| SELF-OCCUPATION    | <i>Phil. 2:4</i>       |
| SELF-PLEASING      | <i>Rom. 15:1-3</i>     |
| SELF-CONDEMNATION  | <i>Rom. 8:1</i>        |
| SELF-DEFENSIVENESS | <i>Gen. 3:11-13</i>    |
| SELF-PITY          | <i>Jonah 4:8</i>       |
| SELF-DESTRUCTION   | <i>Phil. 3:19</i>      |

**150-B**

## **NOTES**

# My Flesh—God's Enemy

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram 150-B:

*To reveal the cause and the process of death brought about through the self-life.*



1. Study Matthew 16:25.



2. Have you been seeking your own way? \_\_\_\_\_

Have your decisions reflected that mindset? \_\_\_\_\_



3. Study James 3:16. How might your selfish ambition lead to every evil thing? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Which of these steps in the spiral can you identify with now? \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you are living your life for yourself, you are headed down further.



6. Study John 12:25.



7. Are you ready to admit an infatuation with yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

*For the mind  
set on the flesh  
is death . . . .*

Rom. 8:6

FLESH

*Self-life leads to death.*

# **DISCERNING THE FLESH**

Romans 8:5-8

## **TEST YOUR MOTIVES**

**1.**

Is my decision for the **FLESH**?

- Am I doing it for my self-interest? *Phil. 2:3-4*
- Is it against God's word? *Ps. 119:11*
- Is it contrary to those in authority? *Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17*
- Am I feeling frustrated, angry, or fearful? *Gal. 5:16-21*
- Is there a lack of contentment? *1 Tim. 6:6*

*If so, the result is **DEATH, LOSS, and CORRUPTION!***

**2.**

Is my decision for the **SPIRIT**?

- Is it in agreement with God's Word? *John 6:63*
- Am I doing it in recognition that my life is not my own? *2 Cor. 5:15*
- Am I acknowledging God's sovereign control in everything and trusting Him to work things out? *Rom. 8:28*

*If so, the result is **LIFE & PEACE!***

**150-C**

## **NOTES**

# My Flesh—God's Enemy

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **150-C**:

*To provide a means to determine if motives  
are from the Spirit or the flesh.*

- ? 1. Do you have any doubts that your decisions are motivated by the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_
- 📖 2. Study Galatians 5:16-21.
- ? 3. Are your decisions or actions found in this list? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 4. What principles in God's Word speak to you about the decision you are facing? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 5. Is it contrary to those in authority over you? This would include for example: your pastor, parents, husband, or boss. Have you checked? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 6. Are you feeling angry, frustrated, fearful, or discontented? What do these feelings show you? \_\_\_\_\_

***This is the way, walk in it.*** Isa. 30:21

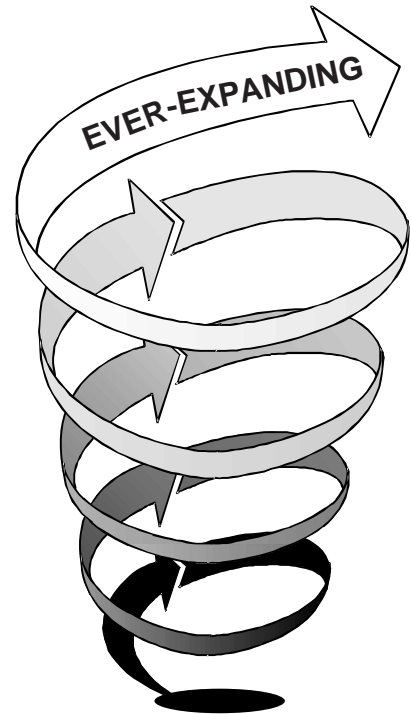
- ? 7. Are you unwilling to ask for help and guidance from anyone? (See Diagram 100-A.) Yes No
- ? 8. If you're acknowledging that your life belongs to God would it affect your decision? \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 9. If you could really trust God would it affect your decision? \_\_\_\_\_

***Motive is the key.***

FLESH

## CHRIST'S LIFE

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>John 15:16</i>     | MINISTRY to OTHERS   |
| <i>Matt. 28:19-20</i> | OUTREACH             |
| <i>Gal. 5:1</i>       | SPIRITUAL FREEDOM    |
| <i>1 John 4:11-12</i> | MATURE LOVE          |
| <i>Psalms 62:5</i>    | EXPECTATION From GOD |
| <i>Psalms 50:23</i>   | WORSHIP & PRAISE     |
| <i>Matt. 16:24</i>    | DAILY CROSS-BEARING  |
| <i>Luke 9:23</i>      | DENY SELF            |



150-D

## **NOTES**



# My Flesh—God's Enemy

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **150-D**:

*To show how Christ's life can be expressed in a person.*



1. Study Acts 16:22-31.



2. How does this diagram illustrate this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*... whoever loses  
his life for My sake  
shall find it.* Matt. 16:25



3. Study Luke 9:23.



4. What would denying yourself look like? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



5. How would it affect your decision-making process? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



6. Are you ready to confess decisions you have made based on your own desires and commit to follow His will and not your own? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



7. Can you begin to praise God that your life is turning around? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



8. Study John 15:16. Have you considered how you can minister to others? Who? How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Blessed to be a blessing.*

FLESH

## **REVIEW**

- The flesh or self-life is a condition that exists within every person, believers and nonbelievers alike.
- A believer has been born of the Spirit and does not have to carry out the deeds of the flesh.
- However, when a believer chooses his or her own way over God's way that person is walking after the flesh and it will produce death.
- By checking my motives, I can determine if I am walking after the flesh or walking after the Spirit.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

**REPENTANCE** 

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT’S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# **REPENTANCE**

Or do you think lightly of  
the riches of His kindness and  
forbearance and patience, not  
knowing that the kindness of  
God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

REPENT

We came to Christ by repentance. Do we need to repent after salvation? Yes! Have you looked for life and fulfillment in things, people, or your performance instead of looking to God for fulfillment? Have you been going your own way ignoring God's right to be God in your life? Maybe you have been rejecting yourself or God. If any of these things are true, REPENTANCE is needed. Pride works against taking such action. And yet, we see throughout Scripture that true repentance is the gateway to wholeness and joy and peace with God. God is "against the proud" (1 Peter 5:5), but always ready to meet the repentant soul with forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration.



*Spirit*—Eph. 2:1

*Mind*—Eph. 4:17-18

*Will*—Titus 3:3

*Emotions*—Eph. 4:19

*Body*—Gal. 5:19-21



**NATURAL MAN:** UNREGENERATED

**IN** THE FLESH & WALKING **AFTER** THE FLESH

1 Corinthians 2:14

**160-A**

## NOTES

# Repentance

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **160-A**:

*To illustrate the utter hopelessness of the person  
who is not born again spiritually.*



1. Study Ephesians 2:1-3.



2. Where is God in this diagram? \_\_\_\_\_



3. How did you become a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Have you had any doubts you were really a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_



5. Study Ephesians 4:17-19.



6. How would you describe your heart  
in regard to the things of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*You were dead in your  
trespasses and sins.*

Eph. 2:1



7. Is it hard to choose the right things to do? \_\_\_\_\_



8. How do you feel after you sin? \_\_\_\_\_



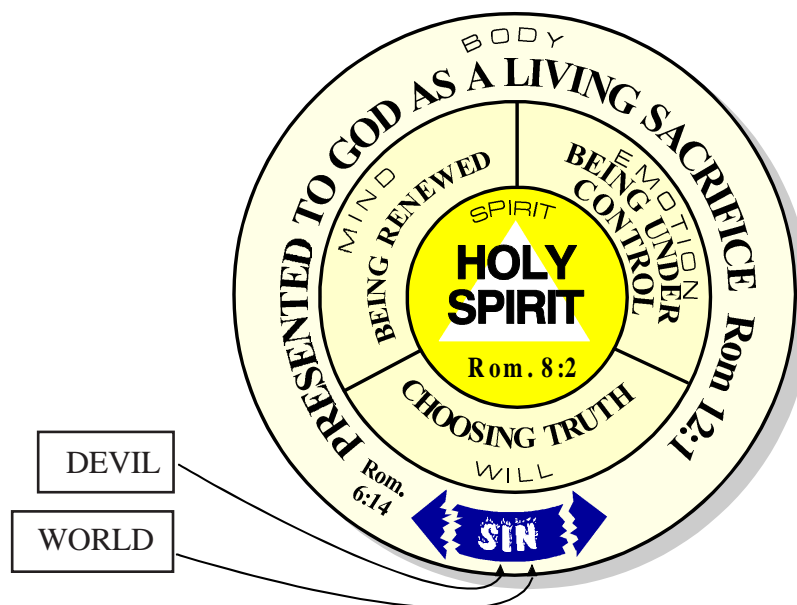
9. Study Matthew 7:21-23.



10. If you are unclear about your relationship to God, go over the verses  
on the page titled "How to Commit Your Life to Christ" before "Godship."

*Jesus didn't come to make bad  
people good, but dead people alive!*

REPENT



CRUCIFIED  
Rom. 6:6

## SPIRITUAL MAN: FUNCTIONING SPIRITUALLY:

REGENERATED; **IN** THE SPIRIT & WALKING **AFTER** THE SPIRIT

Rom. 6:12-13; Rom. 13:14; Col. 3:9-10

160-A1

### NOTES



## Repentance STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram 160-A1:

*An illustration of a person who has accepted Jesus Christ  
and is walking after the Spirit.*



1. Study Romans 8:11.



2. Where is God now? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. Study Romans 6:6, 14.



4. Is your old self really dead? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. What happened to sin's power? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*... our old self  
was crucified . . . .*  
Rom. 6:6



6. In what ways are you currently being tempted? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



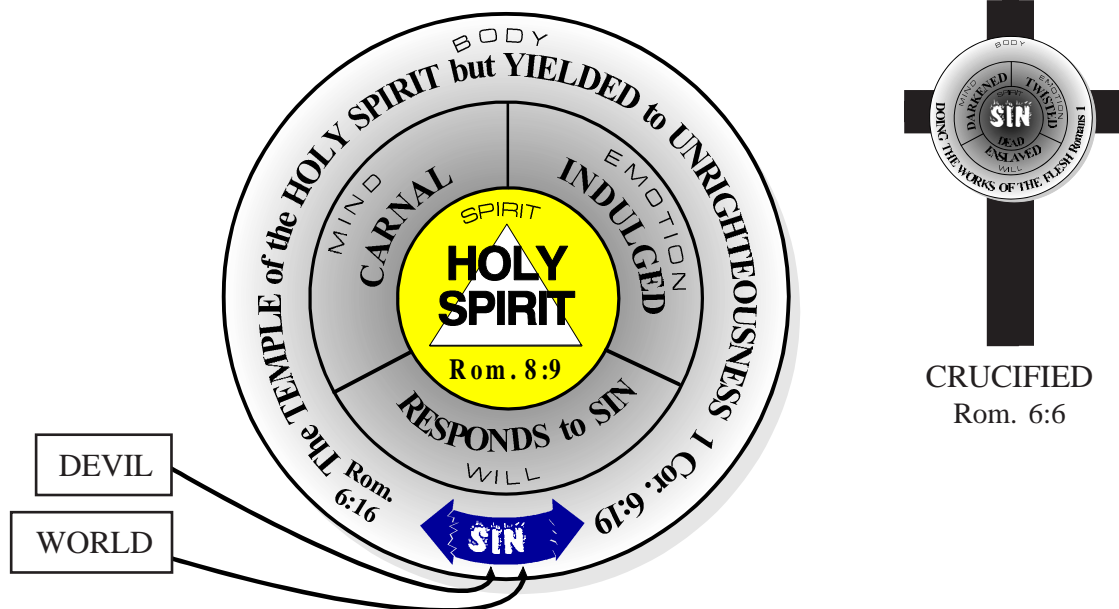
7. Does this diagram accurately describe your walk with God today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8. If not, check the next diagram and see if it does.

*The indwelling Spirit makes me  
spiritual—not my behavior!*

REPENT



## **SPIRITUAL MAN: FUNCTIONING CARNALLY:**

REGENERATED; **IN** THE SPIRIT BUT WALKING **AFTER** THE FLESH

Rom. 7:22-24; 1 Cor. 3:3; 1 Cor. 6:15

**160-A2**

### ***NOTES***

## Repentance STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **160-A2**:

*To show how a spiritual man or woman can make sinful choices  
and function as a natural man or woman.*



1. Study James 1:13-15.



2. How do you handle temptations? \_\_\_\_\_



3. How does this diagram depict your life? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Are you led into temptation by your thoughts? \_\_\_\_\_



5. Are you led into temptation by  
your emotions? \_\_\_\_\_

*You are not in the flesh  
but in the Spirit . . . .*

Rom. 8:9



6. Study 1 John 2:15.



7. How are your thoughts and emotions being influenced by the Devil  
and the world? \_\_\_\_\_



8. Are you ready to consider the process of repentance? Yes No

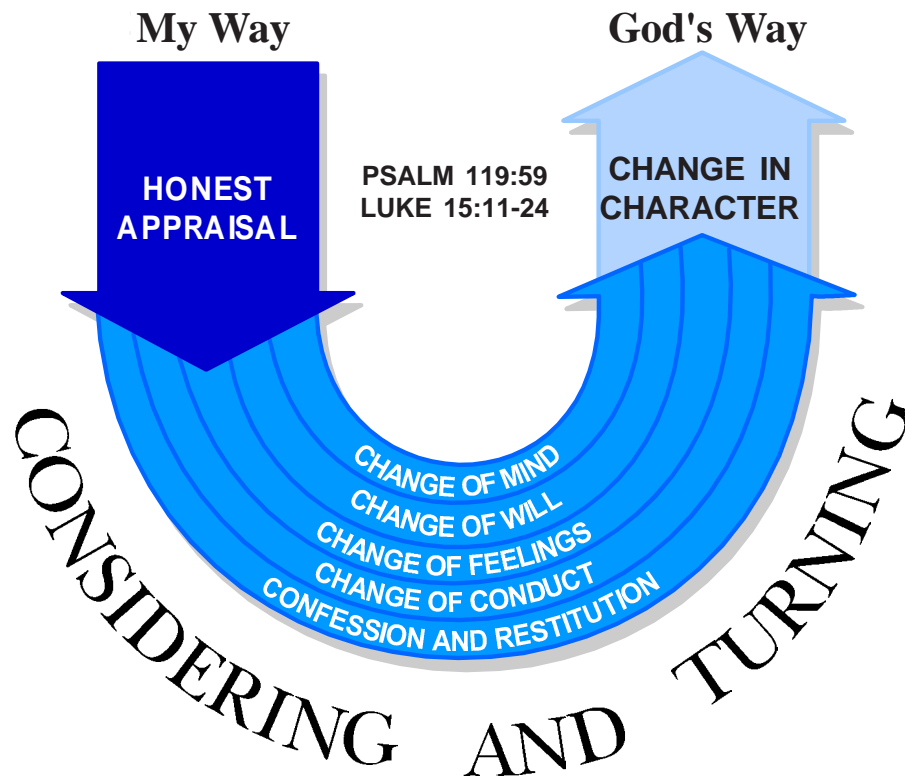


9. If so, then go to the next diagram.

*Christians can be carnal by behavior,  
but never carnal by nature.*

REPENT

## REPENTANCE



160-B

### **NOTES**

# Repentance

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **160-B**:

*This is a key diagram. To illustrate repentance as a U-turn.*



1. Study Psalm 119:59.



2. What two steps do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3. How have you been living according to your own way?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



4. Study Luke 15:11-24 and describe the repentance process in the story of the Prodigal Son. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



5. Study the “Considering” section of Diagram 160-C.



6. What sin have you been committing, how long, how often, who else is involved, and do you want to repent now? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



7. Are you ready to follow his example and repent? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If so, walk through the steps found under the word “Turning” on Diagram 160-C.

*I considered my ways,  
and turned my feet to  
Thy testimonies. Ps. 119:59*

REPENT

*It's never too soon to repent!*

# CONSIDERING

Considering your way begins with HONEST APPRAISAL.

HONEST APPRAISAL leads to as clear a statement as is possible for you to make, as to *WHAT IS*: that is, what the TRUTH is about your own purposes, motives, methods, and patterns—without the varnish of self-protection, without enhancing or guarding your reputation, and without using devious means to maintain personal objectives.

One difficulty encountered immediately is that of overcoming procrastination. Honest appraisal must be undertaken in obedience to God without waiting for the feelings. Honesty requires *facing the truth*. Often a person may need help in this process.

The following factors are suggested:

1. Pray specifically for God to reveal your “own way” or your self-life.
2. Wait upon God; listening to Him. You may want to record what God reveals.
3. Allow yourself no excuses, rationalizations, or alibis. Do not allow blaming others to stop the process.

The purpose of HONEST APPRAISAL is to bring about in you an attitude of cooperation with the Holy Spirit in which CHANGE OF MIND, CHANGE OF THE WILL, and CHANGE OF FEELING may follow.

# TURNING

- ♦ Quit doing what you were doing.
- ♦ Choose to appropriate the life of Christ to empower right decisions.
- ♦ Admit your sin to the Lord and thank Him for forgiveness.
- ♦ Admit your wrong to those you offended and seek their forgiveness.
- ♦ Make restitution when necessary.
- ♦ Walk in the freedom of who you are in Christ.

Note: Forgiveness is covered in detail in the VCL Conference “Extending Forgiveness” and “Seeking Forgiveness” lessons.

**160-C**

**TLM 12E**

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING Conference

*There is no study guide for 160-C*

REPENT

## MY OPINION ABOUT SIN

|                                    | <i>I'M TRULY REPENTANT</i>  | <i>I'M UNREPENTANT</i>   |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>AS TO THE NATURE OF SIN</b>     | I see my sin as disgusting and detestable. I am contrite and ashamed that I ever desired such a thing or actually ever did it. I see my own sin as hateful and deserving of hell. | Inwardly I harbor the secret opinion that my sin is desirable and “worth it.” I see that it will ruin me, that God will punish me—but I still love it. I may see that it will adversely affect my character; but if it could end in happiness, I would never abandon it. |
| <b>AS TO SIN'S RELATION TO GOD</b> | I view my sin with God's righteous evaluation. I do not question the severity of the judgment—but heartily agree with it.   | I don't see why God threatens my sin with such great judgment & punishment. When deeply convicted I may see it quite as God does, but only in fleeting glimpses.   |
| <b>AS TO THE TENDENCIES OF SIN</b> | I see my sin's destructive tendencies and accept in my own mind the rightness of God's dealings with it. I acknowledge that total abandonment of it is necessary.                 | I initially cannot grasp that sin's tendencies should lead to eternal death. I may see sin as ruinous to myself and others, in body and soul for time and eternity, and the very opposite of all that is good & lovely—and still rationalize my continuance of it.       |
| <b>AS TO WHAT SIN DESERVES</b>     | I have no doubt whatsoever about the justice of God's condemnation of my sin. I see this as a fact of God's character and, therefore, a valid and necessary action on God's part. | I admit in theory that sin deserves eternal death, but do not really believe it. (If I believed it, my unrepentant attitude would be impossible.) My real opinion is different than I think it is. I am self-deceived.<br><b>160-D</b>                                   |

## MY FEELINGS ABOUT SIN

|  | <i>I'M TRULY REPENTANT</i>   | <i>I'M UNREPENTANT</i>   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>TOWARD SIN'S NATURE &amp; RELATION TO GOD</b> | I see my sin as distinct from its consequences and really hate and detest it in my heart—not for what it brings, but for what it is, an insult to my holy God. Deep and profound sorrow crushes me when I'm repentant. | My feelings of regret are centered on my sin's consequences to me. I feel sorry my sin was discovered. But all this is pure selfishness. I really care nothing for what my sin does to God; its nature is unknown to me.   |
| <b>TOWARD SIN'S TENDENCIES</b>                   | I have a fervent desire to stop what I have been doing. My heart is set on fire to deliver myself and others from the direction, destruction, and ramifications of my sin.   | I rationalize my refusal to deal ruthlessly with sin by telling myself that for <i>my</i> action I have special safeguards. Sin will never trap me (I think) because I am too shrewd. I view my own actions as excusable, because I “will never go as far as others have gone.” I feel myself able to walk dangerously close to the edge of the cliff but never fall to my doom. The challenge to do so excites my passions and boosts my ego. |
| <b>TOWARD WHAT SIN DESERVES</b>                  | I feel right about what God says my sin deserves. Far from arguing with God's sentence, I am overwhelmed with wonder that God can forgive me.  | I fully agree intellectually that God's condemnation is deserved, but my heart continues to argue that my own case is different. My sin should be excluded (and this is supported by my long list of mental reasonings). The rightness of God's judgment produces no <i>feelings</i> of agreement.<br><b>160-D1</b>  |

**TLM 12E**



# Repentance

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **160-D & D1:**

*To distinguish the differences between  
the truly repentant person and the unrepentant person.*



1. Study Psalm 139:23-24.



2. Study these diagrams.



3. Your opinion about sin is important. What sin in your life have you considered “worth it” to continue rather than stop and repent of it? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think the Lord wants you to do? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Do you sometimes question the severity of God’s judgment? If so, write an example here: \_\_\_\_\_



5. Study Psalm 19:9. How do you believe God wants you to view His judgment of sin? \_\_\_\_\_



6. Write an example of a time you rationalized sin. \_\_\_\_\_

*Search me, O  
God, and know  
my heart . . . .*

Ps. 139:23



7. What opinion(s) about sin do you believe you could be deceived in? \_\_\_\_\_



8. Your feelings about sin are important also. Are your feelings of regret centered on the consequences of your sin, or the insult sin is to God? \_\_\_\_\_



9. Is your desire to stop sinning a fervent desire, or do you refuse to deal with sin ruthlessly? \_\_\_\_\_



10. What is God convicting you of right now? \_\_\_\_\_  
What will you do about God’s conviction? \_\_\_\_\_  
When will you do that? \_\_\_\_\_

REPENT

*It's time to repent—Now!*

## **REVIEW**

- Repentance is God's way of bringing us into His family.
- As God's child I can choose to walk after the flesh and sin.
- Every time I turn to sin I need to turn back to God's way by repentance.
- God uses people and circumstances to get my attention, so I will repent and stop doing things my way.
- After repentance I can start making right choices.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU?** 

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# WHAT'S NEW ABOUT YOU?

If any man is in  
Christ he is a new  
creature . . . .

2 Corinthians 5:17

God created you a God-conscious being. He gave you the ability to think in terms of your own personal identity as related to Him. You have a built-in need to view life in terms of meaning and purpose. Meaning and purpose in life flow from identity. Personal significance is a driving objective. The constant search for meaning has always motivated man (Psalm 8:3-4). This need is met only when a person experiences Christ as his/her very life and identity (Philippians 1:21; Colossians 3:3).

God's purpose is that through an intimate, obedient, dependent, love relationship with Him, you will receive and demonstrate the very life of Christ. His life, love, purity, patience, faithfulness, and power are meant to become yours and then be manifested through you.

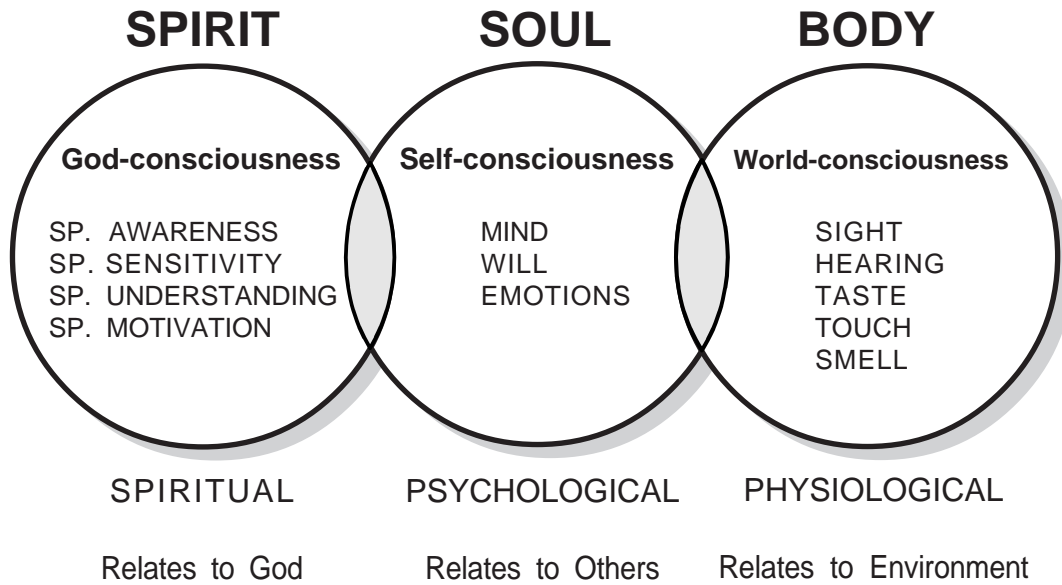
Adam and Eve lost the security of life through unbelief and disobedience. Following their rebellion, they tried to "make life work" with only human resources. Life's meaning and purpose thus had to be sought *within* the person, now that man had become god of his own life (Genesis 3:5). Identity, significance, and purpose must now be achieved by personal appearance, accomplishments, social status, possessions, or the earned acceptance of others.

**Sin is the deception that man can find meaning and purpose in life apart from a personal love relationship of obedience to the Creator of life.**

If you are a Christian living without a true picture of "who you are in Christ" you may be functioning in a manner that is lacking (if not contrary to) true freedom. This is an identity crisis!

In this lesson dare to take God's Word at face value, neither blindly affirming its truth without honest examination, nor rationalizing your failures and calling them acceptable. The greatness and victory of Christ's atonement is yours in reality.

## MAN—A TRIUNITY



**1 Thess. 5:23**

**Hebrews 4:12**

**170-A**

### **NOTES**

# What's New About You?

## STUDY GUIDE

### PURPOSE for Diagram 170-A:

*To explain the nature of man as a spiritual, psychological, physical being, and to introduce the significance of this in self-understanding.*

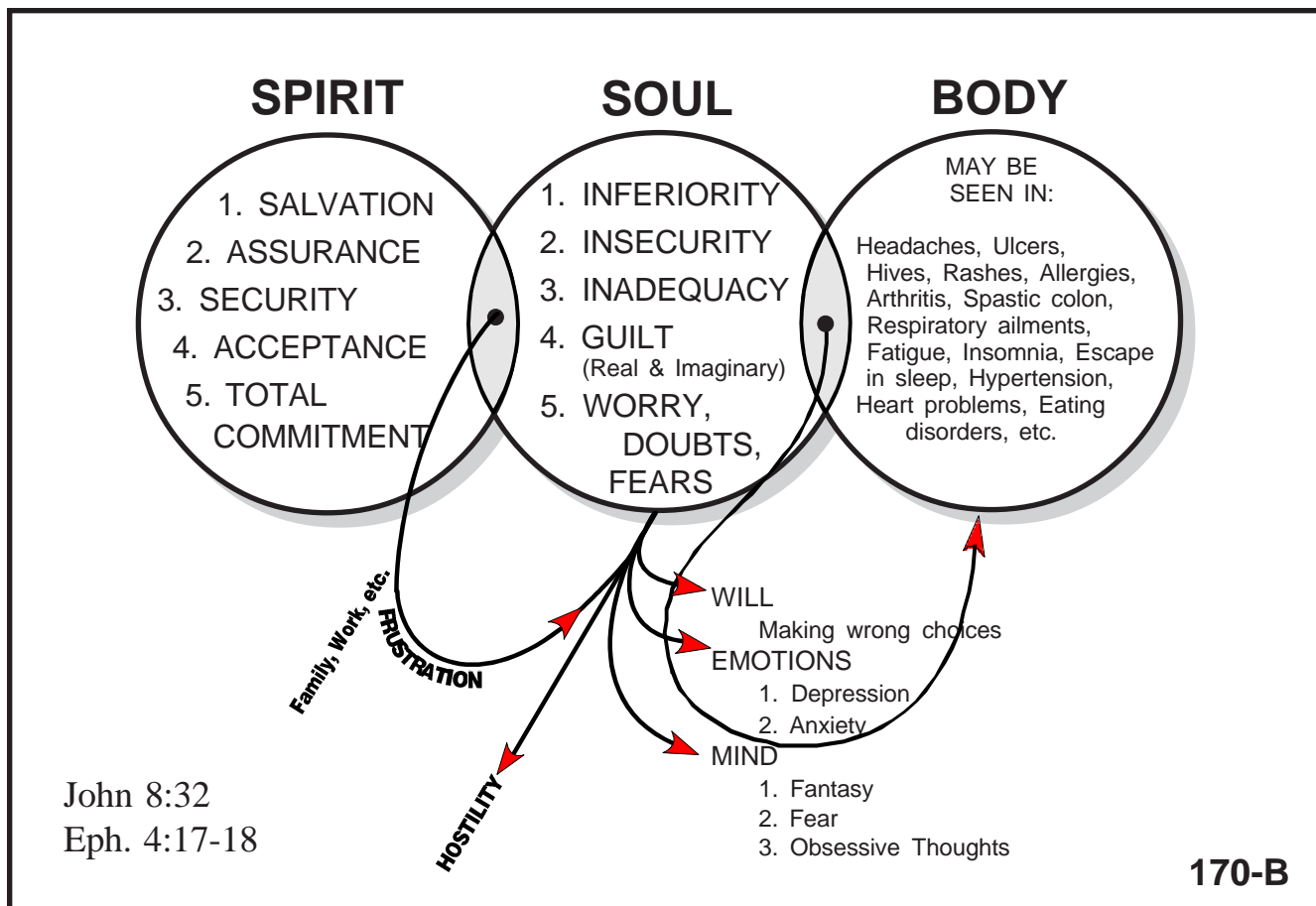
- ? 1. Do you think of yourself as a body? Examples: I am fat, I am in great shape, I am beautiful, etc. If so, explain \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 2. Do you spend a lot of time, money, or energy to improve your body or appearance? This could include clothes, exercise, diets, surgery etc. If so, explain \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 3. Do you think of your intellect as who you are? Examples: I am smart, I am decisive, I am a deep thinker or maybe even I am slow and not very smart. If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 4. Do you spend large amounts of time trying to figure things out or think situations or circumstances through? If so, explain \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 5. Do you define yourself by what you are feeling? Examples: I feel happy so I have joy or I feel guilty so I must be guilty. If so, explain \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 6. Do your emotions or how you are feeling determine whether or not you are having a good day? If so, explain \_\_\_\_\_
- ? 7. If you could believe your true identity was spiritual, how would that change your daily routine? \_\_\_\_\_

*... may your spirit  
and soul and body be  
preserved complete.*

1 Thess. 5:23

WHAT'S  
NEW

*I am a Spirit . . .  
I have a soul . . .  
I live in a body . . .*



## NOTES



# What's New About You?

## STUDY GUIDE

### PURPOSE for Diagram 170-B:

*To show that the difference between what is true in the Spirit and what is felt to be true in the soul creates inner problems which express themselves in disturbing ways.*



Do you ever experience any of the following feelings?  
(an extra sheet of paper may be necessary)

1. Inferiority \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
2. Insecurity \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
3. Inadequacy \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
4. Guilt \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
5. Worry, doubt, fear \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
6. Depression \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
7. Anxiety \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
8. Obsessive thoughts or behavior \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
9. Why do you think you experience these feelings? \_\_\_\_\_



10. Study Proverbs 3:5-8.



11. How would your life experience change if you lived according to what God says about you, instead of how you feel or what you, others, or the world think?

*Walk no longer . . .  
in the futility of  
their (your) mind.*

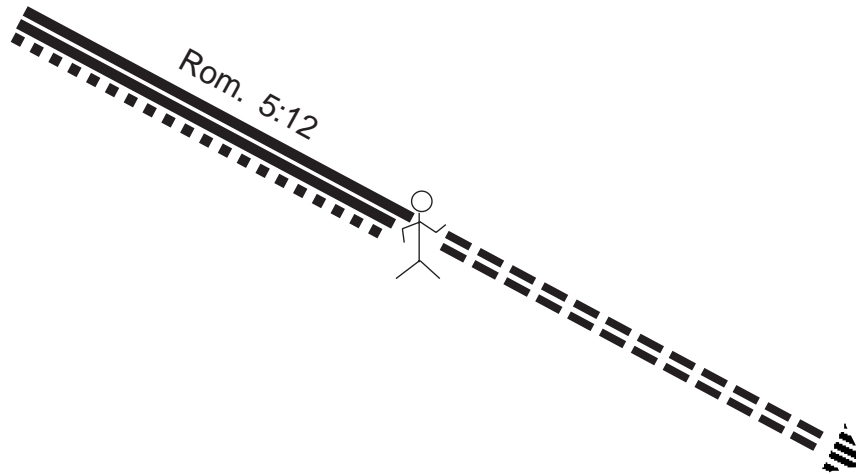
Eph. 4:17

WHAT'S  
NEW

*My feelings may not be true.*

**“IN”  
ADAM**

SIN  
SEPARATION



170-C

## NOTES

# What's New About You?

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **170-C**:

*To give an understanding of how all persons became sinners  
through their descent from Adam.*



1. Study Romans 5:12.



2. What did you learn about you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. What does it mean to be “IN” Adam? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



4. Study Romans 3:23, 6:23.

*All have sinned . . .* Rom. 3:23



5. What did you learn about sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



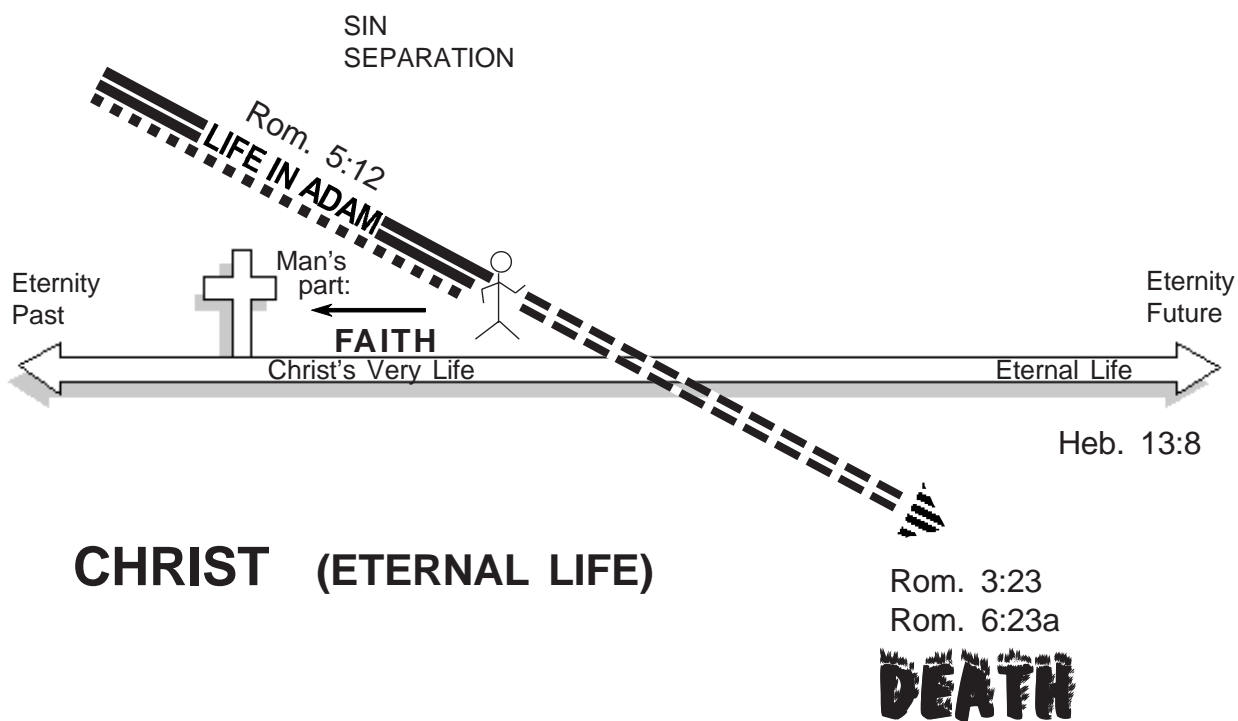
6. Are you a sinner? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. What will happen to you when you die? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Born once—die twice!  
Born twice—die once!*

# IT'S YOUR CHOICE



170-C1

## NOTES

## What's New About You?

### STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **170-C1**:

*To show the sinner the choice of eternal life in Christ as an alternative to death.*

---

*... while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.* Rom. 5:8



1. Study Romans 5:12, 17-19.



2. What did you receive because of Adam's sin? \_\_\_\_\_



3. What did you receive because of Christ's obedience? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Study Romans 10:9-10.



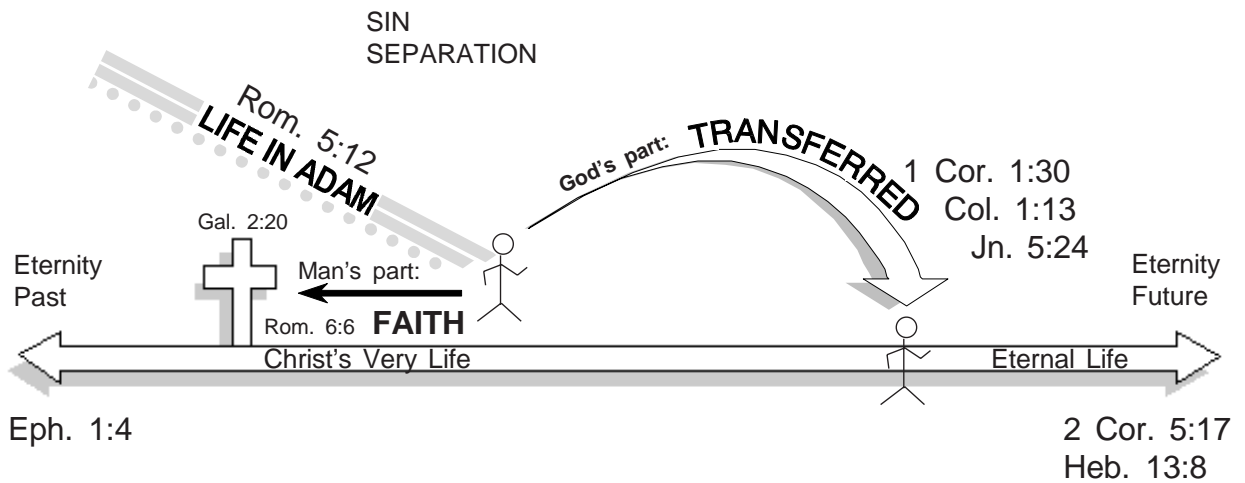
5. Do you have to end up in spiritual death? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not sure you are truly "In Christ," then now would be a wonderful time to open your life up to Him and receive Him as your Savior and Lord. He is knocking and waiting (Revelation 3:20).

*I wouldn't choose death,  
would I?*

WHAT'S  
NEW

## LIFE IN CHRIST



**“IN” CHRIST (ETERNAL LIFE)**

**170-C2**

## **NOTES**

# What's New About You?

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **170-C2**:

*To show the believer in Christ is actually removed from being  
“in Adam” and placed “into Christ.”*



1. Study 1 Corinthians 1:30.



2. Whose work was it to move you from the old path to the new path?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Study Romans 6:6.



4. What happened to your old self that was in Adam?

\_\_\_\_\_



5. Study Colossians 1:13.



6. How did you get into Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



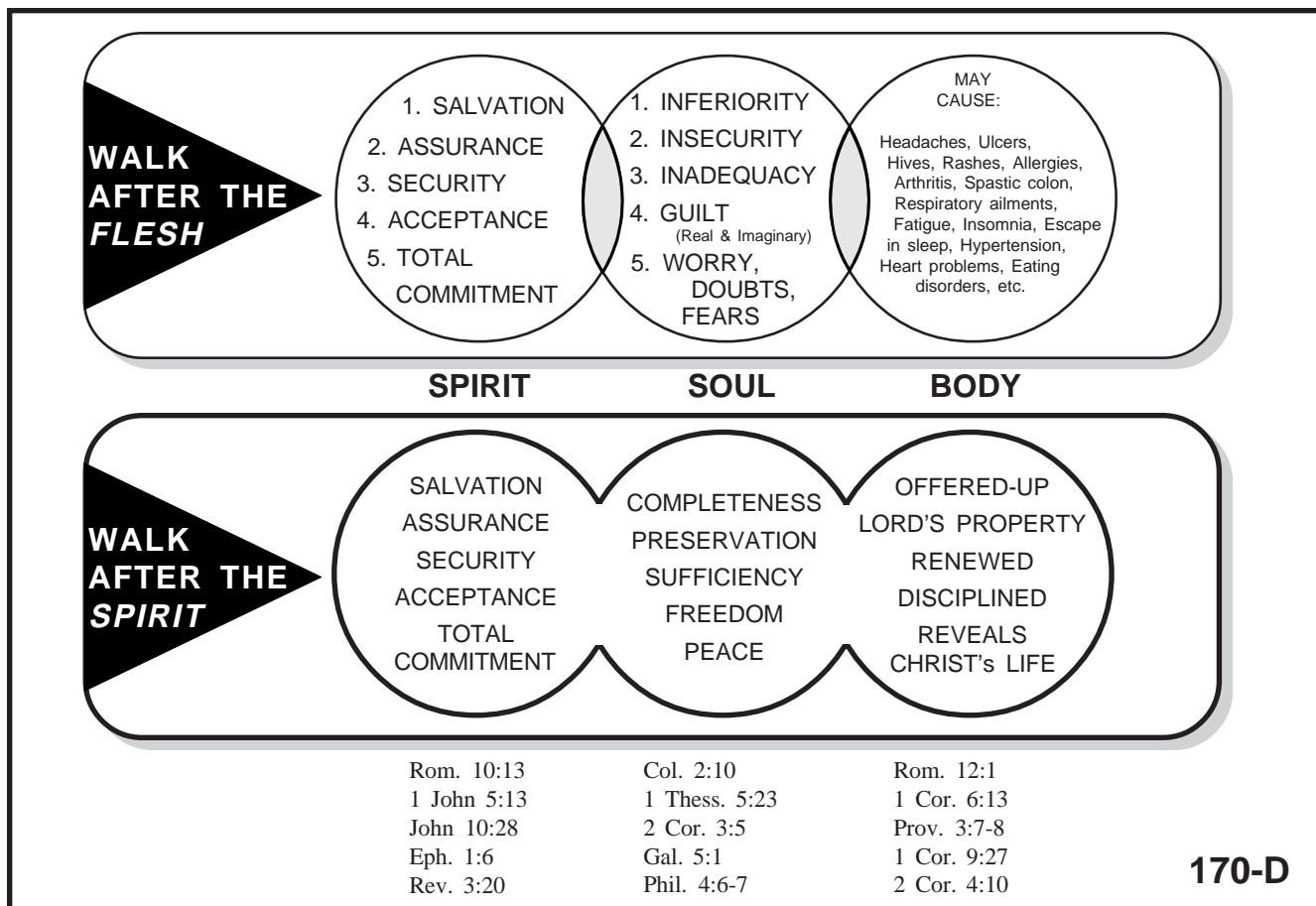
7. Study Galatians 2:20. Whose life do you have now? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*... your life is hidden  
with Christ in God.* Col. 3:3

WHAT'S  
NEW

*What's new about me—everything!*



## NOTES



# What's New About You?

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **170-D**:

*To show the difference between walking after the flesh  
and living in the true identity of Christ.*



1. Study Romans 8:5-6.



2. Do you see that feelings of inferiority, etc. are focusing on self, and feelings of completeness, etc., come from focusing on the Lord?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Study John 8:32.



4. How do you change from walking after the flesh to walking after the spirit? Where is your focus now? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*You shall know the  
truth and the truth  
shall set you free.*

John 8:32



5. What is more true—God's word or your feelings?

\_\_\_\_\_



6. Are you ready to choose to believe what God's word says about you?

\_\_\_\_\_

*God said it—that settles it!*

## **REVIEW**

- I am given the life of Christ.
- I am no longer dead, but alive “in Christ.”
- I am no longer a slave to sin. It is a choice now.
- I am a new creation—God’s child!
- I am to be transformed by the renewing of my mind.
- I am to appropriate His *very* life.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS** 

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

People who are aimless, disheartened, discouraged, or have given up on life are all around us. One of the saddest things is that all too often these words describe Christians! They “try to live the Christian life” and fail miserably. They allow their behavior to determine their identity. They see the wrong choices they make and then call themselves names like: failure, loser, stupid, sinner, angry person, or liar. Or, they see themselves as addicted to something or someone.

We live in a world that rewards performance. People are promoted at work and given raises commensurate with their performance. Many companies have yearly performance evaluations.

Many sincere people try very hard to gain acceptance from God and others through performance. A believer may say, “I have made some very poor choices, and I know God will love me if I \_\_\_\_\_.” (Fill in the blank with Christian service, sacrifice, or self-denial.) Instead of allowing our actions to determine our identity, we need to see what God says.

Are you accepted right now, today, just as you are?

People are either functioning **for** acceptance or **from** acceptance. Every day we make choices based on our view of ourselves. To see ourselves as unloved, unrighteous, insecure, unstable, and unacceptable is to be deceived and to live in bondage. Sadly, to believe circumstances, past history, emotions, or what other people say, as opposed to what God says, is the norm for Christians. To no longer live under bondage, you must begin by accepting your righteousness in Christ.

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

## WRONG CHOICES



2 Peter 1:9

**180-A**

## **NOTES**

# Accepting Your Righteousness

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **180-A**:

*To illustrate how not knowing who I am in Christ  
causes wrong choices.*

? 1. What is a negative incident that has confronted you recently? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 2. Did you react after the flesh? How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 3. Did the truth of who you are in Christ affect your reaction? How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*We are under  
obligation not to  
the flesh . . . .*

Rom. 8:12

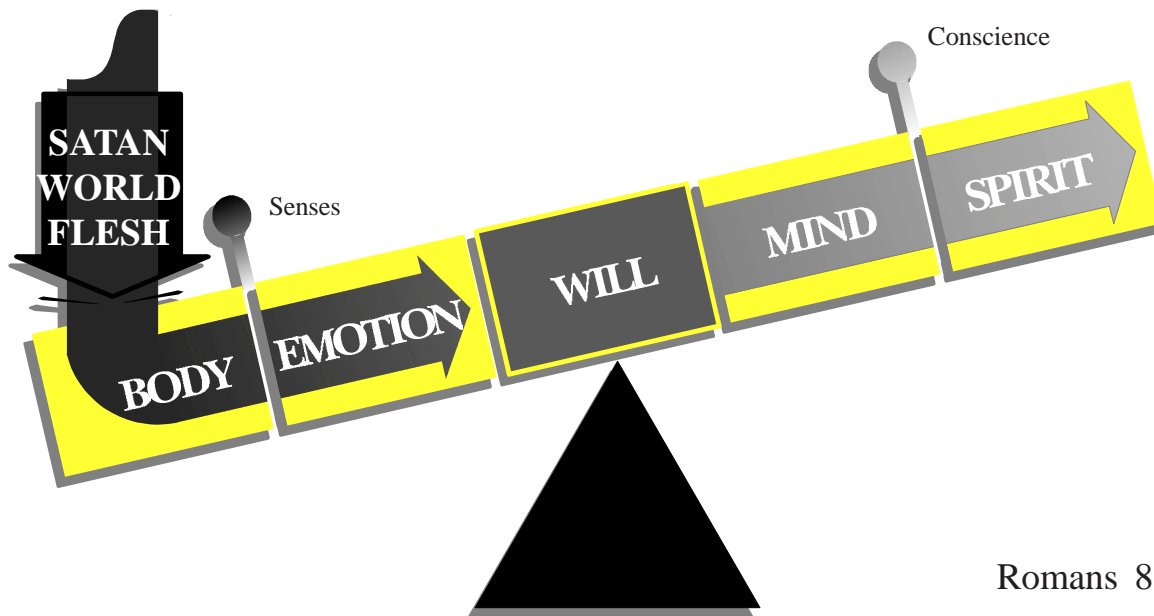
 4. Study Galatians 5:16 and 2 Peter 1:9.

? 5. What does it mean to carry out the desires of the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Identity determines behavior.*

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

## THE WILL IS THE KEY—WRONG CHOICES



*Walking after the flesh.*

**180-B**

### **NOTES**



# Accepting Your Righteousness

## STUDY GUIDE

### PURPOSE for Diagram 180-B:

*To illustrate how wrong choices are made through the influence of Satan, the world, and our flesh.*

- ? 1. List some of the identities you have accepted? (such as parent, spouse, employee, employer, friend, athlete, etc.)

---

---

---

- ? 2. What are you doing to prove your value in the identities you listed? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

- ? 3. How does the world say you should perform if the real you is one of the identities you listed?

---

---

-  4. Study Ephesians 2:2-3.

- ? 5. Who is it that influences the ways of this world? \_\_\_\_\_

-  6. Study Galatians 1:10.

- ? 7. Are you seeking anyone's acceptance (even your own) rather than God's? \_\_\_\_\_

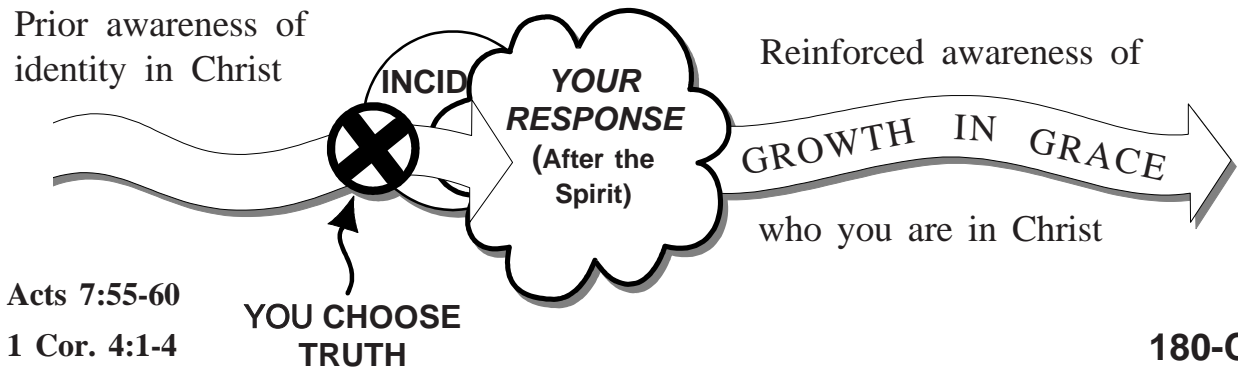
***Do not be  
conformed  
to this  
world . . . .***

Rom. 12:2

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

***My choices are made based on  
who I think I am.***

## RIGHT CHOICES



## **NOTES**

# Accepting Your Righteousness

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **180-C**:

*To illustrate the benefits of choosing to walk in the truth of who I am in Christ.*



1. Study 2 Corinthians 5:21.



2. Do you have trouble accepting the **truth** that you are the righteousness of God in Christ? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Can you accept that God's word is true regardless of how you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_



4. Study 2 Corinthians 5:7.



5. If you choose by faith what God says is true about you, how would it affect your responses? \_\_\_\_\_

*For as he thinks . . .  
so is he.*

Prov. 23:7



6. Study John 1:12. Who does this verse say you are? \_\_\_\_\_

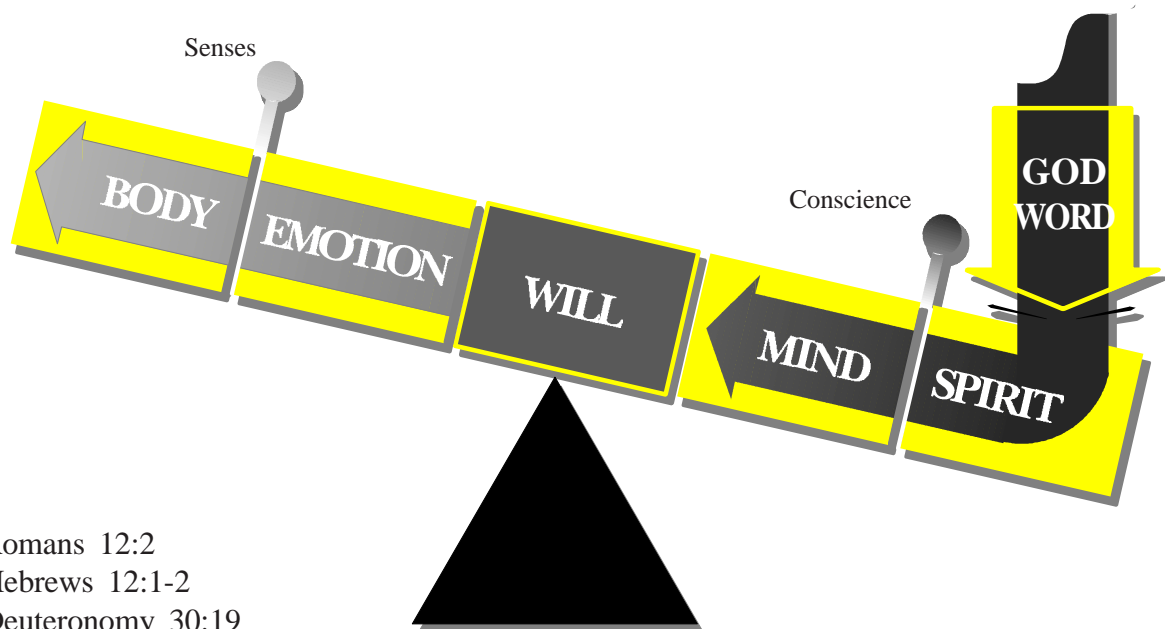


7. If I choose to believe the truth that I am a child of God, then regardless of the incident, I can respond as a child of God (after the Spirit).

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

*Identity is based on birth,  
not on behavior.*

## THE WILL IS THE KEY—RIGHT CHOICES



*Walking after the Spirit.*

180-D

### **NOTES**

# Accepting Your Righteousness

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **180-D**:

*To illustrate how right choices are made through the influence of God and His Word.*

? 1. Why do you want to make right choices? \_\_\_\_\_

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

 2. Study 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

? 3. What does God say should motivate your choices? \_\_\_\_\_

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

? 4. Instead of you listening to the one who led you astray, how can you start listening to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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

 5. Study Psalm 119:11.

? 6. How would you get God's Word in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 7. Study Philippians 4:8-9.

? 8. Do these verses characterize your thinking or do you focus on your circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

? 9. What other ways can you renew your mind (Romans 12:2)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Read a good book lately—try the Bible.*

*... be transformed  
by the renewing of  
your mind ... Rom. 12:2*

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

# FAITH IS:

***A CHOICE BASED ON GOD'S TRUTH, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT SEEM TO BE TRUE, SO THAT WHAT IS TRUE ABOUT ME ALREADY MAY BECOME TRUE IN MY DAILY EXPERIENCE.***

“The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1

180-E

## NOTES

# Accepting Your Righteousness

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **180-E**:

*To define “faith” based on biblical truth.*



1. Study Ephesians 4:24.



2. Do you feel righteous and holy? \_\_\_\_\_



3. Do your feelings negate what God says? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Study Philippians 3:20.



5. If you didn't feel like a citizen of your country, would it change the truth of your citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_



6. Can you be a citizen of heaven even though you don't feel like it? \_\_\_\_\_

*Faith is the assurance  
of things hoped for . . . .*

Heb. 11:1



7. Do you want to believe what God says about you? \_\_\_\_\_



8. Check the next diagram to see the truth.

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

*Righteousness is a fact—not a feeling.*

**The truest things about me are what God says about me (1 Cor. 4:3-4).**

In Christ I am *a child of God—born of God* (John 1:12-13).  
In Christ I am *being saved by His life* (Romans 5:10).  
In Christ I am *free from condemnation* (Romans 8:1).  
In Christ I am *an heir of God, joint heir with Christ* (Romans 8:17).  
In Christ I am *a saint* (Romans 8:27).  
In Christ I am *accepted* (Romans 15:7).  
In Christ I am *a possessor of the mind of Christ* (1 Corinthians 2:16).  
In Christ I am *a new creature* (2 Corinthians 5:17).  
In Christ I am *the righteousness of God* (2 Corinthians 5:21).  
In Christ I am *blessed with every spiritual blessing* (Ephesians 1:3).  
In Christ I am *adopted as God's child* (Ephesians 1:5).  
In Christ I am *God's workmanship created for good works* (Ephesians 2:10).  
In Christ I am *a member of God's household* (Ephesians 2:19).  
In Christ I am *a citizen of heaven* (Philippians 3:20).  
In Christ I am *holy and blameless and beyond reproach* (Colossians 1:22).  
In Christ I am *complete [perfect]* (Colossians 2:10).  
In Christ I am *alive and forgiven of all my transgressions* (Colossians 2:13).  
In Christ I am *a member of a royal priesthood* (1 Peter 2:9).  
In Christ I am *a partaker of God's divine nature* (2 Peter 1:4).  
In Christ I am *given eternal life today* (1 John 5:11-13).  
In Christ I am *released from my sins* (Revelation 1:5).

**RENEWING** my mind brings about **TRANSFORMATION**.

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).**

1. Read a verse listed above in its context and check cross references.
2. Report to God that I believe (adhere to, trust in, rely on) what He says about me is true.
3. Respond to God in prayer by thanking Him for what He did. "Father, I believe You when Your Word says I am a saint. I may not feel like one, but that's what You call me, so I believe it. Thank You!"—1 Thessalonians 5:18
4. Recognize what this verse teaches me about God and praise Him for who He is!
5. Reject my old view of myself. This would include no longer calling myself names like: failure, dummy, stupid, idiot, and loser. Also, I would stop seeing myself as: sinner, alcoholic, lazy, fornicator, homosexual, or liar. —1 Corinthians 6:9-11
6. Rejoice that my mind is being renewed each time I choose the truth.
7. Receive direction for today as a result of this verse. "Lord, I see what You have done and who You are, now what do You want me to do regarding this truth?"

**180-F**

**TLM 12E**

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING Conference



# Accepting Your Righteousness

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **180-F**:

*To show how what God says can be used to renew our minds.*

? 1. Are these verses literally true of you? \_\_\_\_\_

? 2. Can you pick a verse and go through the seven steps now? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write out what God shows you.


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

? 4. Can you choose to believe what God says is true about you even if you don't feel it or have experienced it yet? \_\_\_\_\_

? 5. What keeps you from believing these truths? \_\_\_\_\_

? 6. Have you ever received the acceptance God has for you based on what Christ did for you? \_\_\_\_\_

 7. Would you now, in prayer, like to receive His acceptance of you? \_\_\_\_\_

8. You are loved, accepted, holy, blameless, and a saint. Praise God!  
Ephesians 1:4-8

*... you shall know  
the truth ... the truth  
shall set you free.*

John 8:32

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

*God said it.  
I believe it.*

## **REVIEW**

- I am totally accepted by Christ.
- Christ has made me righteous. I need to believe this truth regardless of how I feel or how I act.
- This truth frees me from trying to gain acceptance from others. I don't have to live a performance-based-acceptance lifestyle.
- Knowing this truth stops the need to compete and makes decision making easier. I am not trying to prove anything.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

**EXTENDING FORGIVENESS** 

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# EXTENDING FORGIVENESS

Be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving  
each other . . . .

Ephesians 4:32

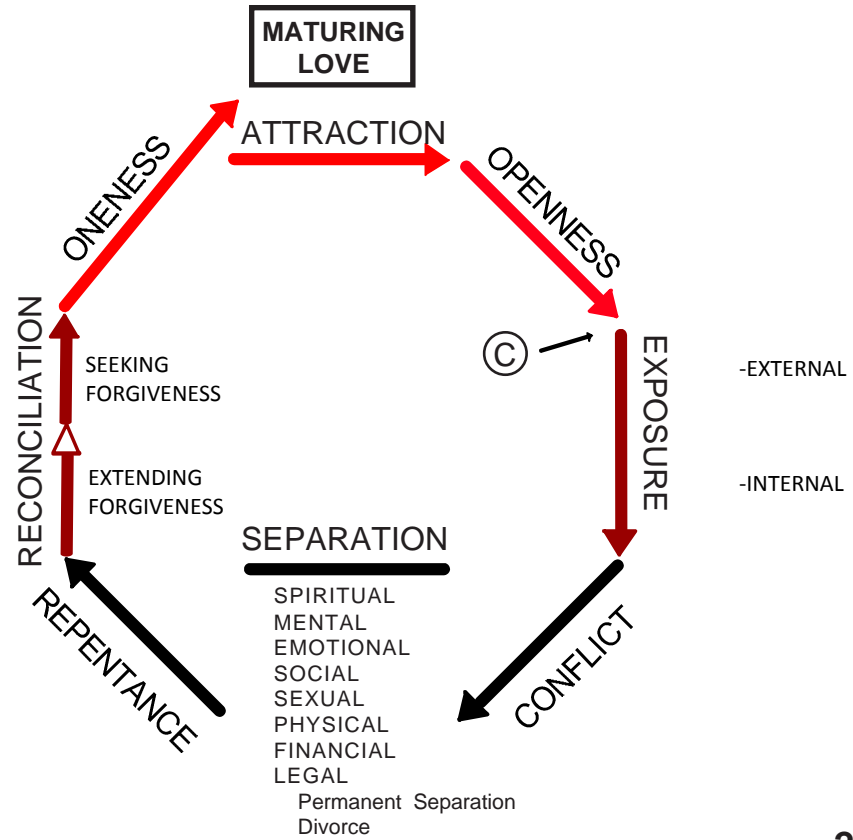
Nothing is more practical in Christian living than dealing with conflict in human relations. Roommates, church staff members, married couples, fellow missionaries, co-workers, school friends, family members, business partners—all know the hurt, frustration, and disillusionment that discord brings. Is there a sure route to oneness and harmony? What is forgiveness? How can I make it work? What about repeated offenses?

“I can forgive, but I can’t forget. What can I do?” “I can forgive others, but I can’t forgive myself.” “You’re asking me to forgive this person for doing THAT?” These kinds of statements are heard daily in the discipling process.

God wants us to live in harmony and unity in the body of Christ. How can that happen? We must make extending forgiveness a way of life. When someone hurts us, we need to extend forgiveness and not, “Let not the sun go down on our wrath.”

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

# ACHIEVING ONENESS



Eph. 4:2-3  
John 17:21-23

200-A

## NOTES

## Extending Forgiveness

### STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **200-A**:

*To illustrate the process of achieving oneness in a relationship.*



1. Study John 17:21-23.



2. What was Jesus praying for? \_\_\_\_\_



3. Are you experiencing a separation in a relationship now? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Since God desires oneness, what area of godship (see Diagram 100-A) is keeping you from moving past this separation? \_\_\_\_\_



5. Do you withdraw from people to avoid conflict? \_\_\_\_\_

*... that they may be one.*

John 17:22



6. Can you see that this withdrawal is another form of separation? \_\_\_\_\_

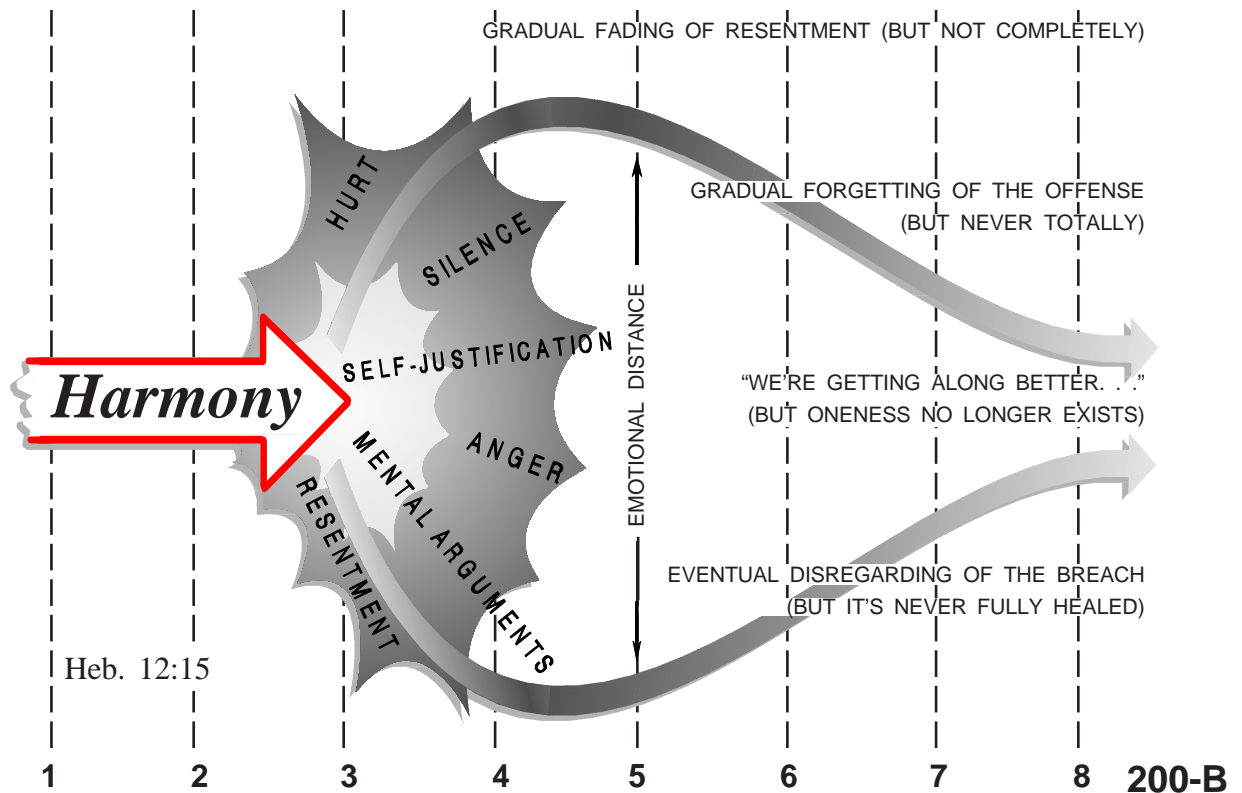


7. Repentance is the first step back toward oneness. Can you admit to God your part in this conflict and separation? \_\_\_\_\_

*Conflict is inevitable . . . the way  
to oneness is through it!*

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

# PERSONAL CONFLICT WITHOUT FORGIVENESS



## NOTES



## Extending Forgiveness

### STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **200-B**:

*To illustrate the effects of unresolved conflicts.*



1. Who has hurt you? \_\_\_\_\_



2. Which of these emotions are you experiencing: anger, bitterness, resentment, desire to seek revenge, or a lack of trust? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*... root of bitterness ...* Heb. 12:15



3. Study Hebrews 12:15.



4. Is there a root of bitterness toward anyone in a present or past relationship? \_\_\_\_\_



5. Are you ready to tear up that root? \_\_\_\_\_

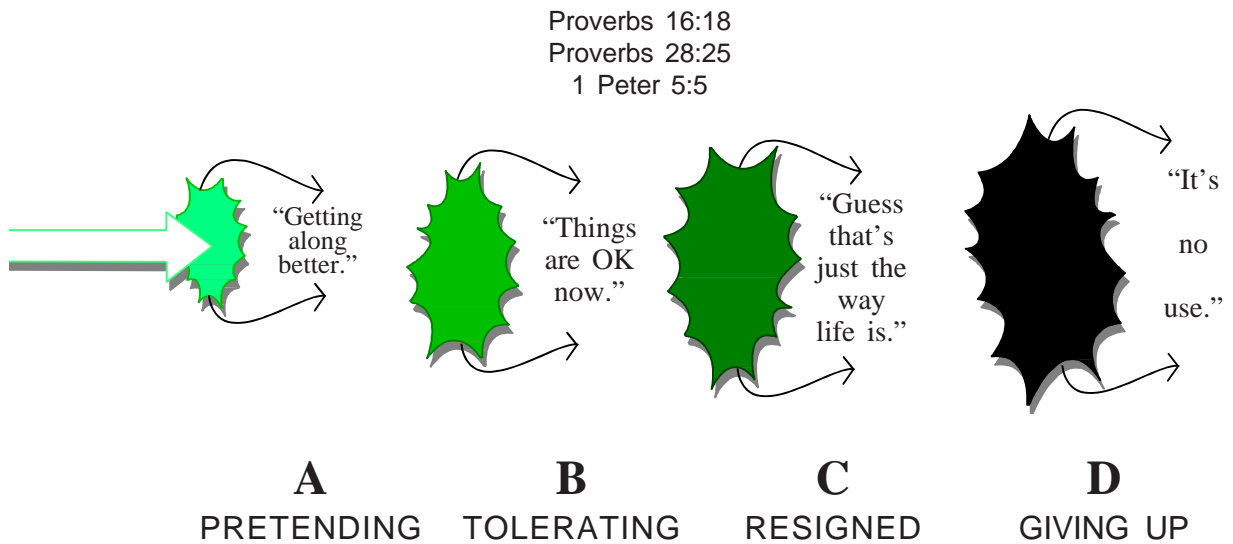
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Time does not heal any wounds!*

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

## CONTINUAL CONFLICT WITHOUT FORGIVENESS



200-C

### **NOTES**

## Extending Forgiveness

### STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **200-C**:

*To illustrate the effects of unresolved conflict  
when time is allowed to pass without forgiveness.*

- ? 1. Which of the four explosions best describe your relationship with the person who has hurt you?

A B C D

*Because of your  
hardness of heart . . .*

Mark 10:5

-  2. Study Ephesians 4:32.

- ? 3. What is commanded in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ? 4. What is keeping you from obeying God's command? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-  5. Study Proverbs 16:18.

- ? 6. Could it be your own pride or self-protection? \_\_\_\_\_

- ? 7. Do those who have hurt you deserve your forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-  8. Study Colossians 1:13-14.

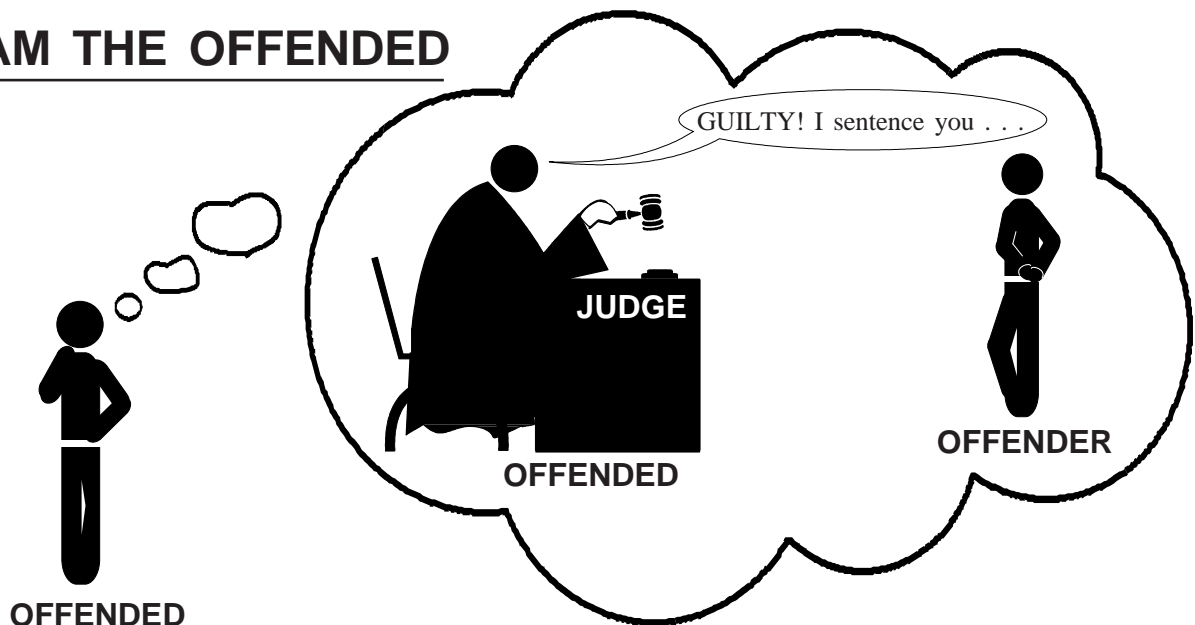
- ? 9. Has God forgiven you? Did you deserve it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*No forgiveness, know loneliness.  
Know forgiveness, no loneliness.*

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

## I AM THE OFFENDED

1



When I am offended, in my mind I see the offender as guilty (James 4:12). Only God has the right to execute judgment (Ps. 9:7-8; Acts 17:31). My attempt to lay guilt on the offender by setting a standard is reacting after the flesh. For example: "This person should not have treated me that way" (Matthew 7:1-5).

**200-E**

## **NOTES**

## Extending Forgiveness

### STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **200-E**:

*To describe how an offended person acts like a judge.*

---

? 1. Where do you see yourself in this diagram? \_\_\_\_\_

 2. Study James 4:12.

? 3. What is God's message to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 4. Study Psalm 9:7-8 and Acts 17:31.

? 5. Who is the only One who is qualified to be The Judge? \_\_\_\_\_

*... who are you to  
judge your neighbor.*

James 4:12

? 6. Can you see how you have tried to play god by judging this person? \_\_\_\_\_

*No one made me the judge.*

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

## THE RESULT OF MY FLESHLY REACTIONS

### 2

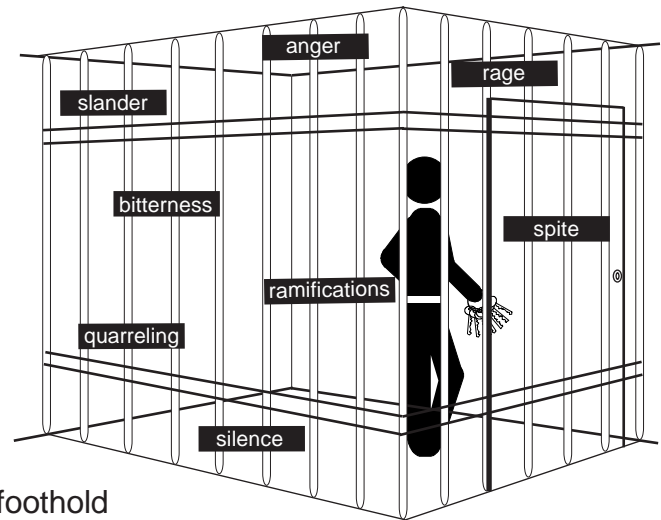
I may react silently and “stuff” my bitterness or wrath. Or I may express it in abusive speech or actions, slander, or swearing.

The result is the same: I'm in jail!

**Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32**

**1 Peter 5:8-9**

**Ecclesiastes 7:9**



Going to bed angry gives the Devil a foothold to torment me, a child of God. I am actually held prisoner by reacting after the flesh. This control of the flesh and torment by the Devil can only be stopped by extending forgiveness. The offender should ask forgiveness from me, but may never do so. Consequently, I must initiate forgiveness. Notice: I, the offended, have the keys to freedom in my hand.

**200-E1**

### **NOTES**

## Extending Forgiveness STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **200-E1**:

*To illustrate the result of judging someone “guilty.”*

---



1. Study Ephesians 4:31-32.



2. Which of the jail cell bars apply to you? \_\_\_\_\_



3. Study Ephesians 4:26-27.



4. When do you need to extend forgiveness?

Have you done it yet? \_\_\_\_\_



5. What happens if you don't do it?



6. Study 1 Peter 5:8-9.



7. What does Satan want to do to you? \_\_\_\_\_



8. Do you want to get out of jail? \_\_\_\_\_

*... do not let the  
sun go down on  
your anger ...*

Eph. 4:26

*The unjust judge goes to jail.*

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

## EXTENDING FORGIVENESS

Extending forgiveness is taking the time to consider how a person has hurt me. This would include listing the act, my hurt, the ramifications, and my sinful reactions. Then I depend on the indwelling forgiver, Jesus, as I extend grace to the offender just as Jesus extended grace to me.

### I. WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

When I endeavor to understand forgiveness—what it is and how it works—much time and effort can be saved and misunderstanding avoided, if I eliminate what forgiveness is NOT. It is not ignoring, disregarding, tolerating, excusing, overlooking, or closing my eyes to the wrong another person has done against me. It is not simply letting time pass after the offense has been committed. It is not forgetting that the offense happened—or pretending that it didn't. It is not just resigning myself to the other person's actions by saying, "Well, that's just the way that person is."

### II. WHY FORGIVENESS IS NECESSARY

- A. If I don't exercise true forgiveness, I continue to hold the offender responsible (guilty) for the wrong. This can result in an accumulated "treasure" of faults in my mind toward the offender all ready to be "cashed in" when I feel the situation calls for it. **Diagram 200-E**
- B. Without forgiveness, an attitude of unforgiveness fosters resentment, and this crystallizes into bitterness (Hebrews 12:15). This can make me harsh, critical, cynical, and mistrustful. Forgiveness breaks the bondage of bitterness. **Diagram 200-E1**
- C. Without true forgiveness, I may secretly await the "joy" of seeing the offender punished by God—and be delighted when it happens. This is a form of vengeance which is godship. (Proverbs 24:17-18)
- D. Not forgiving may cause problems relating to another person who reminds me of the initial offender.

*Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad  
When he stumbles; lest the Lord see it and be displeased, and He turn away His  
anger from him.*

Proverbs 24:17-18

*Never take vengeance into your own hands. Stand back and let God punish, if He  
will.*

Romans 12:19 (PHILIPS)

**200-D (2 pages)**



### **III. THE PROCESS OF EXTENDING FORGIVENESS**

A. I need to make four lists:

1. First, I list what this person did or didn't do that offended me.
2. Second, I list all the hurt I have felt regarding this offense. I think of all the emotions I've experienced and write them down. These feelings could include being: embarrassed, belittled, devastated, defiled, hustled, cheated, or ridiculed.
3. Third, I list all the ramifications of the offense. How did this action affect me spiritually, financially, socially, maritally, psychologically, parentally, or physically?

This clarifies HOW the offense has affected me. Another ramification is that I can develop "rotten reasoning" about God, myself, or others. For example: God can't be trusted; all men are horrible; or I will never love anyone again.

4. Fourth, I list my sinful reactions regarding this offense. That would include such things as bitterness, gossip, revenge, slander, rage, and abusive speech. This could include any grudge I may be holding. This could also include an attitude of unforgiveness.

B. Now I use the keys of forgiveness on **Diagram 200-E2**.

C. This completes human forgiveness. —

D. **Destroy the list.**

NOTE: Do not tell the offender he/she is forgiven. The forgiving of a person does not require that the person be told. Telling the person may simply create more conflict. Your forgiveness of him/her was between you and God.

- Forgiving the offender deals with unforgiveness which was on your side of the breach. The offender may never seek your forgiveness. If or when he/she does, all you need to say is, "I am so thankful that you asked me. Yes, I do forgive you."

E. If his/her offense is of a persistent nature that disrupts Christian harmony, God may lead you to confront the person with his/her need—after you have exercised forgiveness toward him/her.

- The secondary purpose is to "win" or "restore" the offender.
- The pattern for confrontation is given in Matthew 18:15-17 and Proverbs 25:9.
- The first objective of such a confrontation is to purify the church.
- The attitude required on the part of the confronter is spelled out in Galatians 6:1-2.

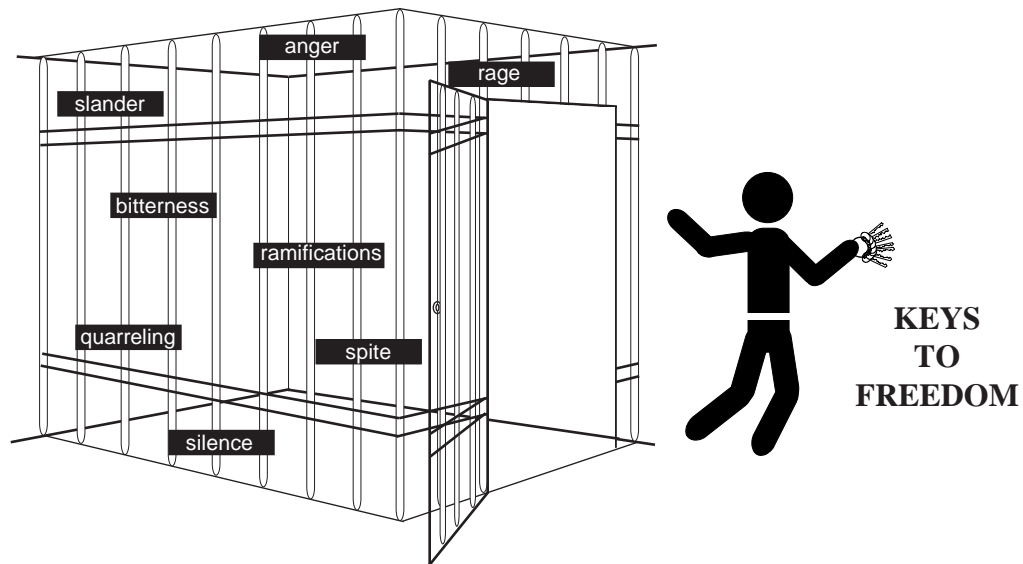
EXTEND  
FORGIVE

### **200-D (2 pages)**

## I CHOOSE TO EXTEND FORGIVENESS

### 3

I can achieve freedom by extending forgiveness. By using these keys I am set free from the prison and torment. Now the truth about me can be seen and realized.



- Key #1 - I admit to God how I felt regarding this offense (Psalm 62:8).
- Key #2 - I admit to God that I have been holding the person guilty for the act, the hurt, and the ramifications of the offense (Luke 6:37; Rom. 2:1).
- Key #3 - I now extend (give freely) my forgiveness to the person for that action, my hurt, and the ramifications of the action. This forgiveness is extending grace to the offender as Christ extended grace to me (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13).
- Key #4 - I now put the offender into God's hands and let go. I will allow God to work in this person's life in His time (1 Peter 5:7).
- Key #5 - I now name and confess (agree with God) that my sinful reactions and attitudes (including holding the offender guilty) were wrong. I ask God to show me areas of godship and repent (1 John 1:9).
- Key #6 - I choose to live as the new creation that I am (2 Cor. 5:17). This means I accept that God has forgiven me, and I lay aside my fleshly reactions (Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8, 12).
- Key #7 - I tell God I am willing to be reconciled to the offender and allow Him to love the offender through me (2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 3:14; Heb. 12:14).

**DESTROY THE LIST!**

**200-E2**

## Extending Forgiveness

### STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **200-E2**:

*To give specific steps (keys) to freedom gained only through forgiveness.*

1. Write down exactly how the offender has offended you.

\_\_\_\_\_

? 2. What are your feelings regarding that offense? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

? 3. What are the ramifications (effects) of that offense? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

? 4. What were your sinful reactions to the offense? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Now free yourself from the prison of this offense by applying the keys of forgiveness!**

✓ 5. Check off each key as you finish it.

- ☐ #1
- ☐ #2
- ☐ #3
- ☐ #4
- ☐ #5
- ☐ #6
- ☐ #7

*... do not judge ...*  
*... do not condemn ...*  
*... pardon ...*

Luke 6:37

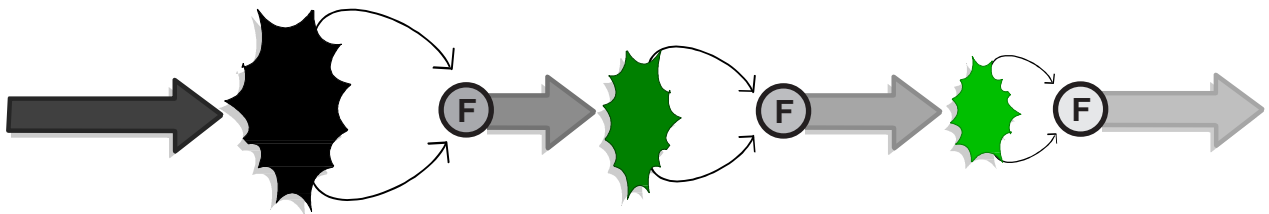
EXTEND  
FORGIVE

*Freedom to love and live again!*

## PERSONAL CONFLICT WITH TRUE FORGIVENESS

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32



MATTHEW 18:21-22

200-F

### **NOTES**

## Extending Forgiveness

### STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagrams **200-F:**

*To illustrate the effects of forgiveness.*

---



1. Study Matthew 18:21-22.



2. What principle regarding forgiveness do you see in these passages?

---

---

---

*. . . I will remember  
their sins no more.*

Heb. 8:12



3. If this person offends you again will you forgive them? \_\_\_\_\_

*Forgiveness is a lifestyle.*

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

## **TESTS OF FORGIVENESS**

- A. Do you see the offender as not guilty?
- B. Are you sincerely thanking God for the lessons learned during the pain (Romans 8:28-29)?
- C. Can you talk about your hurt without getting angry, without feeling resentful, without the slightest thought of revenge (Ephesians 4:31)?
- D. Do you have a willingness to accept your part of the blame for what happened?
- E. Can you revisit the scene or the person(s) involved in your hurt without experiencing a negative reaction?
- F. Are you rewarding with good those who have hurt you (Romans 12:20-21)?

**200-G**

## ***NOTES***

## Extending Forgiveness

### STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagrams **200-G:**

*To verify that forgiveness has happened by the use of six tests.*



1. Study Matthew 6:12.



2. Go through the tests of forgiveness.



3. Did you pass the test? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Have you forgiven all the ramifications? \_\_\_\_\_



5. Study Romans 8:1.



6. How does God see you since you became a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Mercy triumphs  
over judgment.***

James 2:13



7. How do you see the person who offended you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8. How would God want you to love this person now? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Forgiving is not holding  
another guilty.***

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

## **REVIEW**

- God commands us to forgive others when they hurt or offend us.
- This is essential to live with impossible people.
- Pride will stand in the way of extending forgiveness.
- Extending forgiveness is not a thought or a feeling, it is a definite action.
- If I refuse to forgive someone who hurts me, I can end up in a jail of my own fleshly reactions and be tormented by the enemy.
- It does take time to do this because I need to write out the offense, my hurt, the ramifications, and my sinful reactions. Then I need to use the seven keys of forgiveness.



## ***NOTES***



|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |



|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |



GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

**SEEKING FORGIVENESS** 

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# SEEKING FORGIVENESS

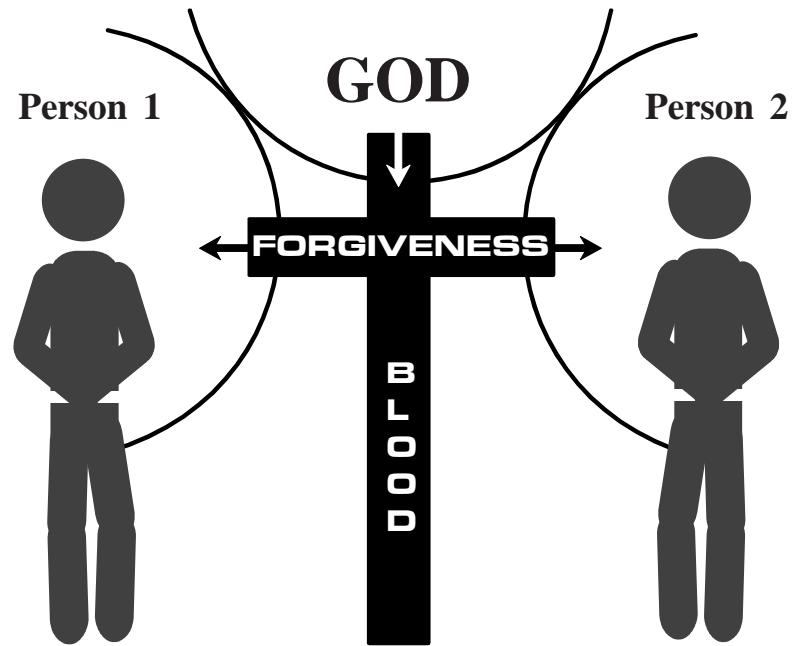
Leave your offering  
there before the altar, and  
go . . . be reconciled to  
your brother.

Matthew 5:24

Most people are aware of those who offend them. However, there are times when I am the offender. Even as I go through the process of extending forgiveness, I am pricked by the Holy Spirit where I am also at fault. How important is it that I go and make it right? Do I put it off until I see that person again? Do I say, “Well, that happened so long ago, that person probably doesn’t even remember”?

What does God’s word say about seeking forgiveness? When should I do it? How do I do it without causing more pain for myself or the other person? These are some of the questions to be answered during this lesson.

SEEK  
FORGIVE



1 John 1:7  
Acts 24:16  
Rom. 12:18

210-A

## NOTES



# Seeking Forgiveness

## STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **210-A:**

*To show how God's forgiveness is the foundation for human forgiveness.*

---

? 1. From whom would God want you to seek forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 2. Study 1 John 1:7, Acts 24:16, and Romans 12:18.

? 3. What do these verses say to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 4. Check Diagram 200-A. Are you ready to do your part to bring about reconciliation? \_\_\_\_\_

? 5. Have you forgiven the person you hurt for any wrong-doing toward you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. If not, take time to do so now using the keys from the "Extending Forgiveness" lesson.

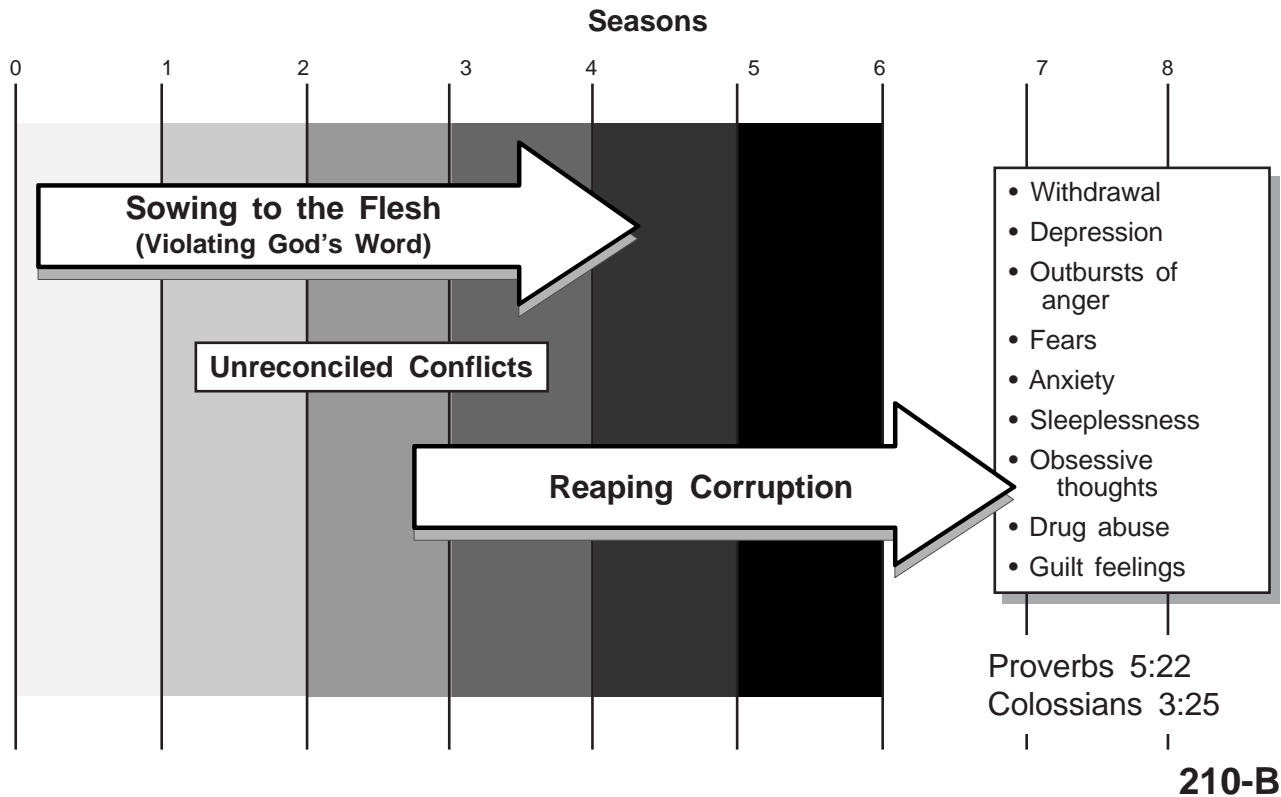
*But if we walk in the light . . . we have fellowship one with another . . . . 1 John 1:7*

*The foundation for forgiveness is the blood of Christ.*

SEEK  
FORGIVE

# FLESH—SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 6:7-9



## NOTES

### Laws of Sowing and Reaping:

1. You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7).
2. You reap more than you sow (Hosea 8:7).
3. You reap in proportion to what you sow (2 Cor. 9:6).
4. You reap in a different season (Gal. 6:9).

# Seeking Forgiveness



## STUDY GUIDE

---

### PURPOSE for Diagrams 210-B:

*To illustrate the truth that sowing to the flesh reaps corruption.*

---

- ? 1. How have you chosen to sow to the flesh by violating God's Word? Such as lied, deceived, been sexually immoral, or judged another person? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 2. Are you seeing corruption from the fleshly sowing yet? How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 3. What evidences can you check in the box to show the corruption you have reaped? \_\_\_\_\_
-  4. Study Colossians 3:25.
- ? 5. What does God say will happen when we sow to the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-  6. Study Galatians 6:7-9.
- ? 7. Are you trying to avoid reaping what you have sown? How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***... God is not  
mocked . . . .***

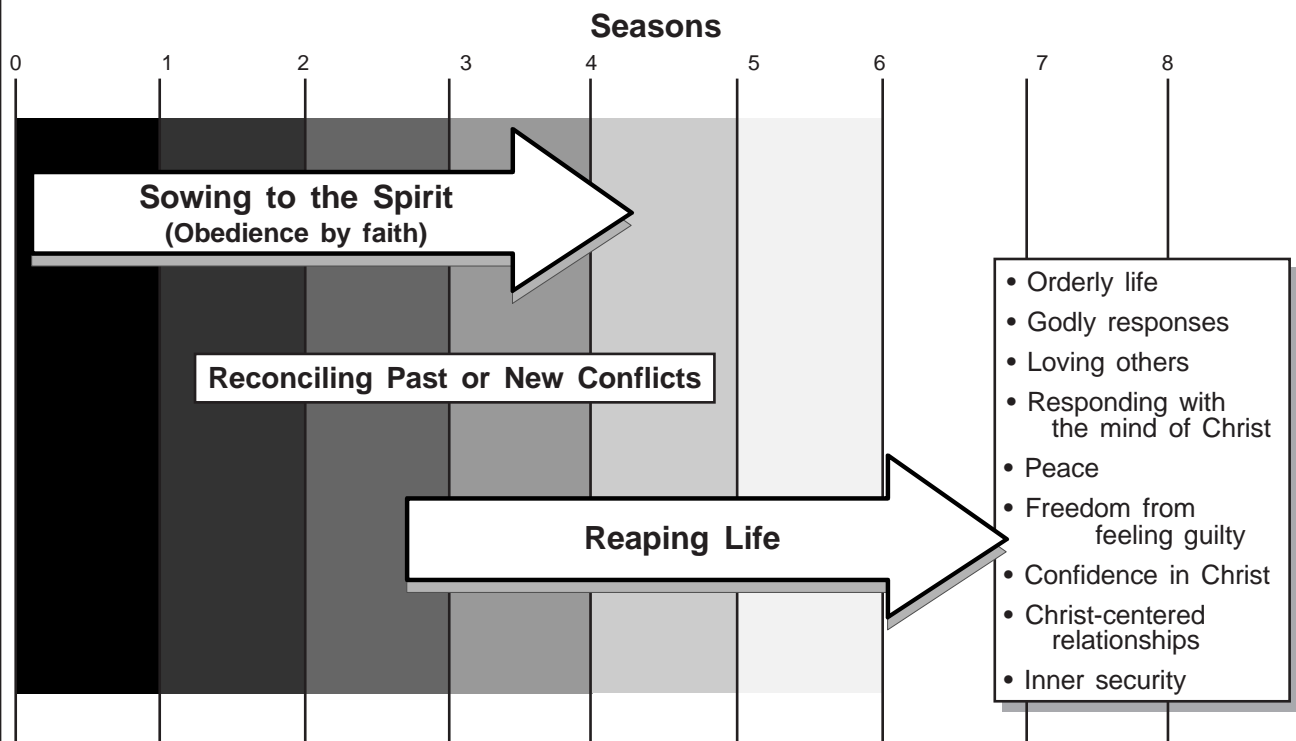
Gal. 6:7

*I plant it, I harvest it.*

SEEK  
FORGIVE

# SPIRIT—SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 6:7-9



210-C

## NOTES

# Seeking Forgiveness


## STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagrams **210-C:**

*To illustrate the truth that sowing to the Spirit reaps life.*

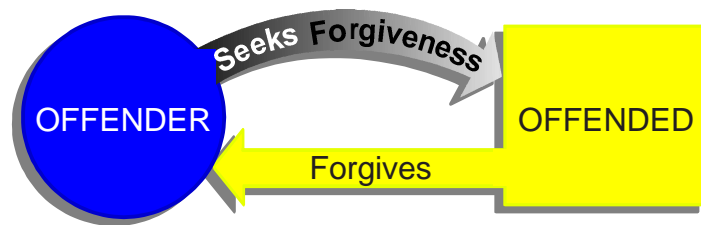
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- ? 1. Are you frustrated because you have sown to the Spirit and not seen positive fruit yet? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. You can start sowing to the Spirit even while you are reaping a bad crop.
  - ? 3. Is seeking forgiveness from someone you have offended something God wants you to do? \_\_\_\_\_
  - ? 4. What is stopping you from seeking forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ... let us not lose heart in doing good.” Gal. 6:9*
-  5. Study 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 12:18.
  - ? 6. What should David have done when he saw Uriah? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Start sowing to the Spirit  
even while reaping corruption.*

SEEK  
FORGIVE

## SEEKING FORGIVENESS



1 John 1:9  
Matthew 5:23-24

210-D

### **NOTES**

# Seeking Forgiveness

## STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **210-D**:

*To show the two directions of extending and seeking forgiveness.*

---



1. Study Matthew 5:23-24.



2. What does Jesus say to do when you remember someone has some thing against you? \_\_\_\_\_



3. Do you see how your worship will be distracted as you think about this person who has been hurt by you? \_\_\_\_\_



4. If you seek forgiveness from someone, do they have to forgive you? \_\_\_\_\_

*I can't have a right relationship  
with God if I have a wrong  
relationship with others.*

*leave your offering . . .  
first be reconciled . . . .*

Matt. 5:24

SEEK  
FORGIVE

# **SEEKING FORGIVENESS PROCESS**

“If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”

Matthew 5:23-24

**Seeking forgiveness is honestly “seeing” how I hurt another person by my words or actions. Then I go to that person and say I was wrong for what I did and ask that person to forgive me. Before I go I need to forgive anything I am holding against that person.**

## **Twelve Steps to Seeking Forgiveness**

1. Reexamine what seeking forgiveness is NOT.  
It is NOT “apologizing” or “being sorry” for what I have done.  
It is NOT trying to “make up” to someone or be nice to someone I have hurt.
2. Reminded by the Holy Spirit. Don’t be continually searching myself.
3. Remembered by the other person.  
Don’t seek forgiveness for jealous, lustful, or angry thoughts or feelings.  
Exceptions would be when I have stolen something or slandered someone’s name.
4. Review the offense clearly.  
It may be helpful to have a pastor or discipler help me see how I have offended the other person.
5. Respond quickly
6. Rehearse only as much detail as necessary.
7. Reject any defense, excuses, or blame.
8. Rapidly move to ask, “I was wrong regarding \_\_\_\_\_, will you forgive me?”
9. Right timing is vital.
10. Request in person.  
Not if I was involved in an immoral relationship.  
Use the telephone if the person lives out of town.
11. Refuse to write a letter, e-mail, text, facebook, twitter, etc.  
It could be kept.  
There is no sense of closure.  
It may fall into the wrong hands.
12. Restitution needs to be offered if something was stolen.

**210-E**



# Seeking Forgiveness

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **210-E**:

*To give a guide for seeking forgiveness.*



1. Study Matthew 5:23-24.

2. Read the definition in the box of seeking forgiveness.



3. Who is the person you will go to and seek forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_



4. How did you hurt this person?

---

---

---



4. Does God want you to seek forgiveness?  
Yes   No



5. When will you go? \_\_\_\_\_



6. Have you forgiven the person for any way he/she has hurt you?

---



7. Pray for a good time to go and seek forgiveness.

8. Using these twelve steps, go to the person and seek forgiveness.

*With all humility  
and gentleness . . . .*

Eph. 4:2

SEEK  
FORGIVE

*Seeking forgiveness  
should be a way of life.*

## REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS

### **OFFENDER** needs to

- listen to other person's hurts, needs, and desires.
- prayerfully and practically care for the other person's very life.
- go out of his/her way to demonstrate I am trustworthy.
  - make restitution and more.*Numbers 5:7*
- go over and above what would seem to be obvious or expected.



### **OFFENDED** needs to

- forgive the offender. *2 Cor. 2:7-8*
  - bless those who curse you.
  - pray.      ➤ love.      ➤ do good.
  - turn cheek.      ➤ give.      ➤ do unto them.
- Luke 6:27-32*
- keep no record of wrong.
  - always trust God.
  - always hope.
    - always love. *1 Cor. 13:5-7*
  - be willing to let the other fail, which could include hurting you again.

### **BOTH** need to

- thank the Lord for His ministry of reconciliation.
- pray for and/or with the other person.
- be willing to have a relationship with the other person.

**210-F**

## NOTES

# Seeking Forgiveness

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **210-F**:

*To show how to rebuild a damaged relationship.*



1. Study Psalm 133:1.



2. What does God desire in relationships?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. What do you think is keeping you from rebuilding a relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*... Come, let us  
rebuild . . . that we  
may no longer be a  
reproach.* Neh. 2:17

### **OFFENDER:**



4. Are you willing to be inconvenienced to demonstrate that you are trustworthy? Yes No



5. What could you do to restore the offended person's trust? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **OFFENDED:**



6. Have you been offended and told God you would never give that person another chance? Yes No What area of godship is that?

\_\_\_\_\_



7. Study 1 Peter 2:23.



8. Who is your protector? \_\_\_\_\_



9. Have you forgiven the one who hurt you? Yes No



10. Are you letting God love the offender through you? Yes No

*Rebuilding is harder than building—  
but well worth it!*

SEEK  
FORGIVE

## **REVIEW**

- It is impossible to live with people and not hurt or offend them.
- As soon as you feel the direction of the Lord to seek forgiveness from another person, it is time to act.
- It is a very humbling thing to go to another person and say, “I was wrong. Will you forgive me?”
- This is essential to live with impossible people.
- Seeking forgiveness from anyone you offend should be a way of life.
- After reconciliation, you need to rebuild the relationship.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT’S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# **LORDSHIP**

## **ABIDE, WALK, REST**

*Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls"*

Jeremiah 6:16

One of the greatest challenges to a believer is to avoid being sidetracked from following Jesus Christ. Life is filled with things that threaten to overwhelm you, things like business affairs, time-pressures, problems, trials, and tragedies. When you are weighted down, when things seem hopeless and the future bleak, the tendency is to look to other people for answers. You may attempt to “fix” the circumstances, or do something other than receiving from Jesus Christ the power to live.

This lesson is designed to help the believer, whether newborn or mature, to know the secret of real power for the drudgery of living day after day after day in grace and triumph. We pray that you will realize that what we call “the process of daily life” is the arena where God’s sustaining grace and peace and strength are to be proven. You may tend to think in terms of “what it will be like” when . . . a certain level of spiritual maturity is reached, or a chosen goal attained. But God and His power are for now—not just for the future. Your life can be characterized by either resting or wrestling. Rest is yours when you can shift the focus of your attention from yourself and your problems to God.

# ABIDE

*John 15:1-2.*

## DO YOU WANT TO BE PRODUCTIVE (FRUITFUL)?

- Jesus is the Vine.
- The Father is the Vinedresser (Owner)
- You are the branches.
- He desires the branches to be fruitful.....

*John 15:2-9.*

## HOW DO YOU BEAR FRUIT?

- The branch (you) cannot bear fruit on your own.
- You must abide in the Vine (Jesus).
- You must abide in His (Jesus') love.....

*John 15:10-11.*

## HOW DO YOU ABIDE IN HIS LOVE?

- Keep His commands (this is about a relationship, not commandments—saying “no” to self-rule and “yes” to being led by Him.
- Your joy will be full!

190-A2

## NOTES



# Abide, Walk, Rest

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **190-A2**:

*To describe the Christian's life when he or she is functioning after the Spirit.*

### ABIDE



1. Study John 15:4-11.



2. Are there things you desire to produce that you know the Vine (Jesus) will not be part of producing? Example: taking revenge, independent control \_\_\_\_\_



3. In what ways are you trying to produce fruit on your own? What have been some results?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What convictions are you hearing from the Holy Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What commands of Jesus are you avoiding? Are you abiding in His love?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Is your joy full?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Abide in Me,  
and I in you.*

John 15:4

LORDSHIP

*Stay connected to the vine.*

# **WALK**

*Galatians 5:16-17.*

## **WALK AFTER (BY MEANS OF) THE SPIRIT.**

- If we choose to walk after the Spirit we will not sin.
- The flesh opposes the Spirit.
- The Spirit opposes the flesh.
- You cannot fulfill the desire of the flesh while walking by means of the Spirit.

190-A3

## ***NOTES***

# Abide, Walk, Rest

## STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **190-A3**:

*To explain walking after the Spirit.*

---

### WALK



1. Study Galatians 5:16-17.



2. What area of our life do you find difficult to yield to the Lord?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. What are you afraid will happen if God is making the choices?

\_\_\_\_\_



4. What do you believe the Spirit wants you to do right now?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



5. What is the purpose of your life?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



6. What are the resources available to you to accomplish that purpose?

\_\_\_\_\_



7. Is that purpose and those resources yours or the Lords?

\_\_\_\_\_

*But I say,  
walk by the Spirit,*

Gal 5:16

LORDSHIP

*Choose His Life.*

# REST

*Matthew 11:28-30.*

## **ARE YOU WEARY AND BURDENED?**

- Come unto Him.
- Learn from Him.
  - He is meek.
  - He is lowly in heart.

*Philippians 2:5-8.*

## **MEEKNESS IS TO GIVE UP WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS.**

- He became of no reputation.
- He became a slave.
- He humbled Himself.
- HE gave up His life.

*Philippians 2:3-4.*

## **LOWLY IS GIVING UP SELF INTERESTS.**

- He regarded other people as more important.
- He regarded the interests of others as more important.

190-A

## **NOTES**

# Abide, Walk, Rest

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **190-A:**

*To illustrate how Christ lived the life of rest.*

### REST?

- ? 1. What is keeping you from coming to God and resting? Do you demand visual security God will not give?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 2. Are you stressed out and up-tight? Is your stress the result of: worrying about your reputation, trying to protect yourself, or defending your rights?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 📖 3. Study Matthew 11:28-30.
- ? 4. What does God command you to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 5. What does it look like to come to Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 📖 6. Study Philipians 2:5-8.
- ? 7. What would it look like to give up your reputation and your rights in your stressed out situation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 8. How would recognizing that your life is not your own change your feelings of stress?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ? 9. How would regarding others as more important change your stressful feelings?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Come to Me, all  
who are weary and  
heavy-laden . . . .*

Matt. 11:28

*I must labor to rest.*

## **REST (continued)**

*Hebrews 4:9-11.*

### **WE ARE COMMANDED TO REST.**

- There remains a Sabbath rest for God's people.
- The one who rests has rested (ceased) from His works.
- Therefore labor (be diligent) to enter into His rest.

*Isaiah 40:28-31.*

### **GOD IS IN CONTROL.**

- God does not grow weary or get tired.
- He gives strength to the weary.
- Those who wait on the Lord will gain new strength.

190-A1

## **NOTES**

## Abide, Walk, Rest STUDY GUIDE

---

PURPOSE for Diagram 190-A1 continued:

*To explain that we can rest because God is in control.*

---

### REST?

? 1. What are you doing that shows you are not resting?

\_\_\_\_\_

? 2. What is your justification for not resting?

\_\_\_\_\_

? 3. Do you see points of godship in your justification?  
For example: setting standards or trying to control?

\_\_\_\_\_

 4. Study Isaiah 40:28-30.

? 5. Do you believe God is in control of your stressful situation and you are not? \_\_\_\_\_

? 6. Do you believe your weakness can open the door for God's power in you?  
See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

\_\_\_\_\_

*Come to Me, all  
who are weary and  
heavy-laden . . . .*

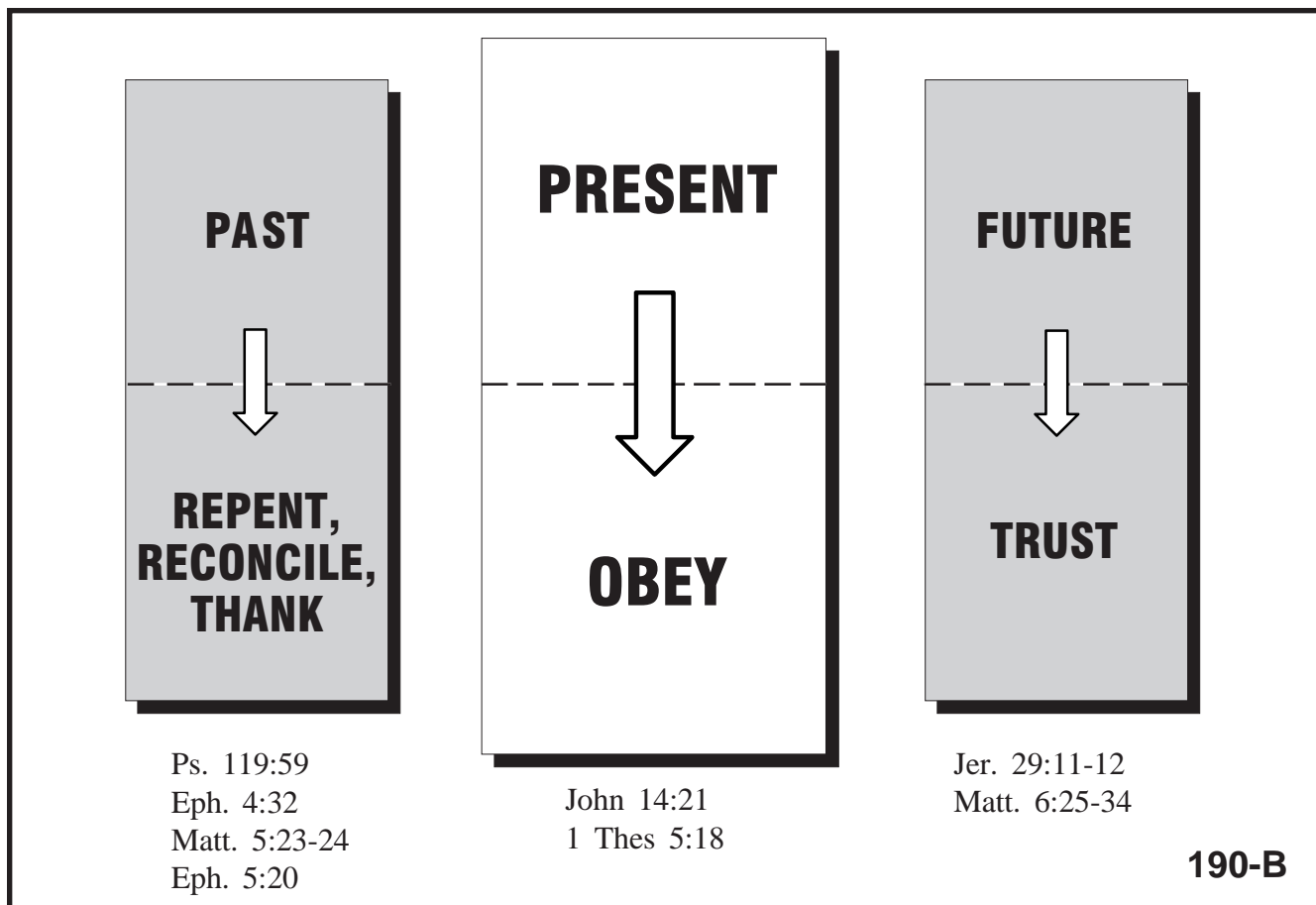
Matt. 11:28

? 7. What expectation do you have that makes waiting on the Lord difficult now? Do you see godship in it?

\_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP

*I must labor to rest.*



## **NOTES**



# Abide, Walk, Rest

## STUDY GUIDE

### PURPOSE for Diagram 190-B:

*To show how to rest regarding the past, present, and future.*



1. Study Psalm 119:59.



2. What sin haunts you? Are you ready to repent? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*For I know  
the plans I have  
for you . . . .*

Jer. 29:11



3. Study Ephesians 4:32.



4. Who has hurt you in the past? Are you ready to forgive? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. Study Ephesians 5:20.



6. What circumstances from your past have you not thanked God for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. Study John 14:21.



8. In what area of your life do you need to obey God now? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



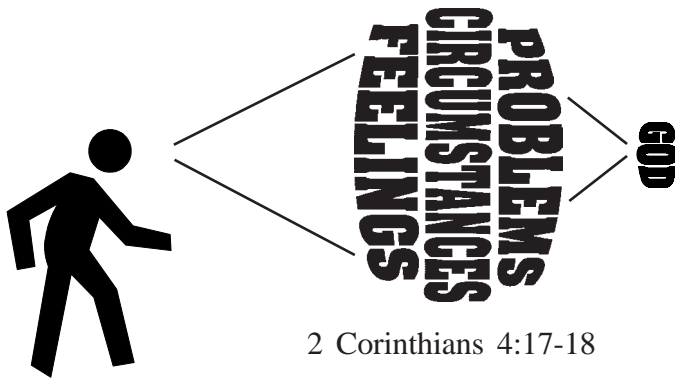
9. Study Jeremiah 29:11.



10. Can you trust the Creator and Master of the universe with your future? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Today is a gift.  
That's why it's called the "present."*

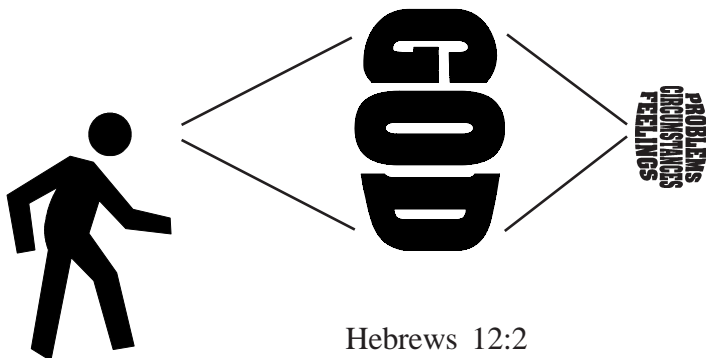
## MAN'S VIEW OF LIFE



2 Corinthians 4:17-18

### Self-Centered View of Life:

Does your God seem so small you are unable to trust Him and rest? Why? You see most clearly what is closest to you, so God seems small and far away when you concentrate on your problems, circumstances, or feelings. Your prayer might sound like this, "Oh, God, where are you? I'm overwhelmed by what is happening in my life."



Hebrews 12:2

### God-Centered View of Life:

This is the correct view. God is your focus, not your problems, circumstances, or feelings. You can clearly see Him in all His power, wisdom, and sovereignty. You can rest because you know He is in charge. He is a God of love who can bring you through any issue or problem. Your prayer would sound like this, "Oh, God, I thank you for being in charge of my life. Please show me how you want me to handle this situation."

**190-C**

## NOTES

# Abide, Walk, Rest

## STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **190-C**:

*To illustrate how one's focus becomes one's greatest issue.*



1. Study Hebrews 12:1-3. Which view of life is most often yours?  
Explain. \_\_\_\_\_



2. What problem, circumstance, or feelings are you staring at now?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Fixing our eyes on Jesus . . . .*** Heb. 12:2



3. Is your God too small? \_\_\_\_\_



4. What attribute of God can you think about now? (Omnipotent, omnipresent, all knowing, loving, patient, faithful) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. Can you tell Him you are going to focus on Him and stop focusing on the problems that steal your joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*God is in control!*

LORDSHIP

## **REVIEW**

- God provides a never-failing rest that is the constant, present inheritance of every child of God.
- Self-focus is the first step in the forfeiture of God's rest.
- Jesus calls all who are weary and beaten down to receive His rest and give Him their burdens.
- Abiding in Christ and remaining in intimate contact with Him is the only way to have a fulfilling, fruitful life.
- Walking after the Spirit is a one-step-at-a-time process. Steps are small, manageable movements of progress that both train and prepare for greater strength and ability.



## ***NOTES***

GODSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

REJECTION \_\_\_\_\_

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL \_\_\_\_\_

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS, WHY PROBLEMS? \_\_\_\_\_

MY FLESH—GOD’S ENEMY \_\_\_\_\_

REPENTANCE \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT YOU? \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENDING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

SEEKING FORGIVENESS \_\_\_\_\_

LORDSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE 

GODSHIP

REJECT

EXT/INT

PROBLEM

FLESH

REPENT

WHAT'S  
NEW

ACCEPT  
RIGHT

EXTEND  
FORGIVE

SEEK  
FORGIVE

LORDSHIP

LOVE



# LOVE

*The ultimate aim of the Christian ministry  
after all, is to produce . . . love.*

1 Timothy 1:5 (PHILLIPS)

*But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

The apostle John, inspired by the Spirit of God, sums up all of God's being into one supreme quality and says, "GOD IS LOVE." It follows then that the key characteristic of the life of the Son of God within the believer is love expressed toward God Himself, toward the members of God's family here on earth, toward those outside the family, and incredibly, toward those who make themselves our enemies.

How do I love God whom I cannot see? How do I love my brother whom I can see? Is this love a feeling, an impulse, a sweeping emotional wave that makes the other person's weaknesses, habits, failures, and inconsistencies suddenly of no consequence?

Someone wittily expressed the feelings I may have:

To live above with saints I love, that surely will be glory!  
But to live below with saints I know—well that's a different story!!

This lesson is designed to show the fruit of the Spirit (which is love) in its practical applications toward both God and man. Never lose sight of the fact that this is none other than THE CHRIST-LIFE in its ultimate expression.

This is not a lesson on how to love. Rather, it is what a life of love looks like in the life of a Christian—both toward God and man.

LOVE

## **THE PINNACLE OF LOVE**

### **A. As a goal:**

*Matthew 22:36-37*

The greatest commandment is....

**Love the Lord with all your heart.**

*Matthew 22:39-40*

The second greatest commandment is....

**Love your neighbor as yourself.**

### **B. As the end result:**

*Ephesians 4:11-16*

**The body (church) is equipped.**

*Colossians 3:14*

**There is unity.**

230-A

## **NOTES**



## Love STUDY GUIDE

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **230-A**:

*To show the importance of love and that loving God is obeying Him.*



1. Study Matthew 22:36-40.



2. Why is loving God the most important thing to do? \_\_\_\_\_



3. What would it look like to love God with your heart, soul, and mind? \_\_\_\_\_

*Love the Lord your  
God with all your  
heart...* Matt 22:37



4. Do you love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? \_\_\_\_\_



5. What would it look like to love your neighbor as yourself? \_\_\_\_\_



6. Who is your neighbor Luke 10:29-37 \_\_\_\_\_



7. Study 1 John 5:7-13

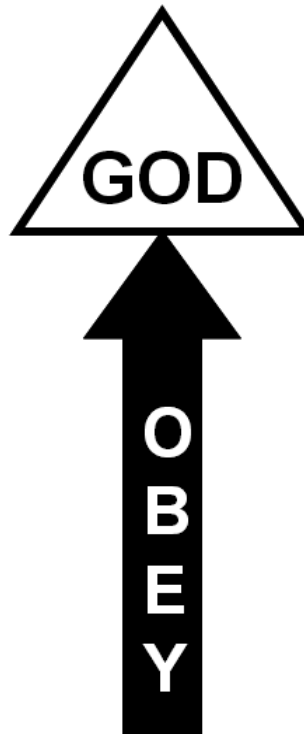


8. What is the goal of the Christian life? \_\_\_\_\_

*Let love motivate me in everything!*

LOVE

**LOVES'S TWOFOLD DIMENSION- VERTICAL**  
**LOVING GOD**



John 14:23-24  
John 15:9-11, 14  
1 John 5:1-3

**230-B**

***NOTES***

## Love STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **230-B**:

*To explain that loving God is expressed by obedience.*

---

? 1. How have you shown your love for God by obedience? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

? 2. What area of disobedience is preventing you from loving God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

 3. Study John 14:21.

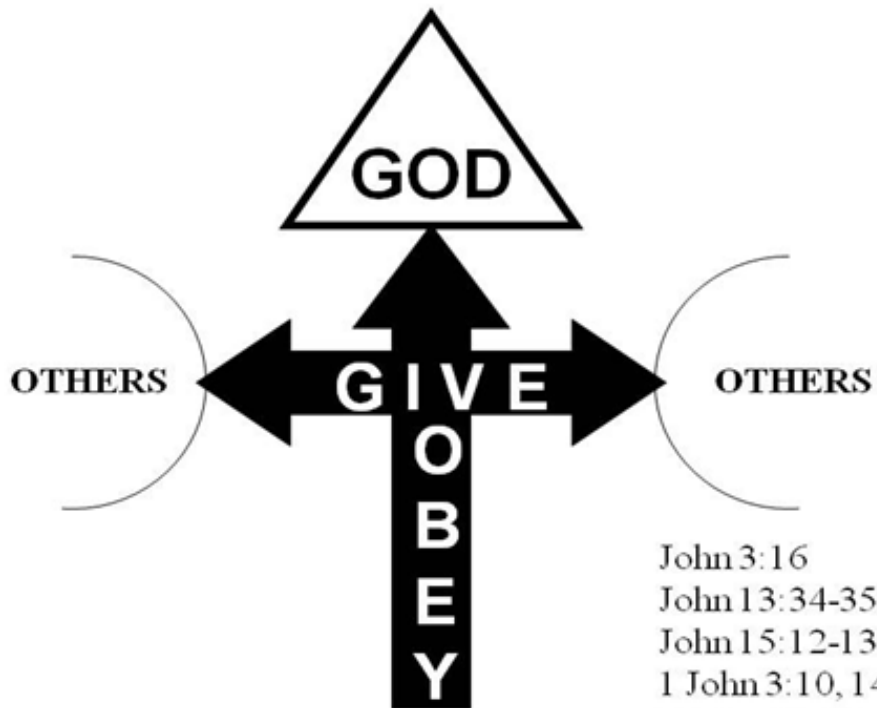
? 4. What does Christ promise to do when you obey? \_\_\_\_\_

*..If anyone loves Me,  
he will keep (obey)  
My word...* John 14:23

*Let love motivate me in everything!*

LOVE

**LOVES'S TWOFOLD DIMENSION- HORIZONTAL**  
**LOVING OTHERS**



John 3:16  
 John 13:34-35  
 John 15:12-13  
 1 John 3:10, 14, 16-18  
 1 John 4:7-13

**230-C**

***NOTES***

## Love STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **230-C**:

*To show that love is expressed by giving up your self-life for others.*

---



1. Study John 15:12-13.



2. Who has God brought into your life that requires you to lay down your life to meet that person's needs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Do you see that your self-life doesn't want to lay down and die to love others?

\_\_\_\_\_



4. Do you have a hard time giving up what you consider your rights, your time, your money, your abilities, and your desires to protect yourself from any pain or hurt?

\_\_\_\_\_



5. Do you love others out of pure motives, or do you want something in return?

\_\_\_\_\_



6. Are you choosing to love others, or do you seek a "feeling" of love first?

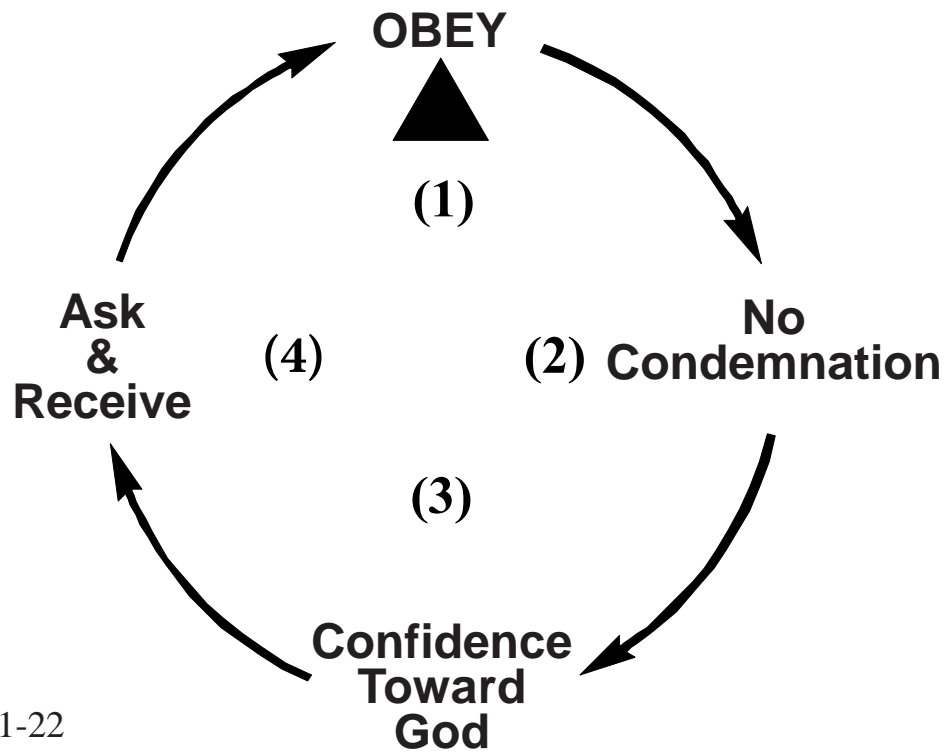
\_\_\_\_\_

*This is My commandment  
that you love one  
another...* John 15:12

*Let love motivate me in everything!*

LOVE

## THE EXPERIENCE OF THE OBEDIENCE CYCLE



1 John 3:21-22

220-D

### **NOTES**

1 John 3:21-22

Beloved, if **(2)** our heart does not condemn us, **(3)** we have confidence before God ; and **(4)** whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because** **(1)** we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

## Love STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **230-D**:

*To show how obedience affects our prayer life.*

---



1. Study 1 John 3:21-22.



2. Are you asking God for anything specific? \_\_\_\_\_



3. Are you receiving specific answers? \_\_\_\_\_



4. If not, do you have confidence before God when you ask? Yes No



5. If not, does your heart condemn you in any way? \_\_\_\_\_



6. If so, what is the area of disobedience that causes you to feel  
condemned? \_\_\_\_\_

*Obey, then pray.*

## **LOVE SUMMARY**

### **WHAT IS LOVE?**

- A.** A **MOTIVE** that is right and righteous
- B.** A **DECISION** of the will
- C.** A **DEED** of present attitude and action

1 Corinthians 13:13

230-E

## ***NOTES***



# Love

## STUDY GUIDE

---

**PURPOSE** for Diagram **230-E**:

*To show the importance of a full understanding of love.*

---



1. Study 1 Corinthians 13:1-7



2. Study Luke 9:23.



3. What are your motives for loving God?

\_\_\_\_\_



4. What are your motives for loving others?

\_\_\_\_\_



5. Will you decide to love based upon God's word rather than you feelings?\_\_\_\_\_



6. What actions are the Spirit telling you to take towards God right now? \_\_\_\_\_



7. What actions are the Spirit telling you to take towards others right now?

\_\_\_\_\_

*... do not have  
love, I am nothing.*

1 Cor. 13:2

*Love gives.*

## **REVIEW**

- Love has a twofold dimension. One is vertical toward God and the other is horizontal toward people.
- Love for God is demonstrated by a life of OBEDIENCE to all He commands.
- Love for our neighbor is demonstrated by GIVING our time, money, and life away to those in need.
- When Christ's life of love rules us, we don't live for ourselves any longer, but for Him and others.
- We don't try to love. Love flows from a relationship with a loving God.



## ***NOTES***

# CONGRATULATIONS!

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- 2 Life Ministry Training
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