

Positioned in Christ

Teacher Edition

By Melanie Stone

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Words in blue on are in the student's edition of this study. Underlined words are blanks on the student's outline.

Part 1

Upright in the Beginning

I. Introduction

When God first created the human race, Adam and Eve were in right position with Him. Since God is the author of life, God is the standard for what is right. In the beginning we were upright together with God.

In this course we are going to look at our position with God – what it was, what it became, and what it can be for us today.

II. Knowing God in the Garden of Eden

A. God Is our life source

The first two chapters of the Bible describe how God intended our lives to be. The third chapter describes the fall of man. The rest of the Bible is about God restoring us back to Himself.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve knew God in His glory. They knew His love; they knew His life. Everything was how God intended it to be. All of creation was birthed out of the great love of God. We were designed to receive our life from God.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 2:7 “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

God is the life-giver. Man and woman were fashioned and designed to have their life in God. As man requires air to breathe, he is dependent on God for sustaining his life, spiritually, and physically.

Like a drowning man needs a breath of air, I need You, my God. In each moment that You created for me, I need You to sustain me. You are not a God to withhold what I need from You, but you are a gracious God, giving me all that I need as I look to You. Forgive me for the times I tried to sustain myself, understanding that even what tried to stand on had originated from You. Have mercy on me, oh God, for the times I looked to another to be what only You could be for me. Your love is great for me. You are enough for me. I don't desire anyone else but You. There is no where else that I want to be but in You. You are the rain for my desert, the sun

for my night. The dawn for my dreams and the twilight for my rest. When I was bowed down, You lifted my head. When I was shattered, You held me tight. When my heart was in sorrow, You quieted my soul. When I was discarded, You valued me. When I was rejected, You brought me home again. When I was withdrawn in shame, You wrapped me in Your love. When I felt unwanted, You sat me next to You. When I cringed at their anger, You covered me in safety.

B. Opportunity to choose

Genesis 2:9 *“And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*

Genesis 2:16, 17 *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”*

God gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to choose. He did not force them to love Him. He put in the Garden two trees. One tree was named the tree of life. The other was named the knowledge of good and evil. Up until this point, Adam and Eve did not know what evil was. They did not know the feelings of guilt and shame. Can you imagine? Never knowing fear or pain or disease?

III. **The Sin Of Self-sufficiency**

Genesis 3:1-6

A. The temptation

1. Eve knew what God had said

Genesis 3:1-3

2. Satan cast doubt on what God had said

Genesis 3:4

But Satan came to cast suspicion of the character of God. He said, “Did God really tell you that you couldn’t eat from this tree?”

3. The lie: “You will be like God”

Genesis 3:5,6

Satan led them to believe that the reason why God wouldn’t let them eat of the tree was because he was trying to control them. Satan told them, “You can be like God yourself. You don’t need God. You don’t need to

be dependent on God, you can live life independently of God.” This was the biggest lie ever told. When Adam ate the fruit from the Tree Of The Knowledge of Good and Evil, he was actually turning away from God and attempting to live self-sufficiently.

B. [The fall of mankind](#)

1. [Pride and control](#)

2. [Spiritual death](#)

Death entered into the human race when man decided to turn away from God, his life. The root word for wicked means “to twist” in Latin. Sin will twist and distort the human race away from what is upright.

When Adam decided to take control of his own life, he turned away from God. He turned away from his life, he turned away from God’s glory. There was now a separation between him and God. Sin problem (Isa. 59:2) He no longer knew righteousness. His eyes were now opened and he knew what wickedness was. The Latin word for “wick” means “to twist.” (wick of a candle, wicker basket) Adam twisted away from righteousness. God is upright. Adam twisted away from what was right, what was holy, pure, and good. His sin was a debt that he owed with his life. He no longer had a life to pay the debt with. We were created to know God, and in our makeup we long to be restored back to the glory we were designed to know. Men and women have been searching and groping in darkness for what will complete them and make them whole. People have tried to get to God by attempting to attain righteousness on their own.

God did not hide from man. God wanted man to know Him. God never wanted man to experience sin, to know death or pain or sickness or starvation or poverty. He never meant for man to know shame, guilt, or fear. God is holy. God is the standard for righteousness. The Bible says, “Be holy as He is holy.”

3. [Shame and guilt](#)

[Man’s first attempt at making thing right:](#)

[Genesis 3:7 “And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”](#)

Man knew he had a need to cover his shame. At one time he was innocent, with nothing to hide. Now his sin caused feelings of embarrassment and the responsibility of guilt.

God, in His great mercy, covered Adam and Eve. God knew only blood, or life, could relieve man of his sinful condition. For the first time God killed one of His own creation, causing blood to flow, for the purpose of covering His man and His woman with the animal's skin.

Adam and Eve had never seen anything killed before. That animal lost its life for their sin. They did not comprehend that life was now required, and since they no longer had a life to give, someone else was going to have to give theirs in exchange. Their attempts to cover their own selves are an illustration of religious attempts to deal with the sin consciousness, trying to fix the sin problem by their own efforts. Not working on the Sabbath became a fig leaf. Praying loud on the streets became a fig leaf. Paying tithes so everyone could see became a fig leaf. We need to face God instead, asking for His covering – the blood of His Son.

Some of the best dressed and most active Christians in our churches today are hiding their hurts, their pains, and their fears behind a social mask. There are many who look happy on the outside, but inside they are struggling with secret sins. They are actors and actresses playing a part, wearing a mask. They are too afraid and too proud to ask for help. They are one person in private, and a different person in public. In private they may say ugly, malicious things about God's precious people, and in public they act like their friend. Inside a good-looking head may be a horrid, perverted thought life. God will ask them to remove their fig leaves so that He can cover them with His love and His atonement.

4. [Fear](#)

[Genesis 3:8-11](#)

5. [Blame-shifting and judging others](#)

[Genesis 3:12, 13](#)

- a. Fear of being hurt
- b. Competition for God's love and approval

Comparing ourselves to another, trying to be better than another, with the intention of being more righteous and gaining God's approval. Not comprehending that God is love, and that God loves each of us with all of Himself, a person tries to be a favorite of God. Not understanding that God loves a murderer as much as God loves them.

John 8

The Pharisees were not secure in their relationship with God. They hated the message of the love and grace that Jesus preached. It wasn't the unbeliever that put Jesus on the cross; it was the religious.

The Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus. He said, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." One by one, starting with the oldest, everyone of them left. All have sinned, all are guilty, and all have fallen short of God's glory.

Jesus said to the woman, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours?" Once we know that our righteous is not a result of our works, but by the blood of Jesus, we don't have to fear accusation. We know His approval through Christ, and that's all we need.

C. The consequences

The result of separating from God and His help is to struggle to live by our own efforts. Genesis 3:16-19

1. [Spiritual separation/death](#)
Acts 17:24-28
2. [Crime](#)
3. [Sickness](#)
4. [Poverty](#)
5. [Natural disasters](#)
Romans 8:19-22
6. [Man made disasters](#)
7. [Wars and conflict](#)
8. [Religious legalism](#)

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss current events and how they are results from the fall of man.

Part 2

Defining Sin Consciousness

I. The Mentality

A. Description

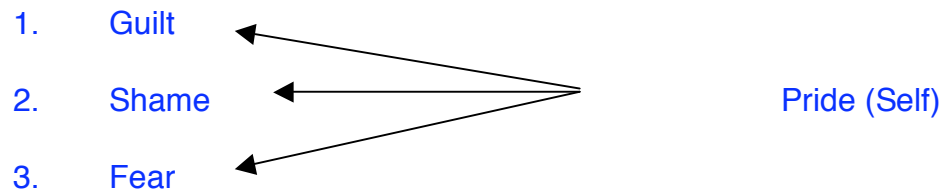
Sin has caused mankind to forfeit relationship with God and to be displaced from our intended upright position in Him. The entrance of sin into the human race has affected mankind on every level – spirit, soul, and body. Spiritually, sin has affected our spirit nature causing depravity and separation from God. Sin has affected our bodies with carnal and addictive desires. Our bodies have also suffered the consequences of weakness, infirmity, pains, and physical death.

The sin consciousness is subject to carnal thoughts, manipulative reasoning, compulsive fantasies, sporadic emotions, distorted perceptions, and other psychological dysfunctions.

It's good news that God has made the way to restore us in all these areas through His Son Jesus Christ. Spiritually He has repositioned us in Him; however, in soul and body, each one is at a different level in a progression of restoration as we continue to surrender ourselves to His development in a personal relationship with Him. In this lesson we are going to look at the consequences sin has on our soul, specifically in the area of the sin consciousness.

What is the sin consciousness?

Sin consciousness is a mentality that has been influenced by [sin](#).



Pride is a characteristic of a person who has decided to stand on their own two feet rather than to lean on God.

The opposite is true faith that leans on God for life and sufficiency in all things. **Pride is about control**, being independent of God instead of accepting His Lordship. Faith is about letting God have control. Sometimes pride is seen as arrogance, but pride can also take the form of weakness. In a surrendered relationship with God, a humble person knows what it means to be complete. Pride, or self-sufficiency, causes a person to be found lacking, causing them to experience fear, shame and guilt. The sin consciousness affects self-perception as well as the perception of the world around us. Our perception affects our interaction with people and with God.

El Shaddai: the All-Sufficient One
(7706, shadday, El Shaddai): Almighty, all-sufficient one. Eternally capable of being all that His people need. 50 times in OT. Psalm 91:1 shadow of almighty.

I'm a creation that is complete when I am in union with my Creator.
There is no where else for me. I am insufficient without God. My El Shaddai. God knows that I have needs. He wants to be my need-meeter. He wants to me to desire His union, and He desires to complete me. **God made me to find life in His love; there is no where else for me.**

God knows I need Him; He wants me to come to Him as a child that is loved by her Father. Oh such love...

Of course, the unsaved person struggles with the sin consciousness, but believers also can struggle with it, depending on their development in righteousness. Many Christians do not fully understand their upright position in Christ Jesus, and as a result, live far beneath their privileges as a child of God. Not comprehending their righteousness, they live with a sense of condemnation. If their mind is not renewed by the Word of God, their thinking is that of an unregenerate man – with a sense of inferiority, weakness, and failure. Being a Christian gives us eternal salvation, but it also gives us the privilege and responsibility to grow in God while we're here on the earth. Everyday Christians should be developing in the light of the knowledge of their position in Christ.

The longer we live the more light we should have on the fullness of our redemption.

Honor precious saints that have learned to walk in the fullness of redemption.

Receiving salvation opens the prison door; growing in righteousness leads us into more and more liberty.

Don't sell the cross short at the rebirth; encourage spiritual development so the saved can know the fullness of their redemption.

B. The carnal mind

Romans 8:5-9 *“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

CARNAL: “meat” or “flesh”

When we are saved, our spirit is reborn with the life of God. Our body and our soul do not receive the same salvation. The body and the soul are referred to as the flesh. The carnal mind is referring to a mentality that comes from sinful man. The Bible says that the sin conscious mentality is enmity against God, meaning it goes against God and His ways. The sin consciousness is not God's thinking, it is carnal thinking.

ENMITY: “a feeling or condition of hostility, hatred, ill will, animosity, antagonism.”¹

The carnal mind is has its focus on self - what we can or cannot do in our own strength. The spiritual mind has its thoughts on God and the possibilities of what He can do. It takes the dependency of faith to receive from God. Struggling to try to achieve position with God based on our own merit is based in pride and self-sufficiency. **Our efforts to credit ourselves are not impressive to a holy God.** Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God.

Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he...” How you see yourself on the inside will be how you portray yourself to be on the outside. If you see yourself as being loved and having great worth, you will be a confident individual in life. If you see yourself as having little value, not having the affirmations of being loved, you will walk through life

¹ Spirit Filled Life Bible

with your head down. In Psalms it says, “God is the glory and the lifter of my head.” When we know what God thinks of us, it doesn’t matter what anyone else thinks. God is greater than any man or woman on this planet, and if HE says I’m worth dying for, then I know I’m a somebody. I’m not a nobody if God sent His own Son to be nailed to a cross in my place. Jesus said to count the cost. When Jesus was weighing the cost in the Garden of Gethsemene, He considered me and you when He made His decision to face punishment and death. As He hung on the cross, He counted us as worth dying for – each of us, no matter what we’ve done. We are all children of God and loved by our Father.

**The value of an object is the price someone is willing to pay for it.
Your value – His blood.**

When I know my value, I’m happy and content with me and my calling. I don’t have to be the biggest or the best. I’m happy not being number one because I know I’m valued as part of the family. Capitalism says fight to be number one. Salvation says there is only one who is number one and that person is Jesus Christ.

Is your significance found in working to be number one or is it resting in making Jesus your number one?

C. [Condemnation](#)

[CONDEMNATION: \(#2631 katakrima\): “The sentence pronounced with a suggestion of the punishment following.”²](#)

[The sin consciousness focuses on what is deserved](#)

Sin consciousness expects punishment, judgment, criticism, control, manipulation. The sin consciousness is afraid of control. The sin consciousness finds it difficult to trust.

It expects bad things to happen. It thinks sickness instead of healing... weakness instead of strength... trouble instead of victory... poverty instead of prosperity... sin instead of righteousness. The opposite of the sin conscious mind is a mind of faith. One that thinks, I don’t deserve God’s goodness, I can’t earn God’s blessings, but I trust His love for me. I’ll lay my pride down and receive of His love. The sin consciousness thinks, “its too good to be true. There has to be strings attached.’

² Vines

Do you know how it feels when your own child hurts their finger and they won't let you touch them? It hurts that they hurt. Because they hurt, they guard that wound and they don't want anyone near it. There is an ache in the heart of the parent that their child is afraid of their touch. It is the same with God. Don't you think His heart aches when we hurt ourselves and won't let Him touch us? "No God, I look too ugly, don't look at me. No God, I can't let it go. If I do, it will hurt worse. No God, don't heal me. If You do, then I'll owe You. You'll be able to control me because of it. If I can earn it, buy your blessings, then I'll be the one in control. You'll have to heal me because I obeyed Your Word." God longs for us to trust Him. He's not out to trick us or to bait us into His trap. Life with Him isn't manipulative. His reign in our lives is one of peace, satisfaction, completeness, wholeness, joy, everything that we were created for that is just and good.

Romans 8:1,2 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit, for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."

Not only must we overcome the sin consciousness for ourselves, but when ministering to others, if a person can't receive from the Lord, more than likely they need to be set free from sin consciousness. Freedom comes from the inside out. Teach them the Word and show them that they can only receive by grace. None of us deserve or earn anything from God. We can't climb a mountain to get to God in our strength, but He can reach down and lift us up to where He is.

II. The Effects Of Sin Consciousness

A. It can hinder our communion with God

The sin consciousness hinders a person from coming near to God. They fear God won't accept them; they fear that people won't accept them.

Ephesians 2:13, 18

The sin consciousness robs us of fellowship and communion with the Father. Sin consciousness keeps us from approaching God. It causes us to feel unworthy of God and undeserving of His blessings. It keeps us far away from God, not being able to trust His love for us. If you can't trust Him, you'll put walls up to keep your distance from Him. "God, don't invade my space." We keep Him out. He isn't like one of us might be. If we want to come in, and the door is locked, we'll just knock the door down.

Rev. 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. He that hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” Like a teenager out past his curfew, afraid that if we come home we’re going to be punished. God wants us to run to Him, not away from Him. Especially in times of trouble.

We can only come one way to God. Surrendering the lordship of our lives to Jesus Christ. We see God’s love and His grace, all we can do is humble ourselves, freely receive, and be grateful.

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

The first time we see the sin consciousness is in the third chapter of the first book of the Bible.

Genesis 3:7-11 “(7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (8) And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. (9) Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him. ‘Where are you?’ (10) So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.; (11) And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’”

The enemy wants to keep you out of the presence of God by keeping you AFRAID of God.

I John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment (punishment). But he who fears has not been made perfect (mature) in love.”

World religions are developed out of the sin consciousness. Because man is trying to attain righteous with God by their own attempts, they beat themselves, starve themselves, live in poverty, do penance, etc. They are trying to quiet their consciousness by doing good works.

B. It can hinder the effectiveness of our prayers

You have to know what you have to use it. What if you inherited a million dollars, but you never knew it? You wouldn't know to use it. Same with the things of God, if you don't they belong to you, you won't be able to use them. Sin consciousness is not aware of the position of righteousness that God has placed us in. Sin consciousness keeps us from approaching God, from coming near Him, because we fear His judgment and rejection. If a person is ignorant of his right-standing or chooses not to believe its so, that person will not be able to receive from God. You don't get things from God, you don't buy things from God, you don't acquire them. God has given them, but they must be received by faith. Being dependent on God is the opposite of all you can do – it's all He's already done and is still continuing to do today. The focus needs to be on God and what He has done more that on you and what you can do or not do.

James 5:16 "... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

People with a sin conscious way of thinking won't think that they have what it takes to operate in the realm of the spirit.

People with a sin consciousness pray with fear of being refused.

Sin consciousness hinders a person from approaching God by faith.

The sin consciousness hinders a person from entering into the presence of God during praise and worship. When you watch people not getting excited in praise and worship, it's not always that they are not getting with the music. They aren't worshipping from their hearts because of a heart condition. In the same way, you may see people who get into the music, expressive with raising hands and dancing. But God looks on the heart. Are they truly in worship?

Your prayers are effective because He has lifted you out of the muck and mire of sin and made you to stand with His righteousness. People with a sin consciousness think "I'm not good enough to receive from God yet, I have to try harder to please Him. Maybe someday I'll be good enough to get it." Hebrews 11:6 says that we please God by our faith. Our faith is realizing that we aren't ever going to be "good enough", but to make the One who is more than enough as our lord. When we understand His grace toward us, we respond in faith. If we fear judgment, we react with works, trying to gain His approval.

People with a sin consciousness will many times seek others to pray for them in seasons of crisis instead of going to God themselves.

When people pray, and don't see results, they blame themselves for not having enough faith. But Jesus said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Luke 17:6) The disciples wanted Jesus to increase their faith, but the emphasis was not in the size of their belief, but in WHOM was their dependence. Demons believe and shudder, but demons don't have Jesus as their lord. Faith isn't in our faith – that goes back to our performance, our ability to believe. We want to control God or the situation. God simply wants us to abandon trust in our abilities, strengths, and trust Him. Cast the situation and all the circumstances onto Him.

Can you imagine a hungry child asking his parents for a meal, and the father refusing? (Matthew 7:9-11) "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

C. [In can hinder us from having healthy relationships](#)

1. [Control and manipulation](#)

2. [Inability to trust](#)

3. [Fears](#)

Fear of rejection

Fear of judgment

4. [Closed heart](#)

Hiding the real us. Hiding our faults. Protecting ourselves. Same walls that are for our self-preservation are walls that keep us distant from God and others.

Sin consciousness keeps Christians out of church. They compare themselves to others – they feel they don't measure up. So they go back into the world where they feel accepted. They are aware of their sinful desires, of failure, of sin. They feel Christians will reject them if their heart was exposed. We all come in hiding our weaknesses, faults, and fears. We come in with our false faces.

Those who are ashamed withdraw from the body. Sinners knew that their sin was not acceptable to Christ, but they knew they were! They've been hit and they're wounded. What should the church do? Let them wander away from God and get everything they deserve? *Psalm 130:3 says "If You, Lord, should keep account of and treat [us according to our] sins, O Lord, who could stand?"* Which of us would ask for that kind of treatment for ourselves? Not me! Many Christians, because of their own securities, would say, "Yes, let them go. It's not my responsibility to go after someone that has hurt me or others." Jesus however, described Himself as the Good Shepherd that left the 99 to go after the one whom wandered away from His care. Love is aggressive. Love reaches out when the person is not in a position to help himself.

Sin consciousness also will cause us to compare ourselves with others. Not being confident of our relationship with the Father, not knowing His unconditional love for us, we are incomplete, pulling from others what we need to get from Him. Judging others, jealous of others, etc.

Someone that struggles with the sin consciousness finds it difficult to forgive. They usually can't let go for fear of losing control and being hurt or manipulated again. Faith can forgive, trusting God to heal our hurts and trusting God with all circumstances that surround the offense.

D. It can hinder our [ministry](#)

Sin consciousness focuses on me – MY weaknesses, MY strengths, MY failures, MY successes, MY shortcomings, MY mistakes, MY sin.

Faith focuses on the LORD – HIS blood, HIS righteousness, HIS mercy, HIS love and grace!

Sin consciousness will keep you from ministry. Your focus will be on yourself instead of on others. If you are not complete in Christ, you will not have the fullness to ministry to others out of . If a person ministers without being in God's presence, then they will not last long. They will be a curse instead of a blessing. They will dry up and out. There is an anointing on ministry that comes out of fellowship with the Father.

Sin consciousness causes doubting and wavering in faith. The Word says to lay hands on the sick and see them recover. Don't doubt God and don't

doubt what God has done in you! Don't be moved by feelings. If you don't feel righteous, examine your heart, surrender your life to God, and go by faith. Even say it out loud if you have to – "I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!" You are righteous in Christ whether you feel like it or not. You are an ambassador going in HIS power and HIS authority, SENT by HIM! What are you afraid of? You aren't their Savior. Jesus is! They don't need you, they need the One you represent. (II Cor. 5:17-21)

Sin consciousness tries to rise to a standard of righteousness that can never be obtained in the flesh. Faith realizes that I can never measure up on my own; however, I know that if I die with Christ, I shall also be raised together with Him! Jesus met the standard for me and raised me up to together with Him!

God told me that many Christians think of themselves as containers made of plastic, only good for holding leftovers. When they are really vessels of gold and silver for an honorable use in His kingdom. When you tell them they are a blessing to the church, they wag their heads and say, "O, not me. I just try to do what I can."

We limit God when we focus on our shortcomings rather than on His overcomings! When Jesus overcame the grave, Jesus overcame our sins. Why do we go grave digging, trying to find our past? The Bible says that we rose up together with Christ! Quit looking at past failures. **You may have missed it, but He didn't – Christ hit it right on target when He died for you!** He meant to shed His blood for you, it wasn't an accident, they didn't steal His life from Him. He gave it... for YOU! God said, "I want that one back!" God wants you.

Sin consciousness is swayed by the opinions of others, not being confident of what God thinks of them. **Don't concern yourself with someone who questions your value.** Don't have fellowship with people who continually bring up your past mistakes and failures. How could Jesus ever love you? How could Jesus ever use you in the ministry? Faith has the answers to those questions.

People might put their expectancy in leaders. Just keep pointing to the cross. **Kingdom principle – be dependent, yielded to God, like a nursing infant, in everything we do.** Matthew 19:13-15 little children (3813 paidion: infant or young child)

When God chose someone to serve Him, He didn't look for perfection. He looked for humility. He wanted someone that would live for Him rather than for themselves. David, Moses.

III. The Solution

What is the solution to sin consciousness? Renew the mind to the Word of God. Choose to believe what the Word says about you. Get God's picture of who you are in Christ. The enemy wants to keep you from renewing your mind. If he is successful, he can fill your life with bondage, sickness, pain, poverty, and sin, and keep you from being an effective witness for God.

[Renew the mind to think in line with the Word of God.](#)

[Romans 12:1,2](#)

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss ideas on how to be effective in reaching the lost by understanding the sin consciousness.

Part 3

Right-Standing

I. Definition

The Bible speaks of two different types of righteousness. One is right-standing which describes the restored relationship we have with God through the sacrifice of His Son Christ Jesus. The second type is right-walking which describes a born again believer who victoriously overcomes sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. Either type of righteousness cannot be attained in our own strength.

[RIGHTEOUSNESS: “The ability to stand in God’s presence without the sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority.” – E.W. Kenyon](#)

II. The Need For A Savior

A. The sin problem

1. The entrance of [sin and death](#)

Romans 5:12 “...through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and this death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

The one man that sinned entered through was Adam. Genesis 1:27, 28 God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth. With authority came the responsibility of guarding the Garden. Genesis 2:15-17 God told Adam that if he disobeyed Him, dying he would die. God is our life source. Turning away from God was turning away from his life source. Death entered man spirit, soul, and body. Sin separated mankind from our life. Death was the result.

2. Separation

[Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2](#)

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Adam sold out to sin. He gave his life for sin in exchange for trying to live life independently of God. He chose to separate from his life source. In God Adam was complete, whole. In God Adam knew unconditional love; he knew his value and his worth from being loved by God. He felt accepted and approved. But he chose not to submit to God, but to take control over his own life. Adam was focused on himself and wanted the power to do whatever he desired. Adam's authority was delegated authority. Only in God did he reign in life. When you step outside God, you step out of God's authority. When Adam sinned, he relinquished his authority. Adam wanted to be his own boss, lord of his life; instead he found himself a slave to sin. His nature was no longer in the image of God, but similar to the nature of the devil (John 8:44).

His nature was filled with the desire to satisfy the selfishness of sin. All privileges that he once enjoyed in God were lost. Adam found himself separated from God. The relationship he once enjoyed, walking with God in the Garden, was now broken. Cold fear flooded Adam's soul. Shame and guilt gripped him as he realized his nakedness. He sought to cover himself. He ran away and hid from God. Do we see the love of God as we see Him searching for Adam and Eve? He took away their attempts to cover themselves. We also religiously try to cover ourselves with our own efforts to please God. Cain did the same thing. Why wasn't his attempt successful and Abel's was? Blood had to be shed. Hopefully his parents told their children about the time when God lovingly took away their fig garments, and for the first time filled one of His own creation with its blood to cover Adam and Eve. Abel's sacrifice was one of blood, life for his life. Cain brought fruit, no blood was shed, no life was given. Immediately God had begun dealing with the sin problem so that He could be somewhat near mankind.

Apart from God man is not complete. He was made to be joined with God. Man longs to be loved unconditionally, to know his worth, his acceptance. He wants to find it on his own, so he is searching, trying to satisfy the longing in his heart. Acts 17:27,28

3. God's desire is to be near His people

a. Old Testament

Exodus 25:8, 9 Tabernacle: "Dwelling Place."

b. Jesus

Matthew 1:23 Immanuel: “God with us.”

c. New Testament

I Corinthians 6:17-20

B. The sacrifice of animals

1. Guilty of debt to death

James 2:10

Romans 3:19-23

The blood of animals was not enough to pay man’s debt to sin. But it would cover the sins. The restoration between God and man was not complete, but it allowed God to get closer to His people. God is so holy, if in our sin we were to get too close to Him, our bodies would die. Mankind owed death. Death had a hold on God’s creation. God in His mercy, allowed animals to be killed so that His people could know Him.

Death had the victory. Death had a sting. Death came looking for payment of sin and kept mankind as debtors. We all owed a price we could never pay. No one could satisfy the debt, we all had sinned.

2. Blood has life

Under the old covenant, the blood of animals provided atonement.

The blood of animals provided atonement.

ATONEMENT (Heb. *chaphar*, 3722): “to cover”³

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

³ Spirit Filled Life Bible

God also gave the law to show man his need for a savior, one to die in his place. One to be his lord, because on man's own, he could never achieve righteousness.

James 2:10 *“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

Romans 3:19,20, 23

We were GUILTY!

III. The Cross

A. Jesus became sin

II Corinthians 5:21 *“For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin TO BE SIN for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Galatians 3:13 *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, HAVING BECOME A CURSE FOR US (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’”*

John 3:14-16 a serpent is a type of sin and cursing.

B. Jesus died spiritually

The sky was darkened. There was separation between God and His Son. Isaiah 53 Jesus was the sacrifice. His crucifixion took place the same time as Passover. Jesus was hanging on the cross the same time the lambs were being slaughtered in Jerusalem.

Matthew 27:46 *“...My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*

Isaiah 53:9 death is plural in the Hebrew.
Jesus died spiritually and physically.

C. Jesus went to Sheol

Ephesians 4:9, 10 “...He (Jesus) also first descended into the lower parts of the earth...”

Ephesians 4:8 “...When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.”

I Peter 3:18- 20 “made alive...He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient...”

When Jesus ascended, it is believed that the old covenant saints also ascended.

Acts 2:25-35 “...For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to Me the ways of life; you will make me full of joy in Your presence...”

Matthew 12:39, 40 “...An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Luke 23:43 “...Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Paradise (paradeisos, 3857) : oriental word meaning park or Eden (place of future happiness).- Strongs

Luke 16:19-31 “Abraham’s bosom”

Before the cross, when men and women died, the evil went to Hades and the repented went to “Abraham’s bosom.” We know the evil could see into Abraham’s bosom, but there was a gulf between the two.

Gulf (chasko, 5490): “to yawn.” In Sept. “a yawning abyss.”

According to Vines, Sheol referred to the grave and also to a place for all those who died. The wicked receive punishment there (Numbers 16:30, Deut. 32:22, Psalm 9:17, Isaiah 14:13-15) Job speaks of Sheol as both an undesirable place for the wicked (Job 24:19) and a place of refuge for the righteous (Job 14:13).

According to Vines, Hades in the New Testament corresponds to the Old Testament word Sheol. Hades is from the word hado, signifying “all-receiving.” This place is a temporary holding place, once also holding the saints in Abraham’s bosom until they ascended with Christ. The remainder of those in it to be judged and thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:13,14. The Lake of Fire referred to as the second death.

Jesus declared to have the keys of it.

Revelation 1:18 “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Hosea 13:14 “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues!(where is your punishment) O Grave (sheol), I will be your destruction!(where is your sting)...” cf. I Corinthians 15:55

Matthew 27:51-53 After Christ was resurrected, many bodies of the saints came out of their graves. Those who were recently buried, bodies not decayed, went into the city as a witness! That was some kind of power that raised Christ!

D. God raised Jesus from the dead

Once Jesus paid the price, God was able to raise Him from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 23:6 “And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last.”

John 19:30 “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished.’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

Jesus had also said earlier that no one was able to take His life, but He laid it down willingly.

Ephesians 1:19, 20 “when He raised Him from the dead.”

Acts 2:24

“whom GOD RAISED UP, having loosed the pains of death, because it was NOT POSSIBLE that He should be HELD by it.”

E. Jesus was the firstborn from the dead spiritually.

Colossians 1:18

Colossians 1:18 *“And He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the FIRSTBORN from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”*

I Corinthians 15:20

I Corinthians 15:20 *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (Romans 8:29)*

Romans 8:29

Hebrews 1:1-6

Hebrews 1:5 *“... You are My Son, today I have begotten You...”*

Hebrews 1:6 (KJV) *“He again brings the firstborn into the world...”*

Hebrews 1:3,4 *the context is talking about what Jesus did at the cross.*

Jesus was the firstborn of the dead. But others had been raised from death. Elisha raised a boy from the dead. (II Kings 4:8-37) Jesus was the firstborn from the dead spiritually.

Under the old covenant, God required the firstborn males to belong to Him. Then the Levites were His. Also He required the tithe and firstfruits to go to Him. The firstfruits were the best of the harvest. Money can be used in this world to live life our own way and to control others. God wanted lordship of our money. He wanted to be honored as LORD.

Proverbs 3:9,10 *“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”*

In Malachi God told the people they were robbing from Him when they didn't give the tithe and offerings. He said the devourer is after you. But if you give the Lord what belongs to Him, they would be so blessed they couldn't handle it all.

Tithe in Hebrew is “marked for destruction.” The tithe was a type for Jesus. Jesus was marked for destruction. He died as a sacrifice to

remove the sin barrier between us and God. He also rose again. He was the firstfruits from the dead. He belonged to God. We are honoring Jesus as our Lord and our Redeemer when we pay our tithes. Firstfruits!

I Timothy 3:16 “...*God was manifested in the flesh(Jesus), justified in the Spirit...*”

Justified means to be declared righteous. Jesus was declared righteous!

IV. Jesus has made the way

Romans 5:16-21

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss what self-righteousness is.

Part 4

Declared Righteous

I. Remission

A. Sending away

The blood of animals covered sin; the blood of Jesus removed sin.

1. REMISSION (Gr.,aphesis,859): “From aphiem; ‘to send away.’ The word signifies a release from bondage or imprisonment, dismissal, sending away, and forgiveness, with the added quality of canceling out all judgment, punishment, obligation, or debt.” – Spirit Filled Life Bible

Hebrews 9:22 “...without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

Hebrews 9:25,26 “Not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another- (26) He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to PUT AWAY sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

Hebrews 10:11, 12

Jesus sacrificed on Passover. The week before presented as the Lamb without blemish in Jerusalem. Jesus on cross the same time lambs slaughtered for Passover.

2. The scapegoat

Leviticus 16:21, 22

B. The offering of Christ

1. The debt of man could not be paid off by an animal sacrifice

Hebrews 10:4 *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”*

2. Once for all

Hebrews 9:12 *“Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”*

Hebrews 10

II. **Declared Righteous**

- A. JUSTIFIED (Gr., dikaiōo, 1344): “A legal term signifying to acquit, declare righteous, show to be righteous.”

II Corinthians 5:21 *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might BECOME the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD in HIM.*

Illus. A man commits murder. He is sent to trial. He deserves punishment. He is filled with guilt, shame, and fear. He is sentenced with the death penalty. However, the judge sends His son, completely innocent of any wrong doing, and takes the punishment in place of the guilty man. The judge agrees to let his son take the punishment so that the man could be set free.

Jesus took the punishment. He paid the price for our sin. *Romans 5:8 “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* God, as the judge, accepted the sacrifice of His Son, and forgave us. He declared us righteous – He set us free. We’ve been justified or “declared righteous!”

“Just-as-if-I’d never sinned.” We didn’t deserve His righteousness, but because of His love, God has freely given us the gift of right-standing! God sees the blood when He looks at us.

Heb. 4:16 We can stand before God as if we had never sinned. Completely liberated from sin. Coming right into His presence, not from outside a veil, but His Spirit dwelling in us.

Titus 3:4-7

B. Set free

Colossians 2:14, 15

C. By grace through faith

1. Know the love of God

John 3:16 “For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.” – Amplified

Know Him. Know His heart. He is love. I John 4:7

It is His kindness that leads us to repentance. We don't need to fear His love. Romans 2:4

Jer. 31:3 with loving-kindness I have drawn you.

The is the cure for the sin conscience.

a. Shame

b. Guilt

c. Fear

I John 4:18

2. Know God's way

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Hear the Word, hear the truth.
Romans 10:17

John 8:31,32 "...If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

3. [Trust and rely upon God](#)

a. [Pride and self-sufficiency](#)

The way to be in relationship with God is to depend upon Him as our source of life.

b. [Control](#)

When we know God's love, there is no fear of being hurt, judged, used, rejected and tossed aside,we can surrender, we can relief our defenses and open up to Him. We can let Him reign. We can trust His lordship.

4. [Receive](#)

[Ephesians 2:1-10](#)

By grace because you don't deserve it. We all have sinned. We all have fallen short of God's glory. We all deserve hell. We all deserve sickness, poverty, bondage, depression, anxiety, etc.

I don't deserve it, but faith will humbly surrender and receive it. Faith will yield and respond to His gifts. Sin conscience can't receive. Pride can't receive. Self-sufficiency can't receive, it has to earn. Then you feel as if you don't owe God. You aren't due Him when you receive. You don't owe Him. He doesn't have the upperhand, because you earned it – you worked for it – you deserve it.

Be careful of FAKE FAITH. Fake faith will confess the word, not from a position of dependency, but from the position of self-sufficiency – earning miracle points. They "work the word" – I don't like that phrase.

Fake faith is based on me reigning in my strength, my efforts, my resources. I can go to church. I can memorize scripture. I can give money and things to people in need. I

can believe. I can have faith. The focus is what “I” am doing, not on what He has already done.

Romans 4:4-5 words as debt

You still come up short when its time to pay the cashier – what a feeling of lack. I don’t have enough. It’s shameful, embarrassing. I can’t pay. What I have is not sufficient.

Real faith stops trying and starts trusting. Real faith depends on God and what He’s done. Real faith is humble, surrendered to receive.

Real faith doesn’t faint when it doesn’t see results.

Toddlers ask “Why” a lot. Mature Christians can receive the answer from God “Because I said so.”

Proverbs 3:5, 6 lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him.

Fake Faith – tries to help God along. Hagar.

Fake faith tries to get God to move. Control. Manipulation. I did my part God, now you are bound to Your word and You have to do your part. No He doesn’t, because you just got out of faith by trying to control Him.

RECEIVING BY FAITH

Faith involved more than believing; it requires trusting or depending on God to the point of taking action.

RECEIVING

God does not wait until we are perfect before extending grace to heal. When someone in a different denomination gets healed and you don’t, it that because God agrees with everything that they teach? What if they hurt you, does that healing mean that God has put His stamp of approval on that hurt? No, many times God moves in spite of us not because of us.

Mercy and grace. You better show it if you want to receive it.

Ephesians 2:1-10

It isn't easy for the carnal man to let go of the reigns of his life. It isn't easy to receive when a man has learn the rules of the game in the world. Kill or be killed. Every man for himself. Look out for number one. It's hard to receive, then a man feels he owes someone something. Then that person would have a hold on him. Fear of being controlled, used. It's hard to trust. When you've lived on earth for awhile, you tend to get hurt and disappointed by people. We want to be the one on top. We do what we can to earn approval and acceptance and love.

You can't trust God if you don't know Him. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17. We can't get a hold on God. We don't have to manipulate Him into loving or saving us. We can't do enough good deeds to get God to smile over us. God rejoices over you because of His unconditional agape love for you.

We were made righteous because God DECLARED us righteous. He declared us forgiven. He declared us delivered. HEALED. BLESSED.

Luke 15:11-32 Prodigal Son

In our sinful condition, we came to God, not deserving His love. The Son came home with the sin consciousness, "I don't deserve to be called your son, make me a servant." Isaiah 64:6 Our righteousness is as filthy rags. He puts His robe of righteousness on us. All we can do is receive His grace. All the prodigal could do was to be grateful. He couldn't earn his way into his father's heart, he was already there. The father was eagerly waiting for him to turn back home. Our origin is from the Father, each one of us has turned our own way (Isa.53). Where God is, is home. The picture is of a blind man groping for his way, Jesus said He came to seek and save the lost. When we find Him, rather be found by Him, we feel like we belong. The things of God seem so right. Our heart sighs, "This is it, this is what I've been made for." He satisfies, He makes us whole.

Colossians 2:9,10 complete in Him.

III. Identifying with Christ

Romans 6:1-5 Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward work.

A. His death

Die to self.
Colossians 3:3

B. His burial

Make Jesus Lord.
Romans 10:9, 10

C. His resurrection

God will raise you in newness of life by the Holy Spirit.

II Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

How do you become “in Christ?” Jesus was said to be the firstfruits from the dead. If we want to be raised in life with Christ, we also have to identify with Him in His death.

Romans 6:5 *“For if we have been UNITED TOGETHER in the LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, certainly we also shall be in the LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION.”*

Colossians 3:3 *“For you died, and your life is HIDDEN with Christ in God.”*

How do we identify with Christ in death? Do we have to die on a cross? No, Jesus did that once and for all. Death involves dying to ourselves. No longer can we claim to be the lord of our own lives. Jesus must become our Lord. I must surrender myself, all of me, all my control. This is not a forced surrender, but a willing one. God, You love me so much, I can trust You with the lordship of my life. Like a seed that is buried in the soil, life is quickened in that seed and life begins.

Romans 8:10, 11 *“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus from the*

dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

God would never take advantage of me, manipulate, or trick me for His benefit. God doesn't NEED me. God is complete in Himself. But I NEED Him. I'm not whole without Him. Once I surrender myself to Him, He raises me up with Christ in newness of life. I know that if I am a partaker in His death, I also will be a partaker of His resurrected life.

Ephesians 2:1-10

God again is joined with us. He recreates our spirit after His nature. Our spirit being completely changed by His life. That is why we call it being born again. Life in the spirit, pure, holy like Him. We are now the righteousness of God.

Because of the change in nature, His Spirit can dwell in us.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is the same Spirit at work in you!

I Corinthians 1:30 “But of Him (God) you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-“

JEHOVAH TSIDKINU: The Lord Our Righteousness!!!

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss the day that you received Christ as your Lord. If someone would like to receive salvation, pray with that person as a group.

Part 5

A New Consciousness

I. Purifying The Sin Consciousness

Hebrews 10:2-4, 10

A. Freedom from pride and control

Complete in Christ
Colossians 2:9, 10

1. Other people
2. Addictions
3. Religions

B. Freedom from fear

1. Judgments and comparison

I John 4:8

2. Opinions

Galatians 1:10 *“...if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”*

C. Freedom from guilt and shame

Luke 7:36-50

1. **GUILT:** “The feeling of responsibility or remorse for a committed offense. Suffering the weight of failure. Bound by wrongdoing with the fear of judgment.”⁴

⁴ Random House Dictionary

GUILTY DEFINITIONS:⁵

OPHEILO: “To owe, to be indebted, to fail in duty, be a delinquent.”

HUPODIKOS: “brought to trial.” Lit. “under judgment.” *Romans 3:19* “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

ENOCHOS (1777, Greek): “Held in, bound by, liable to a charge or action at law.”

2. SHAME: “A painful feeling caused by the consciousness or exposure of unworthy or indecent conduct or circumstances.”⁶

SHAME: “The painful feeling arising from the consciousness of something dishonorable, improper, ridiculous, done by oneself or another.” - Random House

Syn. – embarrassment, mortification, humiliation. “Injury to one’s pride or self-respect. Shame is a painful feeling caused by the consciousness or exposure of unworthy or indecent conduct or circumstances.

SHAME DEFINITIONS:⁷

ATIMIA (819, noun): signifies “disgrace, dishonor.”

ASCHEMOSUNE (808, noun): denotes “unseemliness, nakedness.”

AISCHROS (150, adjective): “that which is opposed to modesty or purity. Filthy.”

ADAM AND EVE

When Adam and Eve sinned, mankind first experienced guilt and shame. They knew the fear of punishment. They knew they were naked and in need of a covering. In their attempts to cover themselves, they sewed fig leaves together, ashamed. They hid from God, afraid of judgment.

⁵ Vines

⁶ Random House Dictionary

⁷ Vines

WE ARE ALL GUILTY OF SIN. *Romans 3:19* “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. *Romans 3:23* “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

JUSTIFIED (dikaioo, 1344): “A legal term signifying to acquit, declare righteous, show to be righteous.” – Spirit Filled Life Bible

Illus. Trial, convicted, and sentenced to the death penalty. Jesus takes the punishment, and God, the judge declares you righteous.

Romans 3:24 “being justified freely by His grace.” “declared righteous.” We were all guilty of sin, but through Christ, we are set free from guilt and shame. We were disgraced and without honor. Jesus took our shame along with our sin to the cross. He raised us up in honor. He declared us righteous, declared forgiven, declared washed by the blood!

People will categorize one another, sometimes because they want to feel superior to others, sometimes because of self-preservation, not allowing them to trust you. They label people “liar” “homosexual” “adulterer”, etc. God removes those labels when He places His label on you and declares you “righteous” “forgiven” “redeemed”. God titles you as His. “Mine”

Righteous *Romans 4:23-5:2* in Amplified.

II. No More Condemnation

Romans 8:1,2 “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

A. The law of sin and death

The law of sin and death is like the law of gravity, trying to pull a person downward.

B. The law of the spirit of life

The law of the Spirit of life is like the laws of lift and thrust, causing a person to be lifted upward.

The law of sin and death is likened to the law of gravity. The pull of condemnation is downward, keeping a person from being all that they can be in Christ. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is like the laws of lift and thrust. When an airplane takes off into the sky, the laws of lift and thrust are in motion. Life in the spirit will lift you far above the things of the flesh.

We are not made righteous in ourselves. We cannot take credit for any of it. We deserve punishment. Jesus took our punishment so we could be free. Jesus took our guilt and shame so we could know mercy and love, peace and joy. Guilt and shame are part of the sin consciousness. Sin consciousness will hang on to you if you are looking to find righteousness in yourself – religious pride.

If we focus on us, and like the Pharisees, take pride in ourselves for our holy living, get ready for a fall. Get ready for living life conscious of guilt, shame, and fear. Instead, be conscious of your identification with Jesus and your oneness with Him. (I Cor. 6:17; John 17:20,21) Be liberated, set free from guilt and shame! There is liberty in Christ! Be set free from condemnation by identifying with Jesus in death, burial, and resurrection!

III. **Qualified In Christ**

A. **Ambassadors for Christ**

1. **AMBASSADOR: “A representative of the one sending.”**

An ambassador doesn't go out on his own authority or power. He doesn't go out with his own purpose or motives.

2. **Considered qualified to represent Jesus Christ.**

II Corinthians 5:18-21

Righteousness restores to man a standing before the Father on the same ground that Jesus enjoyed in His earth walk.

Jesus exercised authority, but it was not in His own authority. He

was SENT by the Father. (John 14:10) Jesus did not have an inferiority complex. He shouted to Lazarus, “Come forth!”

II Corinthians 5:18-21 “we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us...”

An ambassador is a person sent to represent the One who is sending. This scripture is about YOU. You have been reconciled to God. Your relationship with Him has been restored. Now in His righteousness, we are to go bring others to reconciliation.

God chooses to honor the ones He honors. Many times He chooses the despised. I Cor. 1:26-31

You can disqualify yourself from effective ministry by choosing to sin. I Cor. 9:27

God is the one who qualifies you. To qualify: “to render fit or competent.” Websters.

“To get authority, license, power, etc. as by fulfilling required conditions, taking an oath, etc.” dictionary.com based on Random House

Many times you have to pass a test. If you fail, don’t be surprised if you have to go through something similar to see if you’ve repented and overcome it.

Hebrews 4:16 We can have confidence in God’s presence. Do we deserve His benefits? No. Can we expect God’s benefits? Yes, only because we come in surrender by the blood of Jesus. Confidence isn’t arrogance.

Jesus was condemned so that I could be forgiven.
Jesus was forsaken so I can be embraced.
Jesus was beaten so I can be healed.
He became poor so that I might become rich II Cor. 8:9

He identified with me so that I could identify with Him. The great exchange.

Created for glory Isaiah 43:7
Fell from glory Romans 3:23
Hope of glory Col. 1:27

3. Ministers of reconciliation

RECONCILED (katallasso, 2644): “To change, exchange, reestablish, restore relationships, make things right, remove an enmity...this word describes the reestablishing of a proper, loving, interpersonal relationship, which has been broken or disrupted.”⁸

Psalm 71:15, 16 *“My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits. I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.”*

He has declared us worthy to be His messengers, to represent God in the earth. What a responsibility! We aren't going on our own, we've been sent by God Himself! We go in His authority. We are to be an example of His grace – how God showed mercy to penitent. The authority comes when we humble ourselves to receive the free gift of righteousness. We lay down our own lives to live them for the Lord. We don't go in our own strength or our own goodness, but in His grace and His mercy.

“Righteousness takes away the old sin consciousness that has crippled and robbed us of all our spiritual initiative, confidence, and assurance in His presence.” – Kenyon

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5

The Holy Spirit gives witness to our hearts that we belong to God. He gives us the boldness and initiative to go in His authority and power. “The righteous are bold as a lion!” Psalm

Mighty achievements were done by men who had only limited righteousness under the first covenant. Their righteousness was reckoned to them on the ground of the value that God placed upon the blood of bulls and goats. They were not recreated men and women as we are! We are to take Jesus' place on the earth and act within the authority that has been invested in His name. “I come in the name of Jesus!”

John 14:10, 12-14 greater works

⁸ Spirit Filled Life Bible

Let love dominate you. Reveal Jesus in your conduct. We are taking Jesus' place on the earth. We are His body. We are loving as Jesus would love. We are giving as Jesus would give. We are healing as Jesus would heal. His power is revealed in His love. An ambassador doesn't go out to do his own purpose, he is sent with the purpose of the One who sent him. Love does not seek its own.

When Jesus is your Lord, His authority will operate. Men and women that have done exploits for the Lord are men and women who are fully surrendered to His lordship. When all of your life and all of your heart are His, you can say with confidence, "Cancer, go from that body." When you do, His power is released. If it was done in your authority alone, it would be in your power alone. But if we go in His authority, we go in His power.

VICTORIOUS LIVING

*Jesus had no sense of lack, sense of guilt, sense of want, anxiety, or restlessness. He was free from the fear of man and free from the fear of Satan. **Jesus walked in victory. Colossians 1:12, 13 He has qualified us to be partakers of His inheritance. We can walk above the conditions, above the law of sin and death.***

Righteousness restores quietness and rest to the spirit. No longer do we need to be afraid of bills or circumstances. Sin consciousness is being solely aware of my pain, my suffering, what the doctor said, what medication is prescribed. That is why many are not healed. We must have a consciousness of the power in His name that overcomes what the doctor said, what the medicine bottle said, what your body is telling you.

In God's mind, there are no incurables. We are not problem children to God. He is continually working for our good, and through faith and patience we will inherit the promises.

We are no longer victims of sin. This new consciousness is one of superiority over sin, disease, pain, and the devil. I know it is not by my doing, but by my placement in Christ. I am not the undeserving worm on the sidewalk of life. I am not simply hoping that someday I'll be healed, maybe tomorrow I'll be good enough. When we are free from sin consciousness, I know that today it is mine. Now it is mine, because it doesn't have to wait on me. If the Word says so, then I can say so. Its not because of how I feel, or what the circumstances say. Its what the Word says. Say what the Word says. I'm forgiven! I'm free! I'm righteous! I'm an ambassador!

B. Approved by God

1. Satan is an accuser

Revelation 12:10, 11

2. The self-righteous are accusers

Romans 8:33 *“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect”
It is God that justifieth; who is he that condemneth?”*

Isaiah 54:17

Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn...”

Is someone trying to hold you to your past sin that you have repented of? I John 1:9 for Christians. Remember to receive His forgiveness not based on your good works, but by His grace. Jesus paid a HIGH price for you. Are you going to say it’s not enough?

Who recreated you? Who gave you eternal life? Who made you a son or daughter? God did? Who can go up against God. Let God stand up for you. He will!

HOW?

...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS FROM ME, says the Lord.”

It doesn’t matter if the whole world tries to keep you tied to your past. Do you think God holds Jesus to the sin He became? God sets you free! You don’t stand in your own righteousness. You don’t just possess His righteousness, you have BECOME His righteousness. He declared it! God said so about you. To the bent over and twisted, stand up right! You are righteous!

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss the objective of Satan in accusation.

Part 6

Entrance Into His Presence

I. Returning Back To Glory

- A. Originally designed to know glory

Isaiah 43:7

- B. Fallen short of glory

Romans 3:23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

- C. Jesus, our hope of glory

Colossians 1:27 *“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

According to the Random House College Dictionary, the prefix “re” is used with the meaning “again” or “again and again.” It indicates repetition, or with the meaning “back” or “backward.” God wants to bring us back to knowing His glory.

Redeem	Renew	Restore	Receive	Repent
Recompense	Recommend	Reconcile	Recover	Refine
Reform	Refresh	Release	Relief	Relieve
Remain	Remember	Remission	Repair	Rescue
Return	Reveal	Reverse	Revive	Reward

II. Jesus Made The Way

- A. The Tabernacle, literally means “dwelling place”

1. The pattern of the original

Hebrews 8:1-6 (Exodus 25:8)

2. The suppliers must have a willing heart

Exodus 35:5

3. [The Center](#)

God wanted to dwell, to live, as close to His people as He could get. The Israelite camp was set up with God as their center.

4. [The fence and gate](#)

The fence was about 7 feet tall, just above eye level. The fence was made of fine-twined linen and was meant to keep people from coming in their own way.

The gate was to let people in. There was only one way in. The gate was made of blue, white, red, and purple colors.

5. [The outer court](#)

a. [The brazen altar](#)

The articles in the outer court were made of brass, symbolic of judgment.

Anytime you wanted forgiveness, you would bring a sacrifice to God's tabernacle.

The rich brought a bullock (young bull). If the person were not rich, that person would bring a lamb or a goat. The very poor would bring a couple of turtledoves or pigeons.

The priest assisted the person in making sacrifice. He holds the animal, and the person kills it. The person puts his hands on the animal's head and confesses his sins to God, asking for forgiveness. By putting hands onto the animal, the person is identifying with the sacrifice. The animal, as the substitute, suffers in that person's place for his sins.

b. [The laver](#)

Only a priest could enter the Holy Place, but first he had to wash his hands and feet at the laver. The laver was a large basin in which the priests washed their hands and a large lower basin at the base in which he washed his feet. It was made of highly polished brass that was reflective.

6. [The holy place](#)

The holy place was divided into two compartments: The holy place and the holy of holies or most holy place. The two rooms were divided by a veil. It was a tent that could be taken down and moved. It was covered

with animal skins. The outside layer was made of badger skins. Under the badger skins were ram skins, and the next layer was a covering of white goat hair.

The bottom, or inside curtain, was woven of the four colors, with cherubim embroidered on the curtain. This inner curtain also served as the ceiling for the Holy Place.

From the inside you could see walls with gold paneling.

Inside this room was a warm glow, sweet fragrance, and food to eat. Here the priest could have fellowship with God.

The articles were all made of gold.

a. [The candlestick](#)

Instead of candles, each holder contained a little pot of oil.

The light was never to go out.

b. [The table of shewbread](#)

Twelve pieces of bread for the priests to eat.

c. [The altar of incense](#)

It did not have its own fire. Coals were brought in from the brazen altar. The priests took sweet incense and sprinkled it on top of the hot coals.

7. [The holy of holies](#)

Only once a year did anyone go into the Most Holy Place. The High Priest would apply the blood of atonement for the whole nation on the Day of Atonement.

a. [The priest](#)

The Priest was the mediator between God and man. The Priest had bells on the bottom of his robe and a rope on his ankle. God told Moses, no one could see His glory and live. God is holy. Anything unholy cannot live in His presence. His glory is too powerful. Sin separates us from His holiness. What is holiness? God. Why is murder wrong? Murder is not in God. Why is adultery wrong? Adultery is not in God. If the priest did not prepare himself correctly, He would die, and they would have to drag his body out.

God hid Moses in the rock and let him see His backside. When Moses came off the mountain, his face shone because of the glory. The people could not look at him because of the brightness, so Moses wore a veil on his face.

Moses said he would not go anywhere without the presence of God. If he has to wait, he'll wait. If he has to wait some more, he'll wait some more. His goal in life was not what he would do or where he would go, it was in being with God. His concern was God being His center.

b. [The veil](#)

The veil was between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

d. [The ark of the covenant](#)

[Hebrews 9:4](#)

1) [The bowl of manna](#)

2) [The tablets](#)

3) [Aaron's rod that budded](#)

d. [The mercy seat](#)

The lid on the ark was called the Mercy Seat. This is where the blood was applied. The glory of God, the Shekinah glory, would shine from above the mercy seat between the two gold cherubim.

The lid was a cover. His mercy covers me.

God veiled His glory in a cloud.

B. Entering through dependence

The tabernacle was a picture of dependency, returning back to God.

1. The pattern

Hebrews 9:11, 12

Jesus applied His blood in the heavenlies.

2. Willing heart

Its our choice. God will not make us come to Him.

3. The center

God wants to be at the center of our lives in relationship.

4. The fence and gate

Jesus prayed, if there is any other way, let this cup pass from Me. There was no other way.

John 10:9 *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...”*

John 14:6 *“...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

5. The outer court

a. The brazen altar

Jesus was the Lamb. We also die to control of our own lives.

Romans 12:1, 2

Psalm 51 You do not delight in sacrifice or burnt offerings. You desire a broken and a contrite heart.

b. The laver

Eph. 5:26 *“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word.”*

We need to be washed of the effects of sin as a result of going our own way. Jesus washed the disciples feet, symbolic of walking in the world.

6. The holy place

- a. The candlestick
- b. The table of showbread
- c. The altar of incense

7. The holy of holies

a. The high priest

The priest was a mediator between God and man. Jesus became our mediator, and now we are priests and kings in His presence.

[Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

b. The veil

[Hebrews 10:19-22](#)

The veil was symbolic of Jesus' flesh. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple was torn in two. The presence of God is no longer shut up in the Holy of Holies, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. If we want to know the Presence of God, we have to come in Christ. We have to get beyond our flesh.

c. The ark of the covenant

1) The bowl of manna

[Deuteronomy 8:2,3](#)

God had miraculously provided their food in the desert. As we require food, we must require God. "God, I require You. I need You God." Live by the words from God. "God, Your way, Your will, is my life."

[John 6:31-40](#) Jesus is the Bread Of Life. He came not to do His will, but the will of Him who sent Him.

2) The tablets

Not my way, the commandments were God's way of living.

3) Aaron's rod that budded

Numbers 16 and 17

God's chosen leadership. God's way.

Psalm 133 Unity like oil running down the beard.
Oneness comes from laying down our own ideas, and taking the vision God has given us. In marriage, in church, in business.

d. The Mercy Seat

John 20:17; Hebrews 9:11, 12

When Jesus had risen, He said, "Don't touch Me, I haven't ascended to My Father and Your Father." Jesus had yet to go to the heavenly tabernacle and apply His blood on the mercy seat.

Jesus came God's way. He learned obedience through the things He suffered. (Hebrews 5:1-9) Obedience is simply choosing God's way instead of mine. Entrance came through dependency and obedience. The priests had to do it God's way if they wanted to live in His presence.

To obey is better than sacrifice. In fact, if there weren't disobedience, there would be no need for sacrifice.

If Jesus, the Son of God Himself, had to lay down His life, than why would we think we could come into the Presence of God any other way?

Matthew 16:24, 25 "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'"

I am not mine anymore, I was bought with a price.

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

III. Consecration

A. Holy anointing oil

This combination was only to be used to consecrate the priests and the articles of the tabernacle for service. Exodus 30:32, 33

B. The Holy Spirit

The power of God is for those in the Presence of God, those consecrated for His service.

CONSECRATE: “to devote or dedicate to some purpose.”⁹

C. Vessels of honor

II Timothy 2:20, 21 sanctified, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

SANCTIFY (Greek, #37, hagiadzo): “to hallow, set apart, dedicate, consecrate, separate, sanctify, make holy.”¹⁰

IV. Holiness

II Corinthians 3:7-18

II Corinthians 3:18 *“And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transformed into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is} the Spirit.”* – Amplified version.

When we are in His presence, His glory, we are changed into His image. Holiness is a result of being in His Presence. Too many Christians approach holiness religiously, trying to live holy based on their own goodness, when it is the power of God that changes us into His image. Too many times we try to change ourselves. We try to take Egypt out of us, when God wants to take us out of Egypt. Let Him part your Red Sea so that sin has no hold on you. The anointing breaks the yoke. A captive, someone with an addiction, can't free himself. Jesus came to set the captives free. The lifestyle of holiness comes from our desire to have Him as the center of our lives. God, I hunger for Your Presence. I desire You so much that the desires of this world can't even compare with You.

⁹ Random House Dictionary

¹⁰ Spirit Filled Life Bible

We aren't to go back to religion or carnality. We have right-standing, He wants us to grow in right-walking. He wants us to stay in the Holy of Holies, not back to the outer court, or Holy Place. We have access into His presence.

The more we live in, not just visit, His Presence, the more like Jesus we become. The more like Jesus we become, the more consecrated we are, the more of His glory we will know.

II Cor. 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."

Treasure: "an inexhaustible supply of riches." Earthen: "describes a material so fragile that, if handled too roughly, it will break and fall to pieces right in your hands." – Rick Renner. Containers of his glory. Shine the light of His glory, not on you, but in you and through you.

The disciples couldn't cast out a devil. Jesus came along and cast it out. The disciples asked Jesus why they failed. He said because of the littleness of your faith. Faith isn't just believing. The demons believe God, and shudder. Faith is trusting and depending in God.

Chair illustration. Being in Him, relying on Him. Not in my own strength, on my own two feet. Not the amount of our ability to believe, or amount of scripture you know, but how you depend on Him. In His name cast out devils. In His name, heal the sick, raise the dead. He has lifted me up, He raised me and seated me together in the heavenlies with Christ. He took me out of the miry clay and made me to stand on the Rock.

Prayer and fasting. Jesus was always praying and fasting. Power comes from being in His presence. You can't come into His Presence without surrender. You can't surrender unless you know His love.

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss the heart difference between self-righteous works and humble obedience.

Part 7

Holy Reverence

I. The Glory Of His Holiness

- A. God Is [holy](#)
- B. We must become [holy](#)

[I Peter 1:15-17](#)

[Phil. 3:9-11](#)

Partakers of His sufferings to experience glory. Trials tear our flesh like Jesus' death tore that veil in the temple.

[I Peter 4:12-19](#) Don't think it strange. It's the fire of the altar.

God disciplines us to be partakers of His holiness ([Heb. 12](#))
"But to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet." [Prov. 27:7](#)

[Holiness precedes power.](#)

[II Timothy 3:1-5](#) "...having a form of godliness but denying its power..."

II. Delayed Judgment

- A. For holiness to remain holy, there is [judgment](#)

[Acts 5](#) Ananias and Sapphira

[Like a light drives out darkness, God's holiness drives out sin.](#)

The greater the manifestation of His glory, the greater the manifestation of judgment.

- B. God's [mercy](#) delays judgment

[James 2:13b](#) "... Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Under both covenants, it was God’s mercy that delayed judgment.

C. We should not take advantage of God’s grace

Romans 6:1, 2

D. Sin will keep us from living in God’s glory.

E. Continued sin will bring judgment

Galatians 6:7

The delay of God’s judgment does not mean the release from it.

Because of God’s mercy, we can operate under His anointing. But the anointing is not necessarily accompanied by the approval of God. There have been ministers in sin under the anointing, but that is God’s mercy and longing to touch those people. Eventually, sin will bring judgment. King Saul, Judas, Baalam. God is looking for those who He cannot only anoint, but to abide with.

III. Fear The Lord

To fear the Lord is to reverence Him. To fear God is not to be afraid of Him.

Exodus 20:21 *“So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.”*

If you know God, you can trust God to come near Him. If you know His goodness, you will draw near Him in dependence. If you don’t know His goodness, you will run from Him.

A. He is God and I am not

Dependency (faith) gives entrance into His presence.

1. Humility

Holiness is a product of grace, and God gives grace only to the humble. - Frangipane James 4:6 Humility is a necessary part of dependency. Rebellion and control stem from pride. God resists the proud.

Our focus needs to be on the Lord, and not on ourselves.

2. [Obedience](#)

Obedience is death to my lordship, and being alive to His.

Our hunger and thirst to know God in His glory causes us to yield the unholy things in our lives.

When we are in God, His glory is our glory. We have no glory in ourselves. John 17:22

We were raised together with Christ.

When we fear the Lord, we will not fear man. We will know His glory when we care more about God's approval than the approval of others. We need leaders who will not be moved by the approval of their congregations or their organizations. You will serve whom you fear (Bevere).

Isaiah 8:13 *“The Lord of hosts – regard Him as holy and honor His holy name [by regarding Him as our only hope of safety], and let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread [lest you offend Him by your fear of man and distrust of Him].”*

They need to let God have control of the meetings, not to try to have a hold on the Spirit of God. If he fears God, he will not be insecure. He will allow others to minister, will not be concerned with who gets the credit, only glory to God. No politics, pleasing the influential with people.

Being obedient isn't always comfortable, in fact, it rarely is comfortable to choose not to do things my way.

3. [Waiting](#)

If we are truly depending on God, we will wait for Him.

Moses would not go forward without the Presence of the Lord. Others will not wait. They'll make a proverbial golden calf. Wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

4. [Seeking](#)

If we are truly depending on God, we will seek for Him.

When we have become complacent, or we have sought after His blessings instead of Him, He will withdraw Himself so that we will seek after Him again.

Not losing, but strengthening in faith. Faith doesn't experiment, faith expects! Even in the tough times, don't give up! Yield to the trial, and learn from it.

Christians and politics. Yes, stand up for what is right. But don't hold up the ten commandments without holding up the cross of Christ. Don't cry for justice without crying out for mercy. SEEK GOD, not the majority rule. Don't give your opinion, give God's opinion. How many jurors have said, "I've heard the witnesses, I've seen the evidence, but God knows the heart so I've spent the night in prayer and this is what God has shown me." How many in congress I said, "I know people have voted for me to represent them, but before them I represent the Lord Jesus Christ, so I'm making the decision He wants me to make."

5. [Worship](#)

God is not on an ego trip. You can't butter Him up to try to get His favor, that is manipulation. Worship is bowing ourselves to His lordship. Worship is loving Him, and Him loving us. Worship is me giving Him all of me and God giving me all of Himself.

6. [Honor](#)

Teach your children to fear the Lord. It is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Teach them to honor authority. Drive out rebellion.

How can you say you love God if you can't love your brother who you can see? In the same way, how can you say you honor God if you can't honor earthly authority you can see? (I John)

No complaining.

7. [Unity](#)

The church in the book of Acts experienced great glory when there was great unity. Unity is when all of us lay down our own agendas, our own way of doing things, and devote ourselves to God's purpose.

If we fear the Lord, we will not judge other people. James 5:9 The judge is standing at the door.

Unless you are responsible, judge to discern between good and evil, but not to condemn.

B. [Abiding in God's presence](#)

Psalm 25:14 *"Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him."*

Our friendship with God is based on reverence of Him. He is not our equal, or our buddy.

1. [A habitation](#)

John 15

2. [A place of experiencing glory](#)

Psalm 25:14 *"The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning."*

You don't reveal yourself to just anyone, but people that you know. Psalm 103:7 *"He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel."* I don't just want to know about God, I want to know HIM. Not just the what, but the whys of God. I want to know His motives, His intentions, and His desires.

God hides Himself from the proud. The way to God is through dependency and trust. "You can only love someone to the extent that you know them (Bevere)." God will reveal Himself to the extent that you fear Him as LORD. God hides Himself (Isaiah 45:15). He

is found in the secret place (Psalm 91:1). John 4:24, I Cor. 2:6-8
spiritual understanding.

The pure in heart will see God. Matt. 5; Heb. 12:14-15, 28

God does not hide Himself from us; He hides Himself for us.
John 15:14-15

God doesn't reveal Himself in obvious, spectacular ways because
to return to the Lord, we must come in dependency, trust, and faith.
The still, small voice.

James 1:25 amp. If you fail to obey what you know, you are
deceived, and there is a veil keeping you from God's glory.
Obedience keeps your eyes open to see truth and glory. We are
changed into what we behold.

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and think of examples of men and women who were not only known for
their tremendous ministry, but also for their integrity.

Part 8

Serving Righteousness

I. [Right-Walking](#)

The Bible speaks of two kinds of righteousness. One type of righteousness is describing our position before God as righteousness because Jesus paid the price for our sins. This is known as right-standing.

The second type of righteousness describes a holy lifestyle of the believer. This is our life of obedience to the Father. We do not have to try to live this life without help. God has given us His nature and His Holy Spirit to give us the victory in this life. This is known as right-walking.

II. [A Slave to Sin](#)

[Romans 7](#)

A. [Before we were born-again](#)

[Verses 1-6](#)

Romans 7:1-6 The old and the new covenants compared to marriages.

Vs. 5 "For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death."

"When we were in the flesh", describes when a person was not yet born again. The old nature was sold to sin. Being separated from God, from what is HOLY, man was a slave to sin. Sin entered into man - spirit, soul, and body. The flesh describes man's fallen condition. The word carnal describes the same condition. The root word "carn" meaning "meat." Romans 7 is describing the unregenerate man. Paul is referring to what it was like being a carnal man under the law.

[Romans 7 is not referring to the born again believer.](#)

B. [Knowledge of sin](#)

[Verses 7-12](#)

Romans 7:7-12 The law brought knowledge of sin.

Vs. 7 “I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’”

The purpose of the law was to show people their need for a savior and the way to salvation was through faith.

Romans 3:19, 20 “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world MAY BECOME GUILTY before God. (20) Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN.”

Vs. 9 “But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.”

Under the law, man saw what sin was, and that he was guilty of it. He also learned that he could not keep the law, to get near to God, because of his **desire** to sin. His nature was a slave to sin. Who he was, was a sinful man with sinful desires. He could not escape it. He was captured by it. It held him bound from reaching God. He saw by the law that God was holy and good.

Vs. 10 “And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.”

The law showed man that he could not attain life from God based on his righteousness. At one time he thought his own way of living was what life was. The law showed man that God was life, and you ain’t even close. He saw death at work in him.

C. [The law of sin](#)

Verses 13-25

Vs. 23 “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the LAW OF SIN which is in my members.”

Paul is describing the law of sin which was at work in his old nature. He wants to do the right thing, but he does the wrong thing that he hates.

Vs. 21 “I find then a law, that evil is present with me...”

This is the law of sin and death. The natural man is bound to sin. He is ensnared by it, and can’t get out.

Vs. 18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but HOW to perform what is good I DO NOT FIND.”

Vs. 24 “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

Vs. 25 *“I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

“mind” in ancient manuscripts this was written as “me.” This is talking about the spirit of man. With my reborn spirit I serve the law of God.

Romans 8:1, 2 **Now we are getting into the new covenant...**

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit, (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

Paul has been set free from the law of sin and death. How?

III. **Bought out of Slavery**

To redeem means “to buy back.”

REDEEMED (Heb. Gaal, 1350): Ransom, redeem, repurchase; to set free by avenging or repaying.”¹¹

REDEEMED (Heb. padah, 6299): “to release, preserve, rescue, deliver, liberate, cut loose, sever; to free; to ransom.”¹²

RANSOM (Lutron, 3083): “From the verb luo, ‘to loose.’ The word signifies a release from slavery or captivity brought about by the payment of a price. **The price paid canceling a debt.**”¹³

God bought us back by paying the price that canceled our debt.

Colossians 2:13-15 *“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (14) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*

The handwriting of requirements was the debt we owed. Another translation says “certificate of debt.” It was like us going bankrupt without having the ability to pay off the debt. We belonged to sin and death. God sent Jesus to pay the debt in full on our behalf. He purchased us, and now we belong to Him.

¹¹ Spirit Filled Life Bible

¹² Spirit Filled Life Bible

¹³ Spirit Filled Life Bible

IV. Slave to Righteousness

Romans 6

A. Identifying with Christ

Verses 1-9

1. The old nature

The old man or the old nature has died. The days of ME being in control of ME are OVER.

Colossians 3:9, 10 “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (10) and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,”

Ephesians 4:17-24 “Put off the old man, and put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

2. The new nature

II Corinthians 5:17 “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

God paid the price, but we have the choice if we want to receive it or not. Jesus opened the prison doors, but you have to choose if you want to walk through those doors to freedom or not. If we don't want to let go of the control over our own lives, we can remain under the law of sin and death. If we want live; however, we accept Jesus as payment for us, and we belong to God.

We die to ourselves as being lord of ourselves. As it was in the beginning, we decide to depend upon God for our life.

As the Holy Spirit brought life to Jesus, and raised Him from the dead, the Holy Spirit will bring life to our spirit. (Eph.2:5)When we accept Jesus, our spirit is reborn or recreated with the life and the nature of God.

II Corinthians 5:17 “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Literally: “a new species of being which never existed before.” We are spirit beings, we have a soul and a body. What is changed when becoming born again is the spirit – who we are. (John 3:6,7) What we possess, a soul and a body, does not immediately change. The soul and the body, since they have not received a transformation, are referred to as the flesh.

The soul includes the mind, reasoning, and emotions. We renew that with the Word of God. Romans 12:1, 2

The body is something that we discipline and keep under. I Corinthians 9:27

3. God's nature

I have received the payment for me, and now I belong to God. His life has made me alive! The old me is gone forever! I have received a spirit with GOD'S NATURE!

II Peter 1:2-4 "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, (3) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue (4) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

We have the nature of God. We have His righteousness. His desires are now in us. The desires of the reborn spirit are within us. We no longer are dominated by fleshly desires of an evil heart. We are now dominated by righteous desires.

B. Sin has no control over the surrendered believer

Verses 10-14

We are recreated spirit beings; however, we do have a fleshly soul and a fleshly body to deal with. Our spirit needs to dominate our fleshly desires. There are also times when a person's behavior reflects that they are trying to control parts of their souls that are still damaged from something in their past. God is looking for our surrender so that He can bring healing and wholeness to us.

Vs. 12 "DO NOT LET sin REIGN in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts (desires)."

The Christian who lets its flesh dominate the spirit is called a carnal Christian. A carnal Christian is a believer that has once made Jesus the Lord of their life, but now they are trying to take back the reigns in a certain area. Jesus needs to be the Lord of every part of our lives, not 99%, but 100%. A carnal Christian will bring judgment upon himself if he does not repent. God is merciful.

Some Christians have been liberated, but they go back to the prison. They go back to wanting to do things their own way. Backsliders. God loves the backslider, but it's their choice if they want to be free or not. Freedom comes by making Him Lord.

Vs. 13 “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

As they say, the prison doors are open, what are you still doing inside? The spirit man needs to be strong to dominate the soul and the body. That spirit man needs to be fed the Word of God, go to church, and pray to become stronger. If you spend more time feeding your flesh, your flesh will be stronger than your spirit.

You are dead to sin, so sin has no control over you. The sin consciousness make the believer feel as if he has no control over his fleshly desires. The sin consciousness will keep us from taking our place as kings in life. It keeps the flesh in dominion. Satan and the demons know who we are in Christ – if they can keep us from knowing it or believing it, sin will dominate us. No, you need to get your body and soul under the authority of your reborn spirit. You have a choice as to how you will present your members – according to the flesh or according to the spirit.

Ephesians 4:17-24 put off the old man, and put on the new man “which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Vs. 14 “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

The law condemned men and women to sin. In their pride and self-sufficiency they tried to attain righteousness on their own. God gave us a righteous position as a gift. We did not earn it, it was given. Since we have grace, we are not condemned by sin. Since we received salvation, we are not bound to try and earn it.

C. [Instruments of righteousness](#)

[Verses 15-23](#)

Vs. 16 “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one;s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”

Illus. A slave girl belonged to a cruel master. She had done something wrong, so the master was beating her and was going to put her to death. A good master came and wanted the girl. The cruel man would not let her go. He said that according to the law she had to die. The good man said he would buy her. He paid a large amount of money for her. She was purchased from the cruel master, and now belonged to the good man.

God paid a price for us that was more than any amount of money. He paid for us with the blood of His own Son.

We are not our own.

I Corinthians 6:19, 20 (*Flee sexual immorality*) “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? (20) For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

If a person decides to receive God’s offer out of sin, he doesn’t belong to sin anymore, now he belongs to God. **If I could have attained righteousness on my own, I wouldn’t owe God anything. Because I was purchased as a slave to sin, I am now a slave to righteousness.**

We have a home mortgage. The company that we owed was bought out by another company. We didn’t owe the first company anymore because the second company paid for our business. But we weren’t debt free, we now owed the second company.

Vs. 20 “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.”

When I worked at a fast food restaurant, they paid my paycheck in exchange for certain obligations. I had to do the things they told me to do. I had to work until they told me I could go. But when I quit that job, I was no longer under any obligation to take any orders from them. That employer had no more control or power over me. When I go into this restaurant to eat, no one can say to me, “Go clean the floor.” I no longer serve them. I am free! We no longer serve sin and death!

Vs. 20-23 The fruit of the flesh is sin that leads to death. The fruit of the righteous is holiness that leads to life.

Vs. 23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In serving righteousness, our paycheck is life. In serving sin, our paycheck is death. Who do you serve?

V. Living in the spirit

Romans 8:1-17

A. The law of life

Verses 1, 2

Now that God has placed you in a position of righteousness, He wants you to live after that righteousness.

Romans 8:1 "...who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit..."

If you want to be free of the sin consciousness, walk or live in the spirit. If you want to be free from the bondage and addictions to sin, walk or live in the spirit.

B. What the law could not do

Verses 3, 4

Vs. 3,4 What the law could not do for you, Jesus did for you. Jesus condemned sin in the flesh so His righteousness could be fulfilled in us *"...who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."*

C. According to the flesh

Verses 5-8

Romans 8:5-8 *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. (6) For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (7) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (8) So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."*

To walk in and of yourself is fleshly minded. To live in sin is fleshly minded, of course. But also, to live focused on yourself and how you can work your way to God is being fleshly minded. Focused on yourself is pride. Focus on His grace and forgiveness for you. The fleshly mind is enmity against God, or hostility against God. God loves you, but a holy God cannot get near pride and sin. You cannot please God by working your way to Him.

D. [Life in the spirit](#)

[Verses 9-13](#)

Vs.9-11 God gives life by His Spirit who dwells in you. His river is in you, springing up to zoe life (God's life). John 7:38, 39

Romans 8:12 "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh"

You don't owe the flesh anything anymore. If you live for the flesh, you will die. (vs 13). Put the deeds of the body to death by the Spirit (vs. 13) and you will live.

E. [Brought into the family](#)

[Verses 14-17](#)

Vs. 14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God , these are sons of God."

If you have the Holy Spirit, you know you have been born into the family of God. You are not just a servant of God's, you are His sons and daughters. And heirs with Christ.

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss addictions and the hold they can have. Discuss forgiveness, healing and restoration. Ask if anyone would like prayer for themselves or others to be free from addiction.

Part 9

Walking in the Spirit

I. Desires Are Like Fires

The more you feed your desires, the more your desires will grow.

There are desires of the flesh, and there are desires of the spirit. If you feed the sinful desires of the flesh, the soul and the body, those desires will intensify. As well, if you feed the desires of the spirit, those desires will grow.

What we need to do is to feed the desires of the spirit, and starve the desires of the flesh. If you starve a fire of its oxygen, the fire will weaken and soon go out. For the spirit to dominate the flesh, your heart must be strengthened and guarded. (Proverbs 4:24) And the influences that reinforce the strongholds of the flesh must not be tolerated.

If a person is allowing sinful thoughts to be planted, to take root, and to grow in the mind, be assured that those thoughts will eventually turn to sin. (James 1:14,15) Men who have raped women have many times have spent a lot of time lusting after women through pornography. Don't take missing times of prayer, Bible study, and church services lightly. These are the things that strengthen the spirit. If you don't feed a body, it will weaken. If you don't feed your spirit, it will be weak. Many find themselves in hard times and are found lacking what they need for victory. In times of testing they quickly fall.

A. Desires of the flesh

A fire that will destroy you.

B. Desires of the spirit

A fire that will empower you.

Galatians 6:7-9 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the spirit will of the spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

II. The Flesh and the Spirit Are in Opposition

A. Children of the flesh

Galatians 4:21, 22

God promised Abraham a son to not only bless him but also all his descendants. And not only all of his descendants, but those Christ brought into the family through adoption. God gave His WORD.

Abraham was 75 (Gen. 16:3, 16) when the promise was given. God knew that Abraham had to receive by FAITH, because Abraham's wife, Sarah, could not conceive. Sarah was passed the age of childbearing, which means she had been through menopause. Her body was no longer fertile. She laughed when she heard the promise of God, many of us would have too.

It had been ten years since God first promised Abraham a son. Abraham and Sarah wanted a son, but God wasn't acting for them. It had been ten years! How many of us get weary of waiting on God for even one or two years? They decided to have Hagar, Sarah's maid, to have Abraham's son. Hagar had a son named Ishmael.

Ishmael was not the son God had promised. Abraham and Sarah had been waiting on God for a long time. They must of thought that God was not going to do what He promised, so they decided to do something in their own reasoning and in their own strength.

Genesis 17 Abraham was 99 years old now. It had been 24 years since God promised Abraham a son. God appeared to him and told him that Sarah would have a son. Vs. 17 Abraham fell on his face and laughed! The father of faith, only one year before Isaac, was laughing at God's promise. Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You! But Ishmael was not God's promise. Ishmael was Abraham's doing. How many of us ask God to bless our attempts to please Him? "Look at what we did God? We've done it! We've saved ourselves from the condition we put ourselves in. We turned away from you and went our own way. Now we have fixed ourselves and we want you to take us based on what we've done." God refused Ishmael. God refuses our attempts at saving ourselves too. Again God promised Isaac. Vs. 21 This time next year.

B. Children of the [spirit](#)

Galatians 4:23-24 This is symbolic of the two covenants.

1. The first covenant was based on [self-sufficiency](#)

It was illustrative of the flesh, of works. The law showed people how they had to live and that it was impossible to do it.

2. The second covenant was based on [dependency](#)

The first covenant was the law. Under the law, God allowed men and women to TRY and to TRY to be righteous. Before God sent Jesus, He had not spoken to any prophet or any person for 400 years. By this time, the Pharisees had gotten the law down to a science! They had perfection their religion, their way to God. Trying to gain God's love, trying to keep His attention, making God accept them through their righteous works.

The Pharisees have not been the only ones to try to get God to approve of them. How many today religiously go to church, get involved in leadership to be more pleasing to God than the other guy? How many out of desperation to GET healed, memorize healing scriptures and read and pray TRYING to please God. Trying to work for their healing? I've heard several say, "God, You have to heal me. You promised." But the promise comes through faith. They aren't in faith.

But they believe that God is able to heal them. They believe that God is willing to heal them. But believing is only a part of what faith is. The Bible says that the demons believe, and shudder (James). Faith is more than just believing. Faith stops striving to make God do something for them. Faith stops trying to get something from God. We don't know His love for us, or we wouldn't feel like we had to do something to earn His gifts. Faith realizes His love, and jumps into His arms. Faith doesn't try to get from God; faith receives what is freely given by God. Faith receives grace, and worships.

C. Religion is opposed to [liberty](#)

Galatians 4:28-31, 5:1

The religious hate the ones who live in the spirit. They think God has favorites. They want to be God's favorite. To be better than someone else there has to be comparison. They judge others, picking out their faults, trying to gain more of God's love. This is how God loves. The Bible says God is love (I John 4:7). God loves each of us with all of Himself. God loves and sent Jesus to die while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8). God loved the Pharisee, God loves those who judge and offend others. But God is holy, and the way to God is through faith. Any other way is carnal and hostility against God.

Cast out the bondwoman and her son. Cast out our fleshly attempts to get to God. Come to God through grace by faith. Run away from anything religious.

Galatians 5:1 *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”*

III. Adoption

A. Abraham’s seed was [Christ](#)

[Galatians 3:15-18](#)

The covenant that God made with Abraham was a covenant of FAITH made by PROMISE. 430 years later, God gave the law. The law could not nullify the covenant God made by faith. God promised Abraham that in him and his SEED would all the earth be blessed. The seed was Christ.

Romans 4:16-22 Abraham grew in faith. He not only believed the promise, but he trusted in God to fulfill the promise. It was accounted to him for righteousness.

B. The [blessings](#) of Abraham

[Galatians 3:10-14](#)

The law brought a curse. The law brought about knowledge of sin and the results of sin were poverty, sickness, and death. Christ redeemed us from that curse, becoming the curse. So that the blessings of Abraham could come upon the Gentiles.

C. The law as a [tutor](#)

[Galatians 3:19-25](#)

D. [Sons of God](#)

[Galatians 3:26-29](#)

Vs. 29 “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

E. [Heirs of God](#)

[Galatians 4:1-7](#) Adopted into the family.

[Romans 8:14-17](#) Abba is to Hebrew babies what Dada is to our babies.

[Heirs with Christ. He is not ashamed to call us brethren \(Hebrews 2:11\)](#)
[Galatians 4:1-7](#) adoption as sons. Born into the family. His Spirit in us bringing us to everlasting life, brought us to adoption.

An adopted child was at one time not in the family. He was born to different parents. We at one time were of our father the devil (John8). We were taken out of that family and placed in the family of God.

Romans 8:14-17 Abba, Father. Daddy. Like Da-Da. Ab-Ba in Hebrew.

When you are adopted as a son, you also become an heir. Everything that Christ has, we have. Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren.

Hebrews 2:10, 11 *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”*

Grafted in. Romans 11.

IV. Overcoming the Flesh

A. Grace is not an occasion to sin.

Galatians 5:13 *“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as a n opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*

Since righteousness comes through GRACE, and I can't work for it, should I not concern myself with attempting to walk right? No, don't give the flesh opportunity. God loved you and showed mercy to you. Now walk in that by living right in loving one another.(13-15)

B. The desires of the flesh oppose the desires of the spirit.

Galatians 5:16-17

The flesh has desires that are against the desires of the spirit, so that you will obey God and not do your own thing.

C. Overcome the flesh by walking in the spirit.

Galatians 5:18

1. The deeds of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21

2. The deeds of the spirit

Galatians 5:22, 23

If you want to starve the desires of the flesh, feed the desires of the spirit. If you live feeding and walking in the things of the spirit, you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. **Overcome the flesh by walking according to the spirit.**

D. [Die to self](#)

[Galatians 5:24-26](#)

“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

To be in Christ, we have to die to ourselves and our own way of doing things. If we have received our life in the spirit, then walk after that life. Walk according to righteousness. Once you start walking right, don’t go back to comparing yourself to others. Let God be their judge. You just live your life in His love.

[Galatians 2:20](#)

You did at the cross when you received right-standing. When you are right-walking you are daily dying to self.

Put off the old man. Colossians 3:1-17, Ephesians 4:24

[I Corinthians 15:34](#) “awake to righteousness and sin not.”

[Awake – to become aware and take your place as a righteous one.](#)

Become righteousness minded. Take your place overcoming sin.

The relationship of God as LORD isn’t one where He tries to control you to be His little puppet. Other people may try to use us to gain control, but not God. He doesn’t need us to fulfill Himself. God does not need anything, He is everything. He is free to love us. That is what He wants for us. He wants us to find our wholeness in Him so that we have no need of anything. Then we are free to love others, without needing anything in return. That’s agape love, the unconditional love of God. When you are loved by God, you don’t need anyone’s acceptance and approval. If they hurt or judge you, you can forgive them. Love can take a risk, because God is so filling me with love, that when I do suffer a wound, He heals me. Love will risk being hurt, but love will also choose not to have fellowship with sin.

God also wants your obedience, not as a power trip for Himself, but because He knows the consequences of sin will hurt you. You bring judgment on yourself. Pain follows the pleasures of the flesh. God takes pleasure in the blessings that follow obedience. And He adds no sorrow with it. There’s no pain that follows obedience!

Part of walking in the spirit is staying in relationship with God. If you are close to God, you will not want to do anything to come in between that relationship.

Our desire to love God must be stronger than the desire to sin. II Corinthians 5:14 The love of Christ compels us. His love in us. (Romans 5:5)

II Corinthians 5:14, 15 *“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus; that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”*

COMPEL: “constrain, confine, leaves no option.” - Spirit Filled Life Bible

I John 3:6-9 The love a person has for God will keep him from sin.

If you love Me, keep my commandments.

V. We are not alone

Jesus said He would not leave us as orphans (John 14:18).

Jesus sent a Helper, the Holy Spirit (John 15:26).

Jesus sent you a helper to walk through this life. He said He would never leave us alone. He is with us through the Holy Spirit. (Heb. 13:5, John 14:18 I will not you as orphans)

John 15:26 “When the Helper comes, whom I (Jesus) shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

HELPER (Gr. parakletos, 3875): “from para, “beside,” and kaleo, “to call,” hence, called to one’s side. The word signifies an intercessor, comforter, helper, advocate, counselor.”

The Holy Spirit is our helper. He helps us by empowering us to rise up above earthly things.

Hebrews 13:5 “...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

Jesus was forsaken so you and I won’t be forsaken.

You may feel like it, but you are never alone.

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss the danger of trying to fix ourselves rather than yielding to the Holy Spirit for help in overcoming sin.

Part 10

Extending Mercy

I. Liberated From Debt

A. You are forgiven

We've already established in the Word that when we receive Christ, we receive right-standing with the Father. But what if we sin after being born again?

I John 1:8 – 2:2 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. MY LITTLE CHILDREN, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an ADVOCATE with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the PROPITIATION for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

“My little children” – John is writing to born again believers. John is saying there is forgiveness after receiving our right-standing position in Christ. It is the mercy of God and the blood of Jesus that allows us to stay in His righteousness even when we miss it and sin. But we can't stay in that sin, we have to turn from it and return to God. When we do, there is forgiveness. Not because we deserve it, but because of the love of God.

1. Jesus is our advocate

PARAKLETOS: “Called to one’s side, ie., to one’s aid, is primarily a verbal adjective, and suggests the capability or adaptability for giving aid. It was used in a court of justice to denote a legal assistant, counsel for the defense, an advocate; then, generally, one who pleads another’s cause, an intercessor, advocate.”¹⁴

This word is used in John 15:26 to describe the Holy Spirit. The word is used in I John 2:1 to describe Jesus. Being an intercessor is part of the meaning of the word advocate. Since Jesus ascended to the Father, His ministry has been as intercessor for us.

¹⁴ Vines

2. Jesus our [intercessor](#)

Hebrews 7:25 *“He (Jesus) is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”*

MAKE INTERCESSION (entunchano, #1793): *“To fall in with, meet with in order to converse. Idea of pleading with a person on behalf of another.”*

Hebrews 7:27 *“does not need to offer sacrifice daily...”*

The blood of Jesus needed to only be applied once, unlike the continual sacrifice of the blood of animals. Jesus’ blood not only saves me, but keeps me. Jesus is right now sitting at the right hand of God, interceding for you and for me. If we sin, Jesus fall’s in with us, and He pleads with the Father on our behalf. Do we deserve His intervention? After all, He did go to the cross for us, and we have failed Him again. This is the great mercy of God. Jesus understands our battle with sin. In Hebrews 4:15, 16 it says, *“For we do not have a High Priest (Jesus) who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Jesus is like our lawyer in the throne room of God. If we sin, we are putting ourselves in a place of receiving the judgment and the consequences of sin. It is only the blood of Jesus and the mercy of God that allows for God to have compassion on us and hold back judgment. Eventually we will experience the pain of sin if we do not repent. God wants us to realize in our pain, that we need to turn back to Him. He said, *“For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”* (1 Corinthians 11:31). When we do turn back to God, Jesus is there, pointing to His blood, saying *“Father forgive them. I died for them.”* Jesus is our lawyer, reminding the Father that the price has been paid.

3. Jesus our [propitiation](#)

PROFITATION means the appeasement of divine wrath by a sacrificial offering.¹⁵

Without the sacrifice of Jesus, we would be very near to the wrath of a Holy God. Holiness cannot tolerate sin. A Holy God cannot compromise or bend over backwards for sin. His love and mercy, however, accepts the sacrifice of His own Son. Jesus’ sacrifice stands between us and the wrath of judgment.

¹⁵ Spirit Filled Life Bible

Romans 3:25, 26 *“Whom (Jesus) God sent forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, (26) to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”*

The Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:21-27)

B. God forgives and forgets

One definition of FORGET is “to omit mentioning; leave unnoticed.”

God not only forgives, but He forgets. To forget doesn't mean God has no idea of our wrongs. To forget means to choose not to bring to remembrance. God forgot David's sins, but if you refer to Bathsheba, God knows what you are talking about. God chooses not to bring it up. If your past sins are being brought up again, you can be assured, it is not God. If you repent, it is like God taking a big eraser and erasing all record of your sins. Now you need to forget it.

The following are OLD TESTAMENT scriptures. How much more is His forgiveness under the NEW COVENANT in JESUS' BLOOD!

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

Isaiah 38:17 *“...You have cast all my sins behind your back.”*

Isaiah 43:25 *“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”*

Isaiah 44:22 *“I have blotted out, like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”*

Isaiah 1:18 *“...though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*

C. The king's forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

We need to understand what we have been forgiven of.

This parable is a response to Peter's question about forgiving a brother who continually hurts another. (21,22)

Vs. 23-27 The amount that the servant owed the king was so large that it was impossible for one man to pay off in his entire lifetime.

Colossians 2:13-15 "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (14) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us,. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

II. **Releasing Others**

A. The unforgiving servant

Matthew 18:28-35

One denarii was equal to one day's wage (Open Bible NASB). The fellow servant could pay off his debt in 100 days. That was possible to do.

One talent was equivalent to 6,000 denarii (Vines). Thus, the king's servant owed 10,000 talents or 60 million denarii. The king's servant would have had to work 60 million days to pay off his debt. That was impossible to pay off.

The king showed mercy in forgiving his servant of the debt. It was by grace that the man received it. The man didn't say, "No, I have to pay it off. Keep my wife and my children in prison until I pay it off. Don't let me have freedom until I have worked the full 60 million days." No, he received the forgiveness. We also have to receive his forgiveness. We couldn't pay off the debt we owed with our life, so God sent His OWN SON to pay the debt for us by dying on a cross. Amazing grace.

When someone wrongs you, it is very much like someone who owes us a debt. You hold them by our power. They are bound to you. Someone who wants your forgiveness has done you wrong, and they can't take it back. They can't make it feel any better. All they can do is hope for your release so that the relationship can be restored. They are vulnerable to you. You could pay them back for the wrong they did to you.

The unforgiving servant has resentment and bitterness, and he wants the person to suffer for awhile. Maybe he wants the person to know what he did to him, how

he hurt him. There are consequences to sin, and he deserves what they get. He is going to pay for what he did to him. So he keeps him there for awhile in punishment.

Hurts are very real. People are hurt everyday in this world. Bitterness will replay the wrong done over and over in the mind, keeping it fresh, staying a victim. It makes a person feel better than the other. “ I am right. He is wrong. Look God, do you notice that I’m better than this one? Have I gotten Your attention?” The person is trying to gain sympathy of others for their love and acceptance. This person doesn’t understand grace. God loves both of them with all of Himself. God is love. He doesn’t show favoritism.

God’s love for us is unconditional. He doesn’t love us based on our performance. He doesn’t want to hold us to our sin and make us pay for what we did to Him. His kind of love is different than any other kind of love we have experienced on earth. The Greek word that describes His love is agape. His agape love wants to release us from our wrong doing, enough to pay the price for it Himself. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8). While we were still murderers, thieves, adulterers, liars- Christ died for us! He set us free – we’re forgiven! If God would have Jesus die for us while we were still in the sinner group, don’t you think He would forgive you in the saved group?

Forgive from the heart. Unforgiveness is the worst sin. It will stop the blessings of God from getting to you. Its like putting a roof over yourself so that the rain of God can’t get to you.

Jesus gave us an example prayer in Matthew 6:12 “forgive us our debts AS WE forgive our debtors.”

B. How to love

1. God is love

I John 4:7

2. Receiving God’s nature

Romans 5:5 “...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

“You will never be more like God than when you forgive.” – Malcolm Smith.

Ephesians 4:32 -5: 2 “(32) And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even AS GOD in Christ forgave you. (1)Therefore be IMITATORS OF GOD as dear children (2) and walk in love, as Christ

also has loved us and given Himself for us, has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Be like God. His nature is in you. I John 4:7

Let Him live in me, die to self. Take the emphasis off self.

3. Choose to forgive

You may not feel like it, but make the choice to obey.

4. Be filled with love

Ephesians 3:18, 19

When you choose to obey, God’s love can fill your heart and heal your hurts.

God never turned His back on us. It was Adam, and all of us, who turned our backs on God. When we turned away from God, we turned away from our life and our love. Man felt pain, hurt, and shame. As men and women turned to each other instead of to God for our completeness, they hurt each other. As hurting people, we put walls up to protect ourselves from being hurt again. They want to control the people around them, not giving them any reason for us to owe them anything. Our pride leads to sin and our sin leads to pain. Pride is what keeps the cycle continuing.

God knew that just believing that Jesus died as our sacrifice was not enough to save us. We had to choose to lay down our pride, and make His the Lord of our lives to stop the cycle. The humility leads to forgiveness, which leads to restoration. Only God can heal the wounds of the soul. His healing love floods our hearts, washing out the impurities and painful memories of this life. The pain and hurts are gone. The only hope we have for healing is His love.

We need to recognize that when people hurt us, more than likely, they are aching out because of the anguish of their own soul. They aren’t whole inside. They don’t know the love of God. They don’t know their significance and purpose. They aren’t full of His love that cures every cut of the heart. Hurting people hurt people. They are not satisfied with life. They have been wounded walking through life, looking for love that only God can give. Not having known God, they don’t know the wholeness that only God can give.

If we are not full of God's love, how could we reach out and love others? How could we put other's interests above our own? If a person was like the man on the Jericho road, how could we be in any kind of condition to help someone else? If I was in a hospital bed with broken bones and stitches, how could I be in a position to help the person next to me? God first heals us, so that we are in a condition to reach out and help another. He fills us with His love, and out of the overflow we can spill out the love of God to others!

Luke 7:47 "...her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

The person who knows what they have been forgiven of will also have a great love for God and for others. Do we understand what we have been forgiven of? We would all be in hell if it weren't for Jesus, from the least of us to the greatest. None of us deserve life everlasting, but God has given us life as a free gift through the death of His Son.

Ephesians 3:18, 19 Paul prays that we be able to comprehend the width, length, depth, height of the love of Christ which passes knowledge. Can't know the love of God just intellectually. You have to experience the love of God to really to know it.

5. [Love overflow](#)

a. [Forgive and forget](#)

FORGIVE : "to loose."

Romans 5:5 "...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Natural love cannot do it. Only God's agape love in us. You must go within you and draw from what He has in you.

God's love gives and focuses on others. Selfish love takes and focuses on me. His love enables us to reach out and bless those who have hurt us.

Lift eyes off my wounds and care more for the offender than I care about defending me.

II Corinthians 5:14 *"the love of Christ compels us.*

COMPEL: *"constrain, confine, leaves no option."*

I forgive you, I have no other option.

God not only forgives, but then blesses the person. When someone does you wrong, and they repent, look for ways to bless them! Don't repeat the matter again. Its like letting them out of prison, but leaving the handcuffs on. They still feel bound.

Colossians 3:13 “even as Christ forgave you, so you also MUST DO.”

Joseph is a good example of someone who forgave.

I Corinthians 13 amp. Love keeps no account of a suffered wrong. Bitterness keeps a running record of all the wrongs that have been done. They remember it like yesterday because they think on it over and over, not wanting to forget. Knowing God's love, knows healing. Healing enables me to take the risk of being hurt again. Trusting again. Forgive and forget. Healing allows me to take my eyes off me and my wounds and care more for the offender than defending me.

Matthew 5:43-45 “...LOVE your ENEMIES, BLESS those who curse you, PRAY for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven...”

Love is an action. The love of God doesn't love from a distance. The agape love doesn't just pray for someone and hope that they are doing okay.

The love of God is aggressive and reaches out (John 3:16).

I John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

Ask yourself, “How can I bless this person the way God has blessed me?” If we forgive with God's love, then we not only will forgive, but also forget. We won't ever remind them of their sin, they don't owe us anything, they are released. True forgiveness not only wants to see the person released from the wrongdoing, but for the person to mature, change, become better. I'm not going to protect myself by not trusting you again by putting you in a box and saying you would never change. Instead of letting your mind dwell on how they hurt you, dwell on how you can bless that person.

b. [Love confronts](#)

If my child is doing something that will hurt them, what kind of mother would I be if I didn't correct them? Love sometimes confronts sin.

Luke 17:1-4 "...if your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him..."

How to confront a sinning brother.
Matthew 18:15-17

Love is your motivation, and repentance is your goal.

- 1) Go to him alone. If he repents, that is the end of it.
- 2) Take one or at the most two witnesses.
- 3) Tell church leadership.
- 4) If he still does not repent, break fellowship.

The following verses deal with agreement prayer. This kind of prayer deals with more than agreeing about what you will pray about. It talks about unity. Your prayers will be hindered and your offering will not be blessed if you have been offended or given offense. 1 Peter 3, Matthew 5.

The next verses are our text for forgiving.

If the person doesn't repent, you can still keep your heart in love. The relationship may not be able to be restored if their sin continues, but you can still choose to love until they decide to turn around. If there is no repentance, more than likely the sin will be repeated. Repentance means to turn around. Our relationship with God is not restored unless there is repentance on our part. We can't compromise with sin. If the person has sinned against you unknowingly, confront them in love. Once they are aware of their actions, and they change those actions, relationship can be restored. Sometimes it is just a misunderstanding. Other times it is selfishness, only focused on themselves, not thinking about how their behavior affects others. But they are accountable after receiving the knowledge of sin. You release them whether they repent or not, whether relationship can be restored or not. Bitterness or hatred will hurt you more than it will hurt anyone.

c. [Not the judge](#)

[Matthew 18:35](#)

Vs. 35 Now since God has shown us mercy, shouldn't we show mercy to those who hurt us? God cannot forgive us if we don't forgive others. If we refuse to forgive, we are trying to be the judge. We don't have that right. We deserve judgment as well. If we keep another in judgment, we bring judgment back on ourselves!

[James 2:10-13](#) *"...so speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."*

[Mark 11:25, 26](#) *"...Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, FORGIVE him, that your Father in heaven MAY also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."*

We need to continually be aware of the great debt we were released from through the life-giving blood of Jesus Christ. We need to pray for a greater revelation of our redemption. Wherever you are in your comprehension of receiving grace will determine your perception for showing grace to others.

[Luke 6:37-38](#) *"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

The higher up we go in comprehension of His love will determine the perception we have for showing love to others.

The same measure of mercy we extend to others is the same measure of mercy we will receive from God.

Are there consequences to sin? Yes, but God had mercy on us and He made a way for us to repent. When we repent, or turn back to God, we don't always get what we deserve. Whenever God gives judgment, it is for the purpose of bringing us to repentance. Thank God for His love and mercy!

Breakout Session:

Get into groups and discuss the difference between forgiving and trusting.