

# What Controls Your Life?

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NOT FOR SALE

# What Controls Your Life?

## Preface

Have you ever wished you were “free as a bird”? Who hasn’t, right? But is a bird really free? Is a bird that has to spend most of its waking hours in search of food and in constant fear for its life **really** free? Sure, birds are free from term papers, working hard to make money, threats of war, etc. But they are not free from other things, such as the control of instinct, the cycle of life, etc.



The truth is that no animal or man is **completely** free from being under the control of something else! Man is free only in one sense—we can choose **what** will control our life! Since the Garden of Eden we have always been able to “Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...” but never, “Choose for yourselves today **if** you will serve...” We have the “freedom to choose” God’s control or Satan’s. And while we “cannot serve two masters,” we also cannot say we will serve *no* master. To say that we will **not** choose is choosing Satan!



So the question is not **if** something controls your life, but **what** controls your life? Is it really all that important? Maybe, and maybe not. It is important to the person who is concerned about making the right choices in life to ensure he will have an abundant life here on this earth, and it is important to the person who is concerned with his eternal destiny. Both his abundant life and his eternal destiny will be determined by **what** controls his life. Concerned?

Good. Then read on.

*NOTE: All verse quotations were based on the World English Bible (WEB) translation. The World English Bible is a free Public Domain translation which is available online.*



# CHAPTER 1

## They Had “a Lot to Live”

A student came into my office one day and told us about a representative from Pepsi Cola who had lectured to his class studying salesmanship. The representative came into the class with a bottle of Pepsi in his hand and for 45 minutes talked about how “Pepsi has got a lot to **give** and young people have a lot to **live!**” The student said it was so exciting just sitting and listening to this man! When class was finished he couldn’t wait to go to buy a bottle of Pepsi to see if it would do anything for his life!

How could anyone get that excited about a bottled drink?

This caused us to wonder: What would happen if **we**, as Christians, **really** believed in the Lord's power to change lives as much as this salesman believed in his bottled drink?

There was a time when Christians really did! The earliest New Testament Christians really believed in the Lord's power to **change their lives**. They were not a generation excited about a bottle filled with Pepsi, but a generation excited about a life filled with Power—filled with a “**new man**”. As you read about them in Acts, you feel the zeal, excitement and enthusiasm inside of them. They had truly found something (or more correctly, someone) that had a lot to give! Can you imagine one of these people saying something like, “*I know I'm in the right church, but I just don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?*” No way! Look at the way Peter describes their feelings,

*“...whom (Christ) not having known you love; in whom, though now you don't see him, yet believing, you rejoice greatly with joy unspeakable and full of glory...” 1 Peter 1:8*

The transformation because of Jesus was such that people said things about them like this:

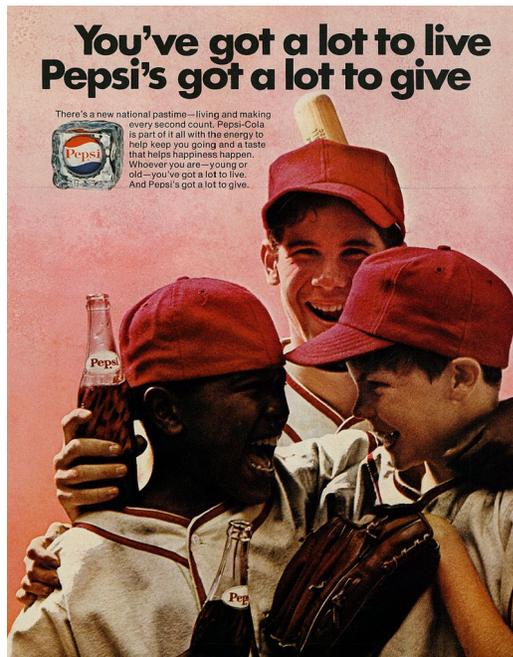
*“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled. They recognized that they had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13*

Does this sound out of place today? Should it? Is there any reason why we should not have such a relationship with Christ ourselves – even though he lived on earth several centuries ago?

Doesn't the Bible say something about Christ being **the same** yesterday, today, and forever? (See **Hebrews 13:8**) This means that a person's relationship with Christ is independent of space and time. Jesus is just as “**now**” as He was then! Yes, and it even means that you and I can have the same consciousness of Jesus as a present, living Lord with whom we are in touch as our early New Testament brothers and sisters did!

Then what is it that is missing? **We** are here and Christ is just as “**now**” as he has ever been. And yet there seems to be something missing, something deficient in the lives of many.

Some try becoming a preacher hoping that will be the answer. Others go into foreign countries as missionaries only to return with more frustrations. You may have gone on a “Campaign for Christ,” and it seemed to help for a while, but after a few weeks you found yourself back in the same place you started, right? Exodus movements, cottage meetings, retreats, fellowships, and on and on it goes. Our lives are filled with religious activities-but often there comes that “**moment of awareness**” when we realize we are still empty and that we still do not know that “THOU-I” relationship with Christ.



As a consequence some people, out of frustration and a sense of hopelessness, begin to think that the church has nothing to offer and that it has outlived its day and belongs to yesterday. They cry for a “**new gospel for a new age**”; something that relates to the world we live in right *now*. Many of these people start trying all kinds of different things—drugs or whatever else—searching and hoping to find something that will give them a “**meaningful religious experience**” only to end up even more empty and lacking than before. And so we're right back where we started asking, “What is missing? Where is it?”

Could it be that *nothing* is missing? That it has been here all along and too many have missed it? Most of our lives we have heard preaching and teaching about “**Jesus our Savior**”. This could be the problem... Now I am certainly not saying that's a bad teaching, because that IS the Gospel! But that's not **ALL** of the Gospel. If we look back at the message that the early disciples spoke, we will find that it could be better summarized as “**Jesus is Lord.**” Their message came from that great commission given by the Lord in his last recorded words by Matthew:

*“<sup>18</sup> Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.** <sup>19</sup> Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> **teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you.** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” **Matthew 28:18-20** (note the emphasis)*

There is no doubt from these words about **who** is Lord, and that He is to be **preached** as Lord<sup>1</sup>. The authority of Christ as the Son of God **was** and **is** the message of the New Testament.

*“..we don't preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake..”*  
**2 Corinthians 4:5**

Today, however, we hear a great deal about “**our Savior**” but very little about “**our Lord**”. For one thing, we live in a world that knows very little about lords and masters, or it has a very negative view of them. We instead are used to representatives that we have elected. It is possible that we have been trying to use this idea in Christianity, but it won't work. The kingdom of Christ is **not** a democracy, it is an absolute monarchy – we have only “**one Lord.**” (**Ephesians 4:5**)

But it is a frustrating experience to try to live **in** the Lord's kingdom and try at the same time not to live **under** his Lordship or control. In fact the Lord said you cannot do it:

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve both God and Mammon.” **Matthew 6:24***

What causes spiritual frustration? What can upset our whole life? It could be by not letting Christ be our **Savior**, but it could also be by not letting Him be **where He belongs** as the **Lord** of our life. When we miss this we miss everything, because like Jesus said, “...*apart from me you can do nothing*” (**John 15:5**).

Then there's the brighter side, the opposite side, when someone **does** let Christ to sit on the throne in his life. Peace replaces frustration, purpose replaces meaninglessness, and he can do “*all things through Christ, who strengthens me.*” (**Philippians 4:13**)

Usually the first question that is asked by a person regaining consciousness is, “Where am I?” Christians need to regain consciousness, a consciousness that Christ must be the **Lord** as well as the **Savior** of a Christian's life. If we could do this we could get back the zeal, enthusiasm, and faithfulness of the New Testament Church!

1 - Greek word is KURIOS - variously translated in the New Testament. It means Lord, Master, ruler, etc., and signifies having power or authority over... Note also the word servant from the Greek word DOULOS signifies a slave or bond servant. The Christian and Christ have a slave/Lord relationship.

This concludes Chapter 1. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 2

1. Why are birds really not free?
  - a) They have to search for food
  - b) They are in cages all the time
  - c) They work for a living
  - d) None of the above
2. TRUE or FALSE: No beast or man is free from being under the control of something or someone.
  - a) True
  - b) False
3. Since when have we had the freedom to choose whom we will serve?
  - a) The Tower of Babel
  - b) The Garden of Gethsemane
  - c) The Garden of Eden
  - d) The Great Flood
4. Can we serve two masters?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Both Yes and No
  - d) None of the Above
5. TRUE or FALSE: Saying we will not choose a master is choosing.
  - a) True
  - b) False
6. A person's abundant life and eternal destiny will be determined by...
  - a) how much money he has.
  - b) how many prayers he says.
  - c) what controls his life.
  - d) how religious he is.
7. What did the man from Pepsi-Cola say about Pepsi?" Pepsi has a lot to give and..."
  - a) older people should drink diet!
  - b) young people have a lot to live!
  - c) young people have a lot to give!
  - d) older people have a lot to give!
8. What was the reaction of the student at the end of the 45 minute talk?
  - a) He was sleeping
  - b) He was bored
  - c) He was mad at the speaker
  - d) He wanted to try the product
9. What was the first century Christian's attitude toward their new life?
  - a) Zealous
  - b) Sad
  - c) Indifferent
  - d) Burdensome
10. What did the earliest Christians think that really believing in the Lord had the power to do?
  - a) Let them do miracles
  - b) Change their lives
  - c) Make them rich
  - d) Make them more religious
11. Which verse says, "*Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever*"?
  - a) Acts 4:13
  - b) Hebrews 13:8
  - c) Matthew 28:18-20
  - d) 2 Corinthians 4:5
12. When some people feel like they do not have a personal relationship with Christ they:
  - a) cry for a new gospel.
  - b) search for a meaningful religious experience.
  - c) turn to drugs or other things.
  - d) All of the above
13. The religious world today, according to the writer, focuses more on which aspect of Jesus?
  - a) Jesus our Savior
  - b) Jesus our Lord
  - c) Jesus our God
  - d) None of the above
14. Where is the story of the "Great Commission" found?
  - a) Matthew 28:18-20
  - b) Ephesians 4:5
  - c) Matthew 6:24
  - d) Hebrews 13:8

15. The kingdom of Christ is a:
- Democracy
  - Monarchy
  - Both Democracy and Monarchy
  - None of the above
16. What passage says “*Apart from me, you can do nothing*”?
- Matthew 6:24
  - Ephesians 4:5
  - 2 Corinthians 4:5
  - John 15:5
17. What is usually the first question asked by a person regaining consciousness?
- Who am I?
  - What am I?
  - Where am I?
  - When am I?
18. TRUE or FALSE: The main question we try to answer in this course is “Why control your life?”
- True
  - False
19. TRUE or FALSE: A person’s relationship with Jesus is completely independent of space and time.
- True
  - False
20. What is the “moment of awareness” idea mentioned in our lesson? The moment we realize:
- We are empty
  - We need to go on more trips
  - We are lost
  - We have a relationship with Christ
21. As a result of the “moment of awareness,” what are a lot of people’s responses?
- They think the church has nothing to offer
  - They think the church has outlived its day
  - They want a new gospel
  - All of the above
22. How are spiritual frustrations caused in our lives?
- A failure to let Christ be savior
  - A failure to let Christ be where he belongs in our lives
  - A failure to realize that “without me you can do nothing”
  - All of the above
23. If a person will let Christ sit on the throne of his life:
- peace overcomes frustration.
  - purpose replaces meaningless.
  - anyone can do all things through Christ who gives them strength.
  - All of the above
24. What happens when we realize that Christ must be the Lord and Savior of our Christian lives?
- We can regain the zeal, enthusiasm and faithfulness of the New Testament Church
  - We will give up
  - We can become a god
  - We tend to fall away
25. What passage says “*We don’t preach ourselves...*”?
- 2 Corinthians 4:5
  - Matthew 6:24
  - Matthew 28:18
  - Ephesians 4:5

# CHAPTER 2

## Out of the “Sinning Business”

Many people don't like to discuss sin and become offended if it might be *suggested* that they are sinners. But sin is not something in which only a few people are involved.

*As it is written, “There is no one righteous; no, not one.” Romans 3:10*

*“For they all sinned, and are falling short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 (our literal translation)*

*“<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we haven't sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*

**1 John 1:8, 10**

We get jobs and go into business to get a salary. In a similar way, we've all been in the “Sinning business” at one time or another, and thus we have all worked for the payment of sin, death. (**Romans 6:23**).

*“Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12*

### The Way Out

The first thing we must do is to realize that we are sinners and the punishment is the same for everyone – eternal death! (**See Romans 6:23**)

It is God who has been “sinned against,” but through the gospel we learn some “good news”- we learn that our condition is not hopeless if we will respond to the love of God in Christ Jesus. Our faith is the first move toward God

*“Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.” Hebrews 11:6*

Perhaps we can illustrate this by the following story:

One time the disciples were in the midst of the Sea of Galilee in a storm when Jesus “*Jesus came to them. He was walking on the water.*” Peter called out, “*Lord, if that is really you, tell me to come to you on the water.*” (**Matthew 14:16-29**). In other words, Peter was asking for some proof, some evidence that it really was Jesus out there walking on the water. He did not step out of the boat and start toward the Lord until he was sure of that. Likewise, the Lord is not asking any of us to trust in Him without evidence or proof. (**Hebrews 11:1**).

Our faith comes from the same source Peter's came from: the word of the Lord. “*So faith comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ.*” (**Romans 10:17**). One time Jesus said “*It is written in the prophets: ‘God will teach them all.’ People listen to the Father and learn from him. They are the ones who come to me.*” (**John 6:45**). Faith comes from being taught the faith and our willingness to accept it.

This faith or trust will cause us to go to the next step. We will want to repent.

**Repentance is defined by Thayer<sup>2</sup> as: “A change of mind for the better, heartily to amend, with hatred for one's past sins.”**

In other words, it is not just being sorry, it's **being sorry enough to quit**. It comes along with the attitude that, “I don't want to ever sin again!” Is this possible? Is it possible for me to turn my back on sin? Can I really develop an “I-don't-want-to-ever-sin-again attitude”?

2 - One of the best known and respected authorities in the Koine Greek language, which was the language used by the New Testament writers.

When we become Christians, this is really what we are saying we want to do! We make up our minds that we are going to get out of the “sinning” business and turn our lives over completely to Jesus Christ. When we repent we say “NO” to and sin and “YES” to Jesus as Lord. This means that repentance has a negative and a positive side.

Let's look at the negative side – NO TO ALL SIN. All sin is a transgression of God's will. (See **1 John 3:4**) Therefore, when we repent we turn away from any deliberate sins, to a life that only wants God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven!

*“<sup>2b</sup> We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? ... <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that, whereas you were bondservants of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> Being made free from sin, you became bondservants of righteousness.”. **Romans 6:2b, 17-18***

Notice how emphatic Paul is in letting us know that a Christian has made a complete break away from all sin. And previously he had stated: “*Thus consider yourselves also to be **dead to sin...***” (**Romans 6:11**).

**Paul leaves no doubt in Romans 6 that anyone who has the attitude of, “I'm willing to repent, but...” or, “I've repented of sin, but I don't see any harm in...” hasn't repented!**

NO, when you truly repent, Paul says, you don't pick and choose which sins you are willing to give up and which ones you'll drag along with you as a Christian! You quit, you give it up, and you get out of the sinning business altogether – forever!

“But hey, nobody's perfect!”, you might say. That's correct. We are not saying that a Christian is “sinless”. There is however, a great difference between being sinless or perfect and being dead to sin and free from the power of sin.

John tells us that a Christian “*does not sin.*” (**1 John 3:9**). What does that mean? Well, literally it means that a child of God “does not continue sinning.” In verse 7, John uses the expression “does righteousness,” and this means literally to “continues doing (or making a habit) of doing what is right.” So, a person who has really repented is a person to whom sin has become a bad taste. They no longer make a habit of feeding a sinful appetite. Instead, he hungers and thirsts after righteousness. Like Christ, his food is to do the will of God, to do always those things that please Him. Unlike Christ, however, the disciple may sometimes “be overcome in a fault.” (Refer to **1 John 1:8, Galatians 6:1** and **James 5:16**) But because sin has become distasteful to him, he will, like the Prodigal Son, say:

*“I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, ‘Father, I have sinned...’” **Luke 15:18a***

He will receive the same “*holy surprise*” that the Prodigal did - “forgiven and forgotten... welcome home!”

Yes:

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9***

No, a Christian may not be sinless, but sin will not have dominion over him (**Romans 6:14**). He has become dead to that kind of life and has become alive unto righteousness.

Notice carefully Paul's graphic description of its transformation:

*“We were buried therefore with him through baptism to death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.” **Romans 6:4***

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.” **2 Corinthians 5:17***

Notice Paul said that the old things have changed, become new. But before all things can become new, we must say NO to all of the old things, all sin. God will not forgive any sin until we are willing to repent of (quit) all sin.

So, the first side of repentance—NO to all sin—is the attitude which says, “Lord, I've come to give it all up... altogether... forever.” The positive side is when we say YES to God! (We'll talk more about this in the coming lessons.)

But someone says, "How can I do that? How can I live apart from sin for the rest of my life? That's asking too much. I don't think I can do it!"

In working with alcoholics we show them how to leave alcohol alone one day at a time. It is too much for an alcoholic to think of the rest of his life without a drink, but those who stay sober work on their sobriety **one day at a time**.

Now apply this to any other sin. Could you get up in the morning and live one day without committing a willful sin? Say for example, you are in the practice of reading lustful and immoral literature such as Playboy Magazine. Could you, knowing that lust is a sin (**Galatians 5:19**), live one day without reading and looking at this type of material? Realizing that Jesus loves you and God loves you and they have gone to great lengths to free you from the domination of sin, could you live **one day** without committing this sin? This is a fantastic thought! One day without sinning! Jesus said, "Therefore don't be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient." (**Matthew 6:34**). Paul said on this very point, "...I die daily." (**1 Corinthians 15:31b**). And in **2 Corinthians 4:16b**, he says, "...our inward man is renewed day by day."

Start each day with the prayer, "Lord, help me not to sin this day," and with God's help you can make it! If you supply the willingness, he will supply the way. Just break your Christian life down into "Christian days" and live one day at a time for the Lord. Always remember the Lord's promise in **1 Corinthians 10:13**!

This tremendous thought reminds me of an ex-alcoholic who was asked if he knew what the word "Hallelujah" meant. He thought for a moment and answered, "I don't know for sure, but I think it means, 'Hot dog, this is it!'"

*This is it!* Your life lined in "Christian days" - one day at a time without sin! Hallelujah!

This concludes Chapter 2. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 3
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1. What is sin?
  - a) Going against God's law
  - b) Going against the government's law
  - c) Going against what you want
  - d) All of the above
2. TRUE or FALSE: **Romans 3:23** says that ALL people in general have sin?
  - a) True
  - b) False
3. What does a sinner have to look forward to?
  - a) Eternal life
  - b) Eternal death
  - c) Eternal wealth
  - d) Eternal happiness
4. What is repentance?
  - a) Being sorry for your sins enough to quit
  - b) Changing your mind for the better
  - c) Having the attitude of I never want to sin again
  - d) All of the above
5. What is the "negative" side of repentance??
  - a) Losing your life
  - b) Giving yourself to God
  - c) Saying No to sin
  - d) Saying yes to God
6. What is the "positive" side of repentance?
  - a) Losing your life
  - b) Giving yourself to God
  - c) Saying no to God
  - d) Saying yes to God
7. What is the greatest obstacle to a person's salvation?
  - a) Their friends
  - b) Their work
  - c) Themselves
  - d) Their family
8. Which verse says, "So faith comes from hearing the Good News..."?
  - a) John 6:45
  - b) Hebrews 11:1
  - c) Romans 10:17
  - d) 2 Corinthians 4:5

9. John says in **1 John 3:9** that a Christian:
- cannot sin.
  - makes a habit of doing righteousness.
  - does not practice sin.
  - All of the above
10. A Christian, like Christ, should:
- do the things pleasing to God.
  - do what they want.
  - do what their religious leaders want.
  - None of the above
11. What passage says *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - 1 John 1:9
  - Romans 6:14
  - Matthew 6:34
12. How does an alcoholic stop drinking? They think about it:
- one day at a time.
  - one week at a time.
  - one month at a time.
  - for the rest of their life.
13. TRUE or FALSE: it is impossible to live without sin.
- True
  - False
14. TRUE or FALSE: God is not willing to take away our sins until we repent and stop sinning?
- True
  - False
15. TRUE or FALSE: If we supply the willingness God will supply the way.
- True
  - False
16. What passage says *“There is no one doing what is right, not even one”*?
- Romans 3:10
  - Matthew 14:26-29
  - Hebrews 11:6
  - Romans 5:12
17. TRUE or FALSE: After we have sinned, our situation is hopeless and we can never be back in a relationship with God.
- True
  - False
18. What passage speaks about the impossibility of pleasing God without faith?
- Romans 3:10
  - Matthew 14:26-29
  - Hebrews 11:6
  - Romans 5:12
19. What passage speaks about Jesus walking on water?
- Romans 3:10
  - Matthew 14:26-29
  - Hebrews 11:6
  - Romans 5:12
20. Which of Jesus' apostles walked on water with Jesus?
- Paul
  - Peter
  - John
  - Luke
21. **Romans 6:11** says “Even so, consider you yourselves also to be:
- Living in sin”
  - Dead to sin”
  - Free from sin”
  - None of the above
22. In the story of the Prodigal Son, his sins were:
- remembered forever and he was not forgiven.
  - forgiven and forgotten.
  - forgiven but written down so they would not be forgotten.
  - None of the above.
23. What passage talks about what baptism does to a person?
- Romans 6:14
  - Romans 6:4
  - Romans 6:2
  - Romans 6:17

24. What does **2 Corinthians 5:17** say about what a man becomes after he becomes "in Christ"?

- a) A demon
- b) An angel
- c) A new creature
- d) A cherubim

25. In which passage can we find the promise from the Lord about sin being a choice?

- a) 1 Corinthians 10:13
- b) 2 Corinthians 5:17
- c) 2 Corinthians 4:5
- d) 1 Corinthians 15:31

# CHAPTER 3

## Is Christianity Just a Sunday Stroll With Jesus?

### A Saint on Sunday, A Devil on Monday

It's sad but true that many followers of Christ seem to feel that their discipleship involves no more than a **"Sunday stroll with Jesus"**. They think they can be like saints one day of the week and live like the devil the remaining six! They think that they don't have to take their commitment seriously throughout their whole week!

The purpose of this chapter is to show that the life of a Christian cannot be (and why it cannot be) like treating Christ as a "Sunday visitor" that we have over to the house for dinner.

When Jesus is pictured in **Revelation 3:20**, as standing on the outside and knocking at the door of men's hearts he is not asking merely to come in and **"sit-for-a-spell"**, but he wants to move in! (See **John 14:23**) Christ will not come into our lives as some *temporary guest* to be in view only when we desire his company. **No**. He comes in as the new owner to **convert** what was **our** house into **his** home.

*"<sup>19</sup> Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

Very often thoughts like this cause us to become uneasy. Ever wondered why? Could the uneasiness and hesitation be a signal for us to stop and consider if, in essence, we aren't actually doubting the wisdom and love of Christ for our lives? Do we feel that we will be **"wiped out"** if we allow the Lord permanent control?

Let's see... Let's look at a man who cleaned up and then got wiped out!

### He cleaned House... But...

*"<sup>43</sup> When an unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and doesn't find it. <sup>44</sup> Then he says, 'I will return into my house from which I came out,' and when he has come back, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then he goes, and takes with himself seven other spirits more evil than he is, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that man becomes worse than the first. Even so will it be also to this evil generation." Matthew 12:43-45*

Maybe you've had the same experience this man had. You "cleaned house" of all your past sins, and for a little while it looked as if it had really worked. But just when you thought they were all in the past – WHAM! BANG! - the back door slams and in barges sin again. And not only are some of your old ones back, but even a few new ones! This is when you begin to feel like the drowning man who tries to lift himself out of the water by pulling on his own hair - *"Ah, what's the use?"*

Well, obviously there's more to quitting sin than just the negative side of saying "NO" to it. As this story of Jesus points out, there is no such thing as a "spiritual vacuum". Getting rid of sin isn't enough! Something, or someone, is going to **live** in our house. And while there is a negative side of repentance there must be, at the same time, a **positive action** taken of replacing that "emptiness" with something **that is stronger**, or else our "swept and garnished" life will not remain that way for very long.

But what do we put inside our house? What can replace sin and be strong enough to keep it from taking over again? Some have thought that shutting themselves up behind the walls of monasteries would be the answer. Others have felt that various forms of physical punishment would help keep the soul pure. Still others have taught that certain rituals and prayers, performed daily, were the answer, and on it goes – man searching for the way to conquer sin in his life.

Is it just too simple for us to accept the statement that “Jesus is the Answer”?

We've all probably seen this expression used as a sign on a tree beside the highway or stuck on the bumper of a car, and have built up some kind of distaste to it. But in this case, to say that “Jesus is the Answer” is not some general expression. It is a very meaningful statement!

Christ is the only one who is strong enough to replace sin and keep it from regaining control over our lives. Sin is powerless in His presence as we can see in **Matthew 4**, when He faced Satan “eye-to-eye”. The Hebrew writer tells us that even in His death He destroyed “*him who had the power of death, that is, the devil*”. (**Hebrews 2:14**). And Paul tells us that we can share in this victory over sin through the Victor.

*“<sup>54</sup> Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **1 Corinthians 15:54b-57***

Thus when we “clean house” with the negative “NO” to all sin, we must then take the positive step of “YES” to Christ. And unlike the man who ended up worse than he started, when sin tries to barge back in on us we can let the **Master** of the house answer the door!

## KURIOS and DOULOS

Do these words sound like Greek to you? The meaning and relationship of these two words help show us even more that walking in the footsteps of Christ is no “**Sunday stroll**”.

When the writers of the New Testament referred to Christ as **Lord** they used the Greek word KURIOS, meaning a “**master**” or “**ruler**”, one who has complete control over another. And when Paul and other early Christians referred to themselves as the bond servants of Christ, they were using the Greek DOULOS which literally means “**a slave**” In other words, it seems that many of our New Testament brothers and sisters had in mind that they had actually become the **voluntary slaves** of Jesus Christ! How's that for saying “YES” to Jesus?

Wait a minute though, here's another thought to put with that one. These early Christians were following the steps of Jesus when they took on this attitude of being servants. This KURIOS had once been DOULOS. Can you recall these words from **Philippians 2:5-8**?

*“<sup>5</sup> Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, yes, the death of the cross.”*

In **Romans 15:3**, we read that “*For even Christ didn't please himself...*” Then in **John 6:38**, Christ tells us why he didn't live to please himself, “*For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.*” And in **Luke 22:27b**, he plainly states, “*...But I am among you as one who serves*”.

This is an amazing thought, isn't it? The Lord was once a servant, a God-controlled servant of heaven. IF THIS IS THE WAY THE MASTER WENT, SHOULD NOT HIS SERVANTS FOLLOW IT STILL?

## Getting the Picture into Focus

To help get the picture clearer in your mind, think of life as having a throne in the center of it, and on that throne something or someone is reigning. The question is *What* or *Who*? Is it sin or Christ? Certainly, in the life of a non-Christian the answer is sin. Christ has no control, because he is kept on the outside and off the throne. This life is as Paul described the Romans before they became Christians: “*You were servants (slaves) of sin*”. (**Romans 6:17**)

For “Don’t you know that when you present yourselves as servants and obey someone, you are the servants of whomever you obey...” (**Romans 6:16a**). So there is no doubt that sin is in control and “it lords over,” or dominates the non-Christian’s life.

Now let’s contrast this with the person who has said “NO” to all sin and “YES” to Christ. Picture in your mind a throne with Christ seated on it and someone kneeling at the feet of Jesus. Things have changed, been converted. The person has become a Christian, a voluntary slave, surrendering his whole life to Christ as Lord and Master.

This is what it means to be truly converted. In another chapter we will discuss how this idea of Lordship is found in every case of conversion in the book of Acts. This will enable us to identify why there seems to be such a difference between many of the earlier Disciples of Christ and numerous people claiming to be Christians today.

### “If Any Man Will Come After Me...”

As you think about the thoughts found in this chapter with reference to your own life, keep in mind these words of the Lord:

*“...If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, **daily**, and follow me”.*  
**Luke 9:23b** (emphasis added)

There is no part-time discipleship. It is all of the time (daily) or none of the time. He will not be the Lord of **any** part of our lives if he cannot be the Lord of **every** part of our lives.

This concludes Chapter 3. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 4

1. What do lots of “Christians” today believe their discipleship involves, according to our lesson?
  - a) Sunday fellowship
  - b) Their entire lives
  - c) Sunday and mission trips
  - d) None of the above
2. How many days of the week are we supposed to be devoted to God?
  - a) 6
  - b) 4
  - c) 7
  - d) 1
3. What is the purpose of this lesson?
  - a) To get people to stop treating Christ as a visitor
  - b) To show that Christ should be the ruler in our lives
  - c) To correct the idea of “Saint on Sunday, Devil on Monday”
  - d) All of the above
4. What does Christ want to with our hearts? He wants:
  - a) to visit.
  - b) to only be there when we need him.
  - c) to move in.
  - d) None of the above
5. What is the main topic in **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**?
  - a) Our bodies no longer belong to us
  - b) The Holy Spirit
  - c) Unclean spirits
  - d) Death
6. What happened in **Matthew 12:43-45**?
  - a) The man cleaned up his life
  - b) The spirit left but came back
  - c) The spirit brought other spirits
  - d) All of the above
7. According to the lesson, what is **Matthew 12** really talking about?
  - a) Love
  - b) Faith
  - c) Sin
  - d) None of the above

8. Is there more to quitting sin than just saying “no”?
- Yes
  - No
  - All of the above
  - None of the above
9. What are we supposed to replace the emptiness left by sin with?
- Something stronger
  - More sin
  - Nothing
  - Anything that makes us happy
10. Is there really such thing as a “spiritual vacuum”?
- Yes
  - No
  - All of the above
  - None of the above
11. What is stronger than sin?
- A wall
  - Your head
  - Christ
  - Bigger sin
12. What does **Matthew 4** talk about?
- Jesus’ crucifixion
  - Jesus’ first sin
  - Temptation of Jesus
  - All of the above
13. What passage tells us that Jesus destroyed “*him who had the power of death, that is, the devil*”?
- 1 Corinthians 15:54-57
  - Philippians 2:5-8
  - Luke 22:27
  - Hebrews 2:14
14. In **1 Corinthians 15:54-57** what does it say death is swallowed up by?
- Sin
  - Love
  - Victory
  - Faith
15. What else do we do besides saying “NO” to sin?
- Say yes to Christ
  - Say no to Christ
  - Say yes to Love
  - None of the above
16. What does the word *KURIOS* mean?
- Master
  - Ruler
  - Owner
  - All of the above
17. What does the word *DOULOS* mean?
- Slave
  - Master
  - Owner
  - Ruler
18. What does **Philippians 2:5-8** talk about?
- Christ’s equality with God
  - Christ’s equality with man
  - Christ becoming a servant
  - All of the above
19. What passage says “Christ also pleased not himself”?
- Romans 15:3
  - John 6:38
  - Luke 22:27
  - Romans 6:17
20. Which of the following passages does it clearly state Jesus as being a servant?
- Romans 15:3
  - John 6:38
  - Luke 22:27
  - Romans 6:17
21. Which passage talks about being “slaves of sin”?
- Romans 15:3
  - John 6:38
  - Luke 22:27
  - Romans 6:17
22. A non-Christian’s life is ruled by:
- Sin
  - Christ
  - All of the above
  - None of the above

23. A true Christian's life is ruled by:

- a) Sin
- b) Christ
- c) All of the above
- d) None of the above

25. How long each day should we be Christians?

- a) 9am-5pm
- b) Part-time
- c) 2-4pm
- d) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

24. In a Christian's life, where should Christ be?

- a) Seated on the throne
- b) Beside the throne
- c) Bowing to us
- d) Not in the room

# CHAPTER 4

## Straddling the Fence

Some people who claim to be follower's of Christ remind us of a man sitting on a barbed-wire fence. He sits there, certainly not because he likes it, but because he can't make up his mind on which side to get down. Now he can sit there, but it's very uncomfortable!

Maybe you are aware of some of these wrestling Christians. They have enough sin in their lives to keep them from being happy as Christians, and just enough "**Christianity**" to keep them from going out there and really "getting with it" in sin. Talk about frustrated and unhappy! The man on the barbed-wire would probably think he's in a good situation compared to the difficult situation they're in!

How do some get into this kind of situation? Let's look at it this way: this kind of person has dethroned Christ and placed **self** on the throne. Rather than Christ ruling and governing his life, he is controlled by self-will. He has deceived himself into believing that he can do as he pleases and listen to Christ when it suits him. It's like he's letting Jesus be the king, while making himself the prime minister with the real governing power in his own hands.

The Bible states:

*"The unfaithful will be repaid for **his own ways...**" Proverbs 14:14a*

Have you ever known anyone like that, someone who always had to have his own way? Or as one man described himself, "I'm a self-aholic. I'm addicted to myself."

Selfishness, or self-pleasing is the very essence of sin. Self-on-the-throne was Satan's first offer to man. "Why let God rule you? You can be your own gods! Let **self** be your lord". And ever since men have found it hard to believe that:

*"...it is not in man who walks to direct his steps." Jeremiah 10:23b*

But the consequences of self-rule have always been the same:

*"There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12*

Let's look now at what goes on in the life of a person who claims to be a Christian, but who is really ruled by self. The picture, of course, is not the same in every case, but it will more or less include the following characteristics.

### **1. He has a poor prayer life and Bible study habits.**

The person who has submitted to a Christ-controlled life is always eager to learn more about his Master and his Master's will. His attitude is "Speak Lord, your servant hears, command and I will obey."

But this is contrary to the wish of the half-hearted Christian who wants his own will to be done. Prayer to him, though not entirely stopped, becomes an "emergency exit" to be used "just in case". If Bible study is engaged in at all it becomes a mere "**intellectual pursuit**" and probably a superficial one, for the prime minister doesn't want any communication from the king unless it suits his purposes.

### **2. He operates with a set of "dual controls."**

This characteristic is very similar to the one above and reminds me of my flight training. After logging several hours of flying time, I began to feel rather sure of my control over the plane. Then one day while practicing landings with my instructor, we hit a strong cross wind. The plane started skidding down the runway and it looked as if we were going to "ground loop". I yelled for help, "Bob, grab it!"

The person who has **self** on the throne is using Christ the same way, as if saying to Him, "I can fly this thing myself and if I do happen to need any help, I'll call you."

Someone has said, "God is my co-pilot". No. He is either directing and controlling as **the pilot**, or He's not in the plane at all!

Christ, the Lord, will not sit at our feet in some sort of advisory capacity. He doesn't go along as some kind of "trouble shooter," getting us out of a mess and then turning the controls back over to **self**. He didn't say, "If I am with you, you are not against me". Instead, He said, "*He that is not **with me**, is against me.*" (**Matthew 12:30**)

### **3. He keeps back some part of his life.**

Now to look at this one you might be fooled. He's faithful in church attendance and may even teach a class. He's willing to lead in prayer, serves on various committees, etc. He looks and acts the part. This person isn't what you would call a "**real**" hypocrite, because when he engages in worship and other religious activities he is very conscientious and sincere. It's no show. He is very close to getting completely off the throne and letting Christ have it all...but not quite. There is still that 5 or 10 per cent he wants so badly to keep. He just cannot bring himself to give up some pleasurable sin or trait of character such as greediness or pride. He is like the Rich Young Ruler. (See **Mark 10:17-21**)

### **4. He is unhappy.**

Whenever someone lets anything less than Christ be the Lord of his life he will, without exception, be unhappy. Oh, he may drink of all the wells of pleasure this world has and seem to be anything but unhappy. Yet sitting there in the darkness of his life when it's all been said and done, he is still thirsty. Jesus says:

*"But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."* **John 4:14**

### **5. He operates out of fear.**

"Why are you faithful to attend church services?" If that question were honestly answered by some, it would be, "Because I am afraid if I don't I'll go to hell". His part-time service to Christ is "**fire insurance**". He is afraid not to have Christ as his Savior but he cannot bring himself to let Christ be his Lord. He is somewhat like the pagan who tries to "**keep the gods appeased**" hoping they will leave him alone for now but save him **then**. (In a later chapter we will discuss the proper place that fear has in the life of a Christian.)

### **6. He is a premeditated sinner.**

Often when self is ruling one's life he will deliberately sin. For example, he is invited some place and doesn't want to go, but rather than tell the truth he makes up a lie to get out of it. That's premeditated sin, which obviously is not characteristic of a person under the Lordship of Christ. Another familiar example is a student deliberately writing the answers to a quiz on the cuff of his shirt or the palm of his hand before an exam. He knows it is a sin but does it anyway.

We could go on and on, giving examples of those who claim to be Christians but who engage in premeditated sin. As one young man at a university put it, "I figured it this way, I knew I wasn't giving it all up to Jesus - that I still had a few things I was hanging on to. But I figured since I had cut down to only about two or three deliberate sins per week that this was so much above the average, the Lord wasn't going to kick much about it". But no sin is small in the presence of an infinite Lord. A grain of sand may be a small thing, but not if it gets into the mechanism of a watch. (See **Hebrews 2:1-3**)

This characteristic of the self-ruler reminds us of the little girl who, after returning from a birthday party, told her questioning mother, “*Mommy, I wasn’t good and I wasn’t bad; I was just kind of in between!*”

Premeditated sins result in *POROSIS*, or a process of petrification (turning into stone). (See **Romans 11:7, 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:14; Ephesians 4:18**) A person who habitually engages in some particular sin or sins begins to lose his ability to “feel” the sting of sin. Hence, he reaches a stage where regret and penitence are dead. Peter described such a person:

*“For if, after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.” 2 Peter 2:20-21*

Why would Peter say he’s worse off? Because such a person can become so hardened by sin that he will never again respond to God and completely surrender his throne to the Lord.

## Where Am I?

The person with self on the throne is in what we might call a gray area. He is between the one who knows he serves sin and the one who seeks in every way to serve the Lord.

Now, every person can be found in one of these places. Remember the first question usually asked by someone regaining consciousness? “Where am I?”

This concludes Chapter 4. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 5
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1. In the case of the man on the fence, who was sitting on his life’s throne?
  - a) Christ
  - b) Himself
  - c) Satan
  - d) None of the above
2. What does **Proverbs 14:14a** discuss?
  - a) Christ
  - b) Being self-ruled
  - c) Satan
  - d) Sin
3. What is a self-aholic?
  - a) Someone who is addicted to shellfish
  - b) Someone who is addicted to themselves
  - c) Someone who is addicted to drugs
  - d) Someone who hates themselves
4. What does the author say is the essence of sin?
  - a) Self-pleasing
  - b) Selfishness
  - c) Both A and B
  - d) None of the above
5. What does **Jeremiah 10:23** talk about?
  - a) A man directing himself
  - b) A man not directing himself
  - c) A man driving a car
  - d) A man shopping
6. **Proverbs 14:12** says that “There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of:
  - a) Life
  - b) Death
  - c) Money
  - d) Love
7. A person whose life is ruled by Christ is always eager to:
  - a) learn more about his master.
  - b) learn more about his master’s will.
  - c) Both of the above
  - d) None of the above

8. Whose will does a half-hearted Christian follow?
- Christ
  - His own
  - The Devil's
  - Both A and C
9. What is prayer to a half-hearted Christian?
- An everyday thing
  - An "emergency exit"
  - Only done on Sunday
  - an "intellectual pursuit"
10. To a half-hearted Christian, Bible study is:
- An everyday thing
  - An "emergency exit"
  - Only done on Sunday
  - an "intellectual pursuit"
11. A person who has "self on the throne" uses Christ just as:
- He should be used
  - The author used his flight instructor
  - A co-pilot
  - Both B and C
12. TRUE or FALSE: God is a "trouble shooter".
- True
  - False
13. The third type of "Christian" is a:
- True Christian
  - Hypocrite
  - Sincere Christian
  - None of the Above
14. TRUE or FALSE: The third type of "Christian" has Christ on the throne of his life.
- True
  - False
15. Which passage talks about "The Rich Young Ruler"?
- John 4:14
  - Mark 10:17-21
  - Hebrews 2:1-3
  - Romans 11:7
16. What passage talks about the "The well of eternal life"?
- Proverbs 14:12
  - Mark 10:17-21
  - John 4:14
  - Hebrews 2:1-3
17. Our fifth type of "Christian" operates out of:
- Happiness
  - Love
  - Fear
  - None of the Above
18. How is the fifth type of "Christians" like a pagan?
- They bow down and worship God
  - The "try to appease the God"
  - They believe in gods
  - None of the Above
19. What is our sixth type of "Christian"?
- A premeditated sinner
  - A God fearing man
  - An honest individual
  - Both B and C
20. What is *Porosis*?
- The process of elimination
  - The process of becoming poor
  - The process of petrification
  - None of the above
21. A person who sins deliberately over time stops feeling the sting of:
- a bee.
  - sin.
  - God.
  - Both A and B
22. TRUE or FALSE: A person who sins over and over on a regular basis regrets his sins.
- True
  - False
23. A person with self on the throne is in:
- the gray area.
  - Heaven.
  - Hell.
  - None of the above

24. What does Peter talk about in **2 Peter 2:20**?

- a) Sinning
- b) Being worse off than you were before
- c) Being better off than you were before
- d) Both A and B

25. What is the first thing a person asks after regaining consciousness?

- a) Who am I?
- b) What am I?
- c) Where am I?
- d) None of the Above

# CHAPTER 5

## God's Verdict: "Not Guilty"

We have seen that Christ cannot be the Lord of our lives unless we have said "No" to all sin and "Yes" to a full-time surrender to Him. But there are always those who try to "**straddle the fence**," right? These people try to say "Yes" without saying "No," and they wind up walking a tight-rope between two kingdoms. They feel frustrated, unhappy, and **guilty**.

There are few things that can make a person more miserable than the feeling of being guilty. To quote Plautus (a Roman playwright), "*Nothing is more wretched than the mind of a man conscious of guilt*".

Guilty people often find themselves tossing and turning in bed, playing over and over all of the "**if-only's**" or the "**might-have-been's**" and the "**too-late's**"; getting up, looking out the window, checking the clock for the tenth time, and they end up lying back down to try it again. Then they just stare at the shadows on the ceiling, sighing and wondering if the sun will ever come up, feeling like Job:

*"When I lie down, I say, 'When shall I arise, and the night be gone?' I toss and turn until the dawning of the day." Job 7:4*

What's happening? What's going on? Well, this feeling of guilt, this, "*Why do I feel guilty all of the time*" is a signal that there is a "**spiritual malfunction**" somewhere. This spiritual malfunction can be caused by one of four things:

1. Serving sin.
2. Serving self (fence-straddling Christian).
3. Not being able to accept the fact that God has forgiven and forgotten.
4. Not being able to forgive self.

But no matter what the cause of guilt, God has made a way for dealing with it. You remember what some call "the old, old story"? Well, it's the story of how God got Himself and man out of quite a predicament. Here's how it all came about:

### The Great Trial

The first few chapters in the book of Romans are like a courtroom scene. In chapter 1 the case is stated:

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..."*  
**Romans 1:18a**

Then God, the prosecutor and judge, calls to the stand all the ungodly Gentiles. They are without excuse. They had deliberately departed from God and through the centuries had plunged deeper and deeper into sin, dishonoring their bodies, exchanging the truth of God for a lie and refusing to have God in their knowledge. They were doing things that were shocking and sordid, and they were as low as mankind could go. So, Paul's first point in Romans - "*You Gentiles desperately need the gospel*".

In chapter two the Jews are called to take the stand. Unlike the Gentiles, they had not lowered themselves to the gutter; in fact they were very proud of their righteousness. Their attitude was something like, "God, you know you're really lucky to have us around". They were feeling very secure in their religion, but not for long.

The Prosecutor begins His case. First, the Jews had set themselves up as the judge of others, yet at the same time were guilty of practicing the things they were condemning. True, they had the law of God but they weren't keeping it, so they were no better than the Gentiles, "For there is no respect of persons with God". Thus, Paul's

second point - *"You Jews need the gospel of salvation just as desperately as the Gentiles". "As it is written, 'There is no one righteous, no not one'". (Romans 3:10)*

## The Verdict:

And so, with the entire human race standing before the Judge the verdict is read "YOU ARE ALL GUILTY!" *"For they all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". (Romans 3:23, our literal translation).* The sentence is eternal death. (See also **Romans 6:23**)

## God's Seeming Predicament

You might be thinking **"God's seeming predicament?"** *How do you get that? Man is the one who is guilty and will die. Looks to me like man is the one in a predicament!"*

It does sound a bit **strange** doesn't it? However think about this: God is a righteous God. That means he must be a just being who cannot tolerate sin. Now what makes a good judge in a legal court? Well, for one thing, he will punish all wrongdoing. If a person is proven guilty, the judge, because of his position, cannot fail to give out justice even though he may love the guilty party and want to ignore the judgment. Justice must be done.

The same is true with God. Divine justice cannot overlook the guilt of man. The wages of sin must be paid. But this Divine Judge is not only a just one, at the same time He is a God of love and mercy, and these attributes always beg to forgive - not punish!

Now, do you see **"God's seeming predicament?"** How can He do both? Justice says man must be punished, yet love and mercy beg for the sinner's pardon. How can you punish and pardon at the same time?

## The Answer

Isn't it wonderful that God is not only a just and merciful God, but that He is also a God of wisdom? His answer to Justice **and** Mercy is found in these great words of John:

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." **John 3:16***

Jesus took our (mankind's) place! When he died on the cross, God transferred man's guilt to his son, and Jesus Christ paid the wages of sin for all.

*"But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for everyone." **Hebrews 2:9***

*"Who his own self bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed." **1 Peter 2:24***

*"So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, without sin, to those who are eagerly waiting for him for salvation." **Hebrews 9:28***

God's justice was met by placing man's guilt upon someone else, a substitute with two qualifications: (1) He was without sin of His own (**Hebrews 4:15**) and (2) He was willing to take the place of the guilty.

Thus, Paul says, *"But now apart from the law a righteousness of God has been revealed... even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ..." (Romans 3:21-22).* In other words, we would say, something happened. God acted, He intervened and made it possible for man to be righteous because of what Christ has done.

## How can this happen?

In essence God has said 'My Son will take your place and actually die for your sins and you will not have to be punished by death if you will show me three things':

1. That you believe and are willing to confess that the One who hung on the cross and died for you was truly the Son of God. (**John 3:36, 6:47; Romans 10:10, etc**)
2. That you have repented of your sins. (**Mark 16:16**)
3. That you show me your willingness to die by obeying in a "form" the death, burial, and resurrection of my Son by being buried in a "watery grave" (**baptism**). (See **Romans 6:17**, then **Romans 6:3-5**, also **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**)

**And then what?** Then justice has been met and you are free; free from sin, free from guilt, free from death, for "*If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed*". (**John 8:36**). As far as your sins and guilt are concerned, it's like it never happened!

So, there we have God's way for dealing with man's basic guilt of sin, **Jesus Christ**. The wrath of justice was taken out upon Him so that we could be spared. Is it any wonder that this has been called "**the Divine plan**"? No one but an infinite God could have planned and carried out this "**Mission Impossible**".

## A Christian's Guilt

Often right about here the question comes up, "But what about this person out here who has obeyed the gospel plan of salvation and is supposedly a Christian, yet is still asking, 'Why do I feel guilty all of the time?' Is this possible?"

Yes! It is not only possible, but it also happens to many Christians every day! Why? Well, as we've said before, feelings of guilt are a warning signal that there is a spiritual malfunction somewhere and in a Christian's case the malfunction comes from one of these three areas:

1. They are serving self and not allowing Christ full control over their lives as Lord or --
2. They are unable to accept the fact that God has forgiven and forgotten or --
3. They are unable to forgive themselves.

"Yeah, well that's pretty good for openers, but you said that no matter what the cause of guilt, God has made a way for dealing with it. Would you mind giving a few 'here's how' or 'for examples'?"

In other words, don't just diagnose the case doctor-tell me the cure.

OK. Will do. But remember when the Great Physician puts His finger on the spot, it could be a sore spot.

This concludes Chapter 5. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 6

1. TRUE or FALSE: Christ can be ruler of our lives if we say "YES" to sin.
  - a) True
  - b) False
2. Is it possible for a full-time Christian to "straddle the fence"?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Both Yes and No
  - d) None of the Above

3. Who said "Nothing is more wretched than the mind of a man conscious of guilt"?
  - a) Plato
  - b) Plautus
  - c) Aristotle
  - d) Josephus
  
4. According to the lesson, what is feeling guilty all the time a sign of?
  - a) A "spiritual malfunction"
  - b) Nothing at all
  - c) A conscience
  - d) None of the Above
  
5. What are some causes for a "spiritual malfunction"?
  - a) Serving God
  - b) Serving Sin
  - c) Serving Self
  - d) Both B and C
  
6. TRUE or FALSE: God has made a way for dealing with guilt.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
7. What passage talks about the wrath of God?
  - a) Romans 3:10
  - b) Romans 1:18
  - c) Romans 3:23
  - d) Romans 6:23
  
8. What were the Jews doing in Romans?
  - a) Setting themselves as judges of others
  - b) Being right and just
  - c) Condemning others
  - d) Both A and C
  
9. What was Paul's first point in the book of Romans?
  - a) That God was lucky to have the Jews
  - b) That God was lucky to have the gentiles
  - c) The Jews desperately needed the gospel
  - d) The Gentiles desperately needed the gospel
  
10. What was the attitude of the Jews in **Chapter 2** of Romans?
  - a) That God was lucky to have the Jews
  - b) That God was lucky to have the gentiles
  - c) The Jews desperately needed the gospel
  - d) The Gentiles desperately needed the gospel
  
11. What was Paul's second point according to the author?
  - a) That God was lucky to have the Jews
  - b) That God was lucky to have the gentiles
  - c) The Jews desperately needed the gospel
  - d) The Gentiles desperately needed the gospel
  
12. TRUE or FALSE: **Romans 3:10** says "There is only one righteous, just one"
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
13. What is the difference between a judge in a courtroom and Christ on the judgment day?
  - a) Nothing
  - b) Everything
  - c) Both of the above
  - d) None of the above
  
14. TRUE or FALSE: The wages of sin must be paid.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
15. God is:
  - a) A God of love
  - b) A divine judge
  - c) Both of the above
  - d) None of the above
  
16. What does Justice say about the sinner?
  - a) Pardon the sinner
  - b) Punish the sinner
  - c) Both of the above
  - d) None of the above
  
17. What do love and mercy say about the sinner?
  - a) Pardon the sinner
  - b) Punish the sinner
  - c) Both of the above
  - d) None of the above

18. What does **John 3:16** discuss?

- a) Eternal life
- b) God giving his son
- c) Jesus dying
- d) All of the above

19. What did Jesus take when he died?

- a) Man's place
- b) Man's sin
- c) Man's guilt
- d) All of the above

20. What does **Hebrews 2:9** say Jesus "tasted" for man?

- a) Life
- b) Death
- c) Love
- d) None of the above

21. What three things must you do to receive the "replacement"?

- a) Die, raise, ascend
- b) Confess, repent, be immersed
- c) Pray, accept Christ as your savior, repent
- d) None of the above

22. What happens after you do the 3 things?

- a) You are free from guilt
- b) You are free from death
- c) You are free from temptation
- d) Both A and B

23. TRUE or FALSE: After you accomplish the three things the guilt will remain for the rest of your life.

- a) True
- b) False

24. Why do some "Christians" still have the feeling of guilt?

- a) They are self serving
- b) They are having trouble accepting God's forgiveness
- c) They are unable to forgive themselves
- d) Any of the above

25. What is God's way of dealing with man's guilt of sin?

- a) Jesus
- b) Satan
- c) Hell
- d) Heaven

# CHAPTER 6

## “But Why Do I Feel So Guilty All Of The Time?”

### “What Do I Do With It?”

Usually no one likes to go to the doctor, whether it's fear of the unknown or whatever. Some even go so far as trying to deceive themselves into believing that nothing is really wrong with them, knowing all along there is. And this is one of the big hang-ups many have about their “**sore conscience**”. Rather than going to the Great Physician and using His way with guilt, they try to cover it up with all sorts of distractions, excuses, or forgetting it and saying it's just a mistake.

However, the time comes when some find, like David as he tried to ignore his guilt of adultery and murder, that:

*“<sup>3</sup> When I kept silence, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy on me. My strength was sapped in the heat of summer.” **Psalms 32:3-4***

David was sweating it. His guilty feelings would not leave him alone. They kept on bothering him until finally, like a weary runner slowly coming to a halt, he stopped and looking up to heaven confessed:

*“Against you, and you only, **have I sinned**, and done that which is evil in your sight...” **Psalms 51:4a***

So the first thing to do with guilt is what David did. Quit running from it. Don't rationalize it, excuse it or pretend it isn't there; confess it. **In order for a person to change anything about his life, he must first be honest enough to admit how things really are with him.** Like Cromwell<sup>3</sup>, who when having his portrait painted, told the artist, “Paint me just as I am, warts and all.” (The trouble with most of our self-portraits is that they are usually touched up to hide the real blemishes we have on our faces.)

But just confessing our sin or guilt will not rid us of it anymore than a person's confessing he is sick will make him well. It merely places us in the position for having something done about it. In other words, we must get help from outside. It's somewhat like the problem of getting rid of the garbage. You can't just leave it in the pail in the kitchen or try to hide it in a cabinet, so you make arrangements for it to be taken off your hands. The same thing is true with guilt. We can't live with it or try to pretend it doesn't exist. We have to get it taken off our hands by someone else. And this is the wonder of it, that Jesus was willing to be that someone-not just for once, but continually. As John tells us:

*“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.” **1 John 1:7***

(In the Greek, this verse literally says that Jesus' blood **continues** to cleanse us.)

### Continues How?

Have you ever heard of God's two laws of pardon: That's right, two! One we've already discussed for the sinner. He must be born again. He's like Mrs. Poyser said of Mr. Craig in Adam Bede<sup>4</sup>: “It was a pity he couldn't be hatched over again and hatched different”. God says the same of the sinner - he has to be “**hatched over again**”. (See **John 3:1-5** – *born from above!*)

But back to our fence straddler. God has a way for him, too - another law of pardon. Such a person needs forgiveness to get rid of his guilt of holding out on the Lord, but he cannot be re-baptized for there's only one baptism (**Ephesians 4:5**) or birth into God's family. What God says to this child of his is, “Repent and get off your

3 - A British politician who lived from 1599-1658.

4 - A famous book published in 1859.

throne - let Christ have it." (A Biblical example of this can be found in **Acts 8:22**.) God has given His word that if a person will sincerely do this, the sin and guilt are gone - out of sight, out of mind! Listen to this promise:

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us (continually) from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9*

So there you have God's second law of pardon for those of His who need forgiveness. Does it sound too much like LYSOL disinfectant cleaner? Repentance + confession + prayer = Mr. Clean? Admittedly, from all outward appearances that's about all it seems to be for some. But it isn't a formula or religious ritual, it is a **response**. A man getting off a fence doesn't go through some ritual or formula - he responds! The prodigal son said, "I will arise and go - I will say I have sinned". These are the steps that took him back home but I doubt that he thought of them as steps. They were the responses of a child who wanted to be home with his father, free from sin and guilt.

It is the same with an erring child of God. True, it's no easy thing to do, but you CAN do it if you really want to. As we've said before, if you supply the willingness he will supply the way. God has always made it possible for His children to do anything that they ought to do. Remember one can **choose**; this means the fence straddler is living with the gnawing feeling of guilt **by choice**. So the answer for him to the question of "Why do I feel guilty all of the time?" is "Because that is what you have chosen!"

## **A Reluctant God?**

Next, we have those who have a feeling of guilt because they can't understand how God could possibly forgive them. They act as though He is a God who is *reluctant* to forgive. For example, people will sometimes ask, "But how can he ever forgive me?" They are saying, "I've sinned more than God could ever forgive!"

## **A Limited Understanding of God**

There are several things wrong with that kind of thinking. For one thing, it brings God down to our level. It supposes that God is no better than us when it comes to forgiving. We have trouble forgiving, and because it's so hard for us, we conclude it must be just as difficult for God. Look at Christ on the cross. Listen to him asking his father to forgive those who crucified him! Do you think Christ really believed God could possibly answer that prayer? Jesus knew the Father. He knew his father was infinite in all his attributes and that included forgiveness". Yes, I know, but somehow I just don't feel forgiven." How about we consider this question: **Does a person have to feel married to be married?** But someone makes one last stab: "How can I be sure?"

Well, to begin with, here are two things:

1. **You have God's Word for it:** "...He who comes to me I will in no way throw out." (**John 6:37b**). "He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it." (**1 Thessalonians 5:24**) "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..." (**Romans 8:1a**) "Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain?..." (**James 4:5a**)

2. **Others' lives verify it for us:** "...for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed to him against that day." (**2 Timothy 1:12b**) (Those were the words of a one-time persecutor of the church who referred to himself as the chief of sinners!) For those who feel like God's forgiveness is for "**everyone but me**", read in Paul's letter to the Corinthians the kind of people some of the early saints had been. (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**).

## **Don't Sell Yourself And God Short**

That's what Paul tells us: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things?" (**Romans 8:32**) Someone said, "When a king picks up a trifle, it is a trifle no longer." If Christ the king of all kings "**picked you up**", that certainly makes you more than a trifle! Can you believe

this? You see the real problem is just that simple—you need both sides of FAITH. The first side you've got - belief in God's existence. But there's another side:

*“For he that comes to God must believe that he is (**you are OK here**), and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.” (This is the other side) Hebrews 11:6b*

A person must believe that God can be trusted to keep his word, and accept God as He really is - loving and forgiving. He must also learn to accept himself as he is - forgiven. When one can do this then he will know what it means to be “free indeed!”

## **“I Hate Myself!”**

Finally, there's the person who says, “I can't forgive myself for what I've done. I just hate myself!”

Whew! What do you do with this one? To be truthful about it, I really don't know. For one thing the motivations which prompt this response could be any number of things. For example, it could be as Karen Horney<sup>5</sup> states: “We do not hate ourselves because we are worthless, but because we are driven to reach beyond ourselves...” In other words, you found out you're not as good or as strong as you thought—it's a blow to your ego—it hurts, and so **you turn on yourself**. But one thing this person should try to be sure of is **why** he can't forgive himself. Is it an ego trip? Are you upset because you find you are not as **righteous** as you thought, or as independent? Christ said, “*Without me you can do nothing*”.

You've only found out what God knew all along. He knows your good points and your bad, your strengths and your weaknesses, but He has forgiven **because He loves YOU**. Now think about this, because to hate yourself is to despise what God loves! Could this not be just as bad as hating another? So what do you do? Well, here's what one man did, who before his conversion felt very proud of his righteousness:

*“...but one thing I do. Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before...” Philippians 3:13b*

Was Paul just blowing pious smoke in our face, or could he really forget the terrible things he had done before he was converted? We find him recalling these things and referring to himself as “the chief of sinners” on one occasion, so he must not have been able to wipe it clean out of his mind! No, I'm sure he couldn't, he could probably remember every little detail. But he didn't **think too much about it** and when he did think about the past, it always caused him to look to God and Christ and rejoice that he was forgiven. He wasn't forgiven because he deserved it, but because of a great and loving God! The same was probably true of the prodigal son. The scars were still there, but whenever he remembered the past, he remembered his father and how he had received him when he wanted to come back home. This caused him to love his father more and to re-commit to serve him faithfully.

In each case, looking at the scars of sin caused the forgiven to look away from self and look toward the Forgiver. So let the person who hates himself ask “**WHY?**” Is it because he thinks too much of himself? Why not think less about self and more about him and his forgiving love?

5 - A famous German psychoanalyst who lived from 1885-1952.

## Feeling Guilty or Feeling Great?

Neither. **Feeling right** - right with God based upon your knowing that you have met God in obedience and taking him at his word that your sins are gone from his memory and forgiven. Obedience and faith took the guesswork out of it. No more 99% Christ and 1% self. No more picking spiritual daisies with "He loves me, He loves me not." No more sawing sawdust by thinking over past sins, reminding God of things he has forgiven and forgotten. No more hating what Christ loved enough to die for. No more trying to handle what God has handled for you, if you will only put your trust in Christ as the Lord of your life and the Savior of your soul! *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1a)*

"Why do I feel guilty all of the time?" The solution for each is the same: bringing our disordered lives under the complete control of Christ as Lord.

*<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls."*  
**Matthew 11:28-29**

It's never too late to start...

This concludes Chapter 6. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 7

1. What passage talks about David's Guilt?
  - a) Psalms 32:3-4
  - b) Psalms 32:34
  - c) Psalms 51:4
  - d) Both A and C
2. TRUE or FALSE: **Psalm 51:4** says *"against me, me alone, you have sinned, and done evil in my sight."*
  - a) True
  - b) False
3. What is the first thing to do with Guilt?
  - a) Stop making excuses
  - b) Quit running from it
  - c) Confess it
  - d) All of the above
4. TRUE or FALSE: In order for a person to change anything about his life, he must first be honest enough to admit how things really are.
  - a) True
  - b) False
5. TRUE or FALSE: Cromwell told the painter, "Paint my portrait, but leave out the warts."
  - a) True
  - b) False
6. TRUE or FALSE: Just confessing our sins will rid us of them.
  - a) True
  - b) False
7. Confessing our sins or guilt:
  - a) Frees us
  - b) Puts us in a position to do something about them
  - c) Both A and B
  - d) None of the above
8. According to our lesson guilt is like \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) Love
  - b) Garbage
  - c) Sin
  - d) None of the above
9. Is it possible to pretend that guilt doesn't exist?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Maybe
  - d) All of the above
10. Which passage talks about Jesus continually cleansing us from our sins?
  - a) 1 John 1:7
  - b) John 3:1-5
  - c) Ephesians 4:5
  - d) Acts 8:22

11. What does a “fence straddler” need to get rid of Guilt and sin?
- Forgiveness
  - Hate
  - Love
  - More sin
12. What does God say to a “fence straddler”? Repent and:
- Be baptized
  - Give Christ your life throne
  - Sit on your own life throne
  - Both B and C
13. What does **1 John 1:9** talk about?
- Confessing our sins
  - God’s faithfulness
  - The cleansing of our sins
  - All of the above
14. TRUE or FALSE: Repentance is not a formula or religious ritual, it’s a response.
- True
  - False
15. Is it easy for a straying child of God to “come back home”?
- Yes
  - No
  - Maybe
  - None of the above
16. Does a Christian have free will choice?
- Yes
  - No
  - Maybe
  - None of the above
17. What is wrong with having a “limited understanding of God”?
- Nothing
  - It brings God down to our level
  - It exalts God
  - None of the above
18. Does a person have to feel forgiven to be forgiven?
- Yes
  - No
  - Maybe
  - None of the above
19. How can we be sure we are forgiven?
- God says it
  - Others lives verify it
  - Both A and B
  - None of the above
20. What does **Romans 8:32** discuss?
- God giving Jesus
  - Jesus’ death
  - Both A and B
  - None of the above
21. TRUE or FALSE: A person should doubt if God can be trusted to keep his word.
- True
  - False
22. According to our lesson, a person must learn to accept himself as:
- Lost
  - Forgiven
  - Loved
  - None of the above
23. According to the writer, why do people hate themselves?
- They are worthless
  - They are driven to reach beyond themselves
  - They are not rich
  - They are not beautiful

24. Which passage says "...but one thing I do. Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before..."

- a) Romans 8:1
- b) Romans 8:32
- c) Philippians 3:13

d) Matthew 11:28-29

25. What is the solution for getting rid of guilt?

- a) Stop running from it
- b) Admit there is a problem
- c) Bring it to Christ
- d) All of the above

# CHAPTER 7

## “Dead To Sin - Alive To God”

There is a story of a man traveling in Zambia, Africa, who was killed in an airplane crash. The plane was destined for Ndola, Zambia. However, the investigators of the accident found in the wreckage an open map of a town near Leopoldville (Congo) called Ndolo. The pilot, being guided in his landing by the map showing Ndolo, must have assumed that he had a thousand feet more altitude than he really had. You see, Ndola is higher than Ndolo. So in an open field in the darkness of Africa, the plane crashed with the pilot thinking all along that he had a thousand more feet. But he didn't. He had the wrong section of map. Just the difference between an “o” and an “a” but it was the difference between life and death.

So it is that many times a small difference—a small misunderstanding—can mean the difference between a disaster and a destination. There will be many whose eternity will be disasters because they **assumed**, or were **careless**, or **misunderstood** the true will of God that leads to eternal life. This is why we should give careful attention to understanding this chapter. It could mean the difference between life and death.

Remember the courtroom scene in Chapter 5? With the trial over and the entire human race standing before the Judge, the verdict was read: “You are all guilty!” *“For they all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.”* (**Romans 3:23**, our literal translation) The sentence was eternal death. (See **Romans 6:23**). So you see why I say give careful attention to this subject: **Dead to Sin - Alive unto God**.

### God's Desire: Not a Single Soul Lost

I think it should be clear by now that God isn't some “Big Bully in the sky” who's out to get us. He loves each soul and wants each one to go to heaven. As Peter says, He is *“...not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* (**2 Peter 3:9b**). God's desire is **every** soul's salvation! The only ones who need to fear God are those who practice ungodliness and unrighteousness, or as we sometimes say, the alien sinner and the unfaithful Christian. But no one will go to Hell who does not send himself by finally saying “NO” to God's saving acts of grace. God has declared that **anyone** can be justified and made righteous if he will become a Christian:

*“... Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him.”* **Romans 5:8b-9**

### How Can It Be?

It is quite amazing when we think about it, and it causes us to wonder how God could say that He'll take anyone who wants to become His. As we well know, it certainly is not because we deserve it. Our **fair** reward is eternal death. But Paul gives us the answer in **Romans 3:24**, *“being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”* Notice those two words, **freely** and **grace**<sup>6</sup>.

Christ was not under obligation to take our place but He did it freely. What about the debt of sin? Christ paid the debt for us. *“whom God sent to be an atoning sacrifice, through faith in his blood...”* (**Romans 3:25a**) Christ took our place and turned aside the wrath of God at the cross! Someone says “That's too good to be true.” But it is true, and that's the **“good news”**.

Salvation is first and foremost God's doing - the action of His love and grace. But since Christ voluntarily died for us and paid our debt, does that mean we are automatically saved? NO, it means that God has proven He loves

6 - From the Greek CHARIS - has reference to the special favor of God's redemptive mercy. On the part of the receiver, a sense of undeserved or unmerited favor done for man by God - specifically it is the death of Jesus to take away man's sins. To be found “in favor with God”, is to find grace.

the souls of all of us and wants all to be saved. He's done his part now it's up to us to do our part. To understand "our part" in this, let's look a bit deeper than we have in the previous chapters.

## One Slave Dies, Another Is Born

Prior to one's obedience to the gospel he is a servant to sin. Sin is the master. *"But thanks be to God, that, whereas you were bondservants of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were delivered."* (**Romans 6:17**) Then in verse two of **Romans 6**, Paul says, *"We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer?"* To be dead to something means that we are severed from it, separated. And this is what takes place when one is converted - he dies. *"knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin."* (**Romans 6:6**) Sin, the old master, still lives but the slave that served him has been crucified. And when someone dies they are buried, hence: *"We were buried therefore with him through baptism to death..."* (**Romans 6:4a**) Thus, the slave to sin dies and becomes free through baptism<sup>7</sup>.

We learned earlier that repentance has a negative and a positive side, and now we see the same is true with baptism. The negative side is when we crucify the "old man"-destroy the sinful body and bury it. But there is a positive side too. *"That just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life."*(**Romans 6:4b**). We died in baptism that we might be born again of the water and the spirit to a new life—a child of God—a servant no longer of sin but of Christ.

## Two Important Points

The above section brings up two important points for us to embed deeply into our hearts.

First, from the words of Paul in **Romans 6**, we can see that a Christian is not only free from the wrath of God, but because of Christ he is also **free from sin**.

*"Being made free from sin, you became bondservants of righteousness."* **Romans 6:18**

Paul is not saying that a Christian is sinless but that he is out from under the domination and control of the old master, sin. Notice **verse 14** of the chapter: *"For sin will not have dominion over you..."* And since the Christian is free from sin he can fight against it.

Only when we are freed from the chains of the old master can we do battle against him. Thus, we are twice freed: freed from the wrath of God and freed from the domination of sin. And this happens in baptism.

The next point is this. Paul says we die to sin so that we might **live for God**. (See **Romans 6:11**) We come alive unto God when we are born into his family, and again this happens in baptism. Is it any wonder that baptism is given so much emphasis in the New Testament, first by the Lord and later by His apostles? Look at what all takes place there!

So we die, not only to become free from our past sins, but also to become free from our old master, sin, and to be born again in newness of life as God's child... alive unto Him!

## Still Wrapped In Grave Clothes

Some Christians seem to be dead to sin alright, but they also seem to be dead to everything else and alive to nothing! Like Lazarus; raised from the dead but still wrapped in their grave clothes! Listen to these words carefully:

7 - Greek - BAPTIZO is the verb form. It means to dip, plunge, immerse. The baptism of the Great Commission (Mark 16:16) was an immersion in water (Acts 8:36) and was for the remission of sins, (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

*"<sup>11</sup> Thus consider yourselves also to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> Therefore don't let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup> Also, do not present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." Romans 6:11-13*

In other words, the old master, sin, is still around (See **1 Peter 5:8**) But the slave that once lived under sin's rule is dead and his body is no longer useful for the old master. Instead, a new slave has been born and the members of his body - his eyes, tongue, feet and hands - are now used "as instruments of righteousness unto God". But no one can truly grasp these words and know what it means to be alive unto God unless he has unwrapped the grave clothes of self-rule and given himself totally and unreservedly unto Christ as his Lord<sup>8</sup>.

## One Final Check

If only the pilot had checked to make sure... if only he hadn't assumed...**if only**. How many lives will end with "if only"?

Know this, that we are all on a flight to eternity and our destination will be one of two places: Heaven or Hell. God has provided a way for anyone who will to reach Heaven. At the same time, Satan will pay those who serve him and the final reward is death.

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*  
**Romans 6:23**

If one serves sin, then he must be prepared for the "pay off." For if one will not allow Christ's blood to pay the debt of sin here, then he must pay for it forever hereafter.

So, I plead with you. Examine yourself whether you are in the way that leads finally to a heavenly destination. Don't assume... it's your soul's destiny at stake! Have you obeyed fully the gospel plan of salvation? Don't let your eternity begin with the words -

**"If only..."**

This concludes Chapter 7. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 8
--

- How did the man in the story at the beginning of this chapter die?
  - He was murdered
  - He committed suicide
  - He died in a car crash
  - He died in a plane crash
- According to the lesson which of the following contributed to his death?
  - Carelessness
  - Assumption
  - Misunderstanding
  - All of the above
- In Chapter 5 of this book, what was the verdict given by the judge?
  - "they are all free"
  - "they are all guilty"
  - "they are all sinners"
  - None of the above
- TRUE or FALSE: "*For we all sinned and fall short of the glory of God*"
  - True
  - False
- TRUE or FALSE: God is just a "Big Bully".
  - True
  - False

8 - Greek word is KURIOS - variously translated in the New Testament. It means Lord, Master, ruler, etc., and signifies having power or authority over... Note also the word servant from the Greek word DOULOS signifies a slave or bond servant. The Christian and Christ have a slave/Lord relationship.

6. **2 Peter 3:9** talks about God wanting what?
- None to perish
  - All to repent
  - All to perish
  - Both A and B
7. TRUE or FALSE: God's desire is every soul's salvation
- True
  - False
8. Who needs to FEAR God?
- Sinners
  - Ungodly people
  - True Christians
  - Both A and B
9. What does **Romans 5:8-9** discuss?
- Escaping the wrath of God
  - Jesus' life
  - Paul's persecution
  - All of the above
10. TRUE or FALSE: The reason why God takes us sinners to be his children is because that's what we deserve.
- True
  - False
11. What does **Romans 3:24** talk about?
- God's Grace
  - Redemption
  - Being made right
  - All of the above
12. TRUE or FALSE: Christ did not HAVE to take our place.
- True
  - False
13. What passage says "Whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in his blood."
- Romans 6:11
  - Romans 6:24
  - Romans 3:25
  - Romans 3:24
14. What is salvation?
- An act of God's love
  - An act of God's grace
  - All God's doing
  - All of the above
15. TRUE or FALSE: Because Christ died for our sins we are automatically saved.
- True
  - False
16. Before a person becomes a Christian he is a slave of:
- God
  - Sin
  - Jesus
  - Holy Spirit
17. When we are dead to something we are:
- Still with it
  - Severed from it
  - Both A and B
  - None of the above
18. What passage says, "We were buried therefore with him through immersion into death"?
- Romans 6:11
  - Romans 6:6
  - Romans 6:4
  - Romans 6:17
19. How is a "slave to sin" set free?
- Through prayer
  - Through immersion
  - Through repentance alone
  - None of the above
20. After a person becomes immersed he becomes a slave to
- Self
  - Christ
  - Sin
  - None of the above
21. In **Romans 6** we learn that a Christian is:
- Free from the wrath of God
  - Free from sin
  - Free from saying no to sin
  - Both A and B

22. **Romans 6:18** says we become servants of:

- a) Love
- b) Sin
- c) Righteousness
- d) Self

23. What verse of **Romans 6** says "For sin shall not have dominion over you...?"

- a) 5
- b) 23
- c) 14
- d) 15

24. What does immersion free us from?

- a) The wrath of God
- b) The domination of sin
- c) The guilt of sin
- d) All of the above

25. TRUE or FALSE: We die to God so that we might live for sin.

- a) True
- b) False

# CHAPTER 8

## Examples Are Powerful!

### What Kind Of Chapter Title Is That?

We can learn by being told or by being shown, and the second is always the more powerful of the two. It's hard for the mind to understand something new or unfamiliar which it cannot picture. For instance, someone tells you they've bought a new car. What do you ask?"What kind?" Right? And then you probably continue to quiz them about the model, color, accessories, etc., trying to get a "picture" of it in your mind. One reason the Lord's teaching was so powerful was his use of parables or **word pictures**. A person would almost need help to misunderstand the principle of loving his neighbor as himself after hearing the story of the Good Samaritan.

This may sound a bit strange at first, but among a great many Christians this idea about the Lordship of Christ is not a familiar concept. For many it is something new, even though it's as old to man as **Genesis 3:15**. And for this reason we want to look back at some New Testament examples so that we might see even more clearly, how the truth of the Lordship of Christ affects people's lives and their attitudes toward God's Word and his church. Some of it may seem a little on the heavy side, but keep going because it is all important in getting the **total picture** of the **Christ-controlled** life.

### The Alpha of Christianity

The birth announcement stated it:

*"<sup>10</sup> The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you today, in David's city, a Savior, **who is Christ the Lord.**"*  
**Luke 2:10-11**

The voice in the wilderness shouted it:

*"<sup>1</sup> In those days, John the Baptizer came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight."<sup>4</sup>"*  
**Matthew 3:1-3**

The Old Testament prophet's words were coming true:

*"They will not teach every man his fellow citizen, and every man his brother, saying, '**Know the Lord,**' for all will know me, from their least to their greatest." **Hebrews 8:11***

This thought expressed by the prophet Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**), and repeated by the Hebrews writer, is a contrast between the Old and the New Covenants. He was saying that under the New Testament there were going to be some changes things were going to be different. Here's what he meant: In the Old Testament times, to be in a Covenant relationship<sup>9</sup> with God a person had to be a child of Abraham by natural descent. (See **John 8:33-42**) This is why the Jews were so long on "Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was the father of Jacob, and Jacob was the father of Judas," etc. (See **Matthew 1:1-17**.) A person was born into God's chosen family by a natural birth, then as he grew and matured he was taught to "**know the Lord**". But not so under the New Covenant. Things are different now, in fact right the reverse of how it was. Now one must **first** be taught to "**know the Lord**" before he can be in God's family. Unlike the "children of God through Abraham" a child of God today is "who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:13**) As Jesus informed Nicodemus, "You must be born anew." (**John 3:7b**)

9 - An arrangement or contract between two or more parties with a law to back it up, i.e., between God and Israel (the Law of Moses) or between God and the Christians (the New Testament).

Thus the Alpha of Christianity expressed in the New Testament was that a person had to have a prior knowledge of the Lord by *“the word of truth.”* (See **James 1:18** and **Romans 10:8-17**) He first had to know the Lord - his authority, his goodness, and his severity. Hence, self-surrender to Christ as the Lord of lords is the earliest Christian attitude and practice we find. We can see this clearly in several conversions found in the book of Acts.

### “Jesus, The Man You Crucified”

The day of Pentecost in Jerusalem was when it all came together and things started moving. Peter, at the end of his sermon laid something on all of his fellow-Jews that really shook them. He said, *“Let all the house of Israel therefore know certainly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”* (**Acts 2:36**) The next verse says, *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’”* Can’t you imagine what must have raced through their minds? That was no mere man, that was the Lord!

That was some way to “**know the Lord**” wasn’t it - finding out you had consented to His death? So when Peter told them what to do about it, they were all very eager to listen. *“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”* (**Acts 2:38**) Then in **verse 41**, *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls.”*

### “Who Are You Lord?”

No doubt you are familiar with this next conversion recorded three times in the book of **Acts** in Chapters **9**, **22** and **26**. Paul was out to exterminate Christians. The only good Christian in his eyes was, like Stephen, a dead one. Little did he realize that his own plans and life’s ambitions were soon to be exterminated.

He was leading the way to Damascus to hunt down the Christians there but as you know this once proud leader ended up being led by the hand, blind, into the city. The text reads:

*“<sup>3</sup> As he traveled, he got close to Damascus, and suddenly a light from the sky shone around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’”* **Acts 9:3-4**

Paul then asked, “Who are you, Lord?” At this point he didn’t know who this “**Lord**” was, but he knew he was in the presence of someone great and powerful. Then the answer came, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” What a shock that must have been! I don’t know what rushed through Paul’s mind but we do know what he said next. In total submission he asked a question that he would continue to ask for the rest of his life, “What shall I do, Lord?” Turning to **Acts 22:10-11**, Paul relates: *“<sup>10</sup> The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There you will be told about all things which are appointed for you to do.’ <sup>11</sup> When I couldn’t see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus.”* Then after three days, a Christian named Ananias was sent by the Lord to Paul and said in **verse 16**, *“Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* Without hesitation Paul did as he was told and from that day on he was the Lord’s slave.

### “He Is Lord of All”

Peter, who had opened the door of the Kingdom to the Jews on Pentecost, also ushered the first Gentiles into the church. But he never would have thought of doing it on his own. God had to get him on a housetop in Joppa and show him that Christ was to be the Lord of the Gentiles as well as the Jews. (See **Acts 10**) Then he sent Peter to Caesarea to preach to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. He told the soldier that Christ *“is Lord of all”* (verse 36) and went on to explain that God had raised Jesus from the dead and would make him the Judge of the living and the dead. In verses 47 and 48, we read that the soldier, along with other members of his family, submitted his will to the Lord and was baptized - making the Lord his captain of salvation.

## First Christian Attitude and Practice

There are several other examples in the New Testament which further illustrate this point (see **Acts chapters 16, 18, 19**), but these are sufficient to let us see that self-surrender to Christ as Lord is one of the earliest Christian attitudes and practices. And this **Christ-controlled** attitude not only affected people's lives insofar as their initial response to the gospel was concerned, but we can also see that it was the guiding principle in dealing with their fellowman, the Word of God, and their relationship to the church.

For example, take time to read Paul's words in **Ephesians 5:22-25** and **6:1-9**, and **Colossians 3:17-25; 4:1**. In these passages, notice that the relationships of husband, wife, child, servant and master are all based upon the Lordship of Christ.

**Christ-controlled** is also seen to be characteristic of the Christian's relationship to God's Word and the church. Christ let it be known early in his ministry that there can be no respect for him as Lord if there is disrespect for his Word. "*Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things which I say?*" (**Luke 6:46**) Then in passages such as the following: **Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-25; Colossians 2:18** and **Matthew 16:18**, we can see that the church exists because it has a Lord. This is where some people turn you off - when you say anything about the church - claiming they want Christ but not the church. I want Christ and I don't want just **any** church, but I do want to be in his church. And he does have one (**Matthew 16:18**) and **only one**. **Ephesians 4:4** says there is "one body" and **Colossians 1:18** says that **this one body is the church**. Christ bought this one body (or church) with his blood. (**Ephesians 5:25** and **Acts 20:28**).

Now when you stack all of that together, ask the question, is the church of Christ important? Is something which cost Christ his own life insignificant? Is the Lord's body, of which he is the head, unimportant? "*Christ loved the church*". (**Ephesians 5:25**) Can you love Christ and not love what he loves? Is that which is made up of the saved of no value? (See **Ephesians 5:23** and **Acts 2:47**.) The simple revealed fact is that you cannot have the head (Christ) without his body (the church). For these early Christians, the church was not an elective which they could accept or reject. **They** were the church! And so it is today. (**Ephesians 3:21**)

### "But, How Can You Know?"

Someone may ask, "Well, if there's only **one** church, which one is it? There are over 38,000 religious bodies out there all claiming to belong to his head!"

That's a very good question and believe it or not, there is a very simple God-given answer for it.

In **Luke 8**, Christ said, that planting His church was just like a farmer sowing seed. When he later explained this parable to his apostles he said in **verse 11**, "*Now, the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*" This states an age-old truth, seed always produces after its kind. If you plant a grain of corn you don't expect it to produce cotton. So, think about this. Even though nineteen centuries have passed since Christ first planted his church, we still have the same seed and when we plant it in honest hearts (**Luke 8:15**) it will produce the same thing it did then. Nothing more and nothing less! The one true church is in the seed that produces it-the Word of God. It is that body of baptized believers who have heard, believed and obeyed the gospel just as it is found in the New Testament. God's Word begot them and it is their only guide for living a Christian life. So look for a church that listens to and obeys only the words of Christ and you'll find the body that belongs to the Head. Look for the one that wears only his name and is in complete submission to Him and you will find his true bride.

This may seem as if we have strayed from the point a bit but when we consider the total picture of the Lordship of Christ, we are forced to see that this Lord has a kingdom (the church) (see **Matthew 16:18-19**) and only one kingdom, and He rules it by his law (the Word of God) and, "*Whoever transgresses and doesn't remain in the teaching of Christ, doesn't have God. He who remains in the teaching, the same has both the Father and the Son.*" (**2 John 9; See also 1 Timothy 1:12; 3:16-17; Revelation 22:18-20**)

## One Good Thing Can Lead To Another

This chapter is not by any means all inclusive. Other examples could be given and more said about those already discussed. But surely it is enough to let us see that the heart convicted of the Lordship of Christ results in a complete transformation of life. It changes one's relationships with God and man. It changes one's way of thinking. It changes one's life-style.

## What Has All Of This Got To Do With Me?

Maybe nothing at all. Then again, maybe a great deal. If living as a Christian just hasn't been what you thought it would be, if it has merely been another religion, a duty, a trying to mimic certain actions of the early Christians; it might have something to do with you. Only you can decide and only you can find out. Here's how.

No one likes to be told to go back over ground already covered. However, if there were things back there that could mean the difference between what you are now and what you'd like to be, you would be willing to go over it again wouldn't you? Sure, so before you continue on to the next chapter, **re-read this one**, and as you do remember those early Christians acted a certain way because they **thought** a certain way.

*<sup>8</sup> For if we live, we live to the Lord. Or if we die, we die to the Lord. If therefore we live or die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died, rose, and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living." **Romans 14:8-9***

This concludes Chapter 8. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 9

1. Which one is more powerful?
  - a) Being shown
  - b) Being told
  - c) Both
  - d) Neither
2. According to the lesson, what is the first question you ask when someone tells you they bought a new car?
  - a) "Can I have it?"
  - b) "Where is it?"
  - c) "What kind?"
  - d) None of the above
3. What are parables according to the author?
  - a) Stories
  - b) Word pictures
  - c) Sermons
  - d) Magic
4. What parable does the idea of *loving your neighbor* come from?
  - a) The Lost Sheep
  - b) The Talents
  - c) The Good Samaritan
  - d) The Sower
5. In order to get a Christ-controlled life we need to get:
  - a) a new Lord
  - b) the whole picture
  - c) half the truth
  - d) None of the above
6. What does **Luke 2:10-11**?
  - a) Christ's Birth
  - b) Christ's Death
  - c) Both A and B
  - d) None of the above
7. What does **Matthew 3:1-3** talk about?
  - a) John the Baptist
  - b) The kingdom of heaven
  - c) The way of the Lord
  - d) All of the above

8. Which passage talks about "Knowing the Lord"?
- Hebrews 8:11
  - Matthew 1:1-17
  - John 1:13
  - John 3:7
9. Where else is "Knowing the Lord" discussed?
- Jude
  - Ezekiel
  - Jeremiah
  - Esther
10. In the Old Testament how does one become a child of God? You must:
- Be a descendant of Ishmael
  - Be a descendant of Abraham
  - Be immersed
  - Say a prayer to accept Jesus as your personal lord and savior
11. What is contained in **Matthew 1:1-17**?
- A parable
  - An account of a great war
  - A genealogy
  - All of the above
12. How does one become a child of God in the New Testament? You must:
- be immersed
  - know the Lord
  - be a descendant of Abraham
  - say a prayer to accept Jesus as your personal lord and savior
13. According to **John 1:13**, a child of God is born of:
- Blood
  - Flesh
  - God
  - The will of man
14. Who was Jesus talking to in **John 3:7**?
- Paul
  - Nicodemus
  - Peter
  - Ananias
15. What does **Acts 2:36** discuss?
- The Jews part in Christ's death
  - God making Jesus Lord and Christ
  - Christ hating the Jews
  - Both A and B
16. What verse does Peter talk about repentance and immersion in **Acts chapter 2**?
- Verse 36
  - Verse 37
  - Verse 38
  - Verse 41
17. TRUE or FALSE: In **Acts chapter 2**, only 1,000 people were immersed.
- True
  - False
18. What was Paul's original name?
- Peter
  - Paul
  - Saul
  - Ananias
19. What was the name of the person who immersed Paul?
- Saul
  - Peter
  - Nicodemus
  - Ananias
20. TRUE or FALSE: Cornelius was a Roman Centurion.
- True
  - False
21. In what passage did Peter say "*Christ is Lord of all*"?
- Acts 10:36
  - Acts 2:38
  - Acts 10:47-48
  - Acts 2:2
22. According to Paul in **Ephesians 5 & 6** and **Colossians 3 & 4**, what relationships should be based on the Lordship of Christ?
- Husbands, wives, and children
  - Servants and masters
  - God and the church
  - All of the above

23. With what did Christ purchase the church?

- a) His love
- b) His blood
- c) His money
- d) His hate

24. TRUE or FALSE: There are only about 3,000 different religious groups today.

- a) True
- b) False

25. In the Parable of the Sower mentioned in **Luke 8**, what does the seed represent?

- a) The Lord
- b) Hatred
- c) Love
- d) The Word of God

# CHAPTER 9

## Why Call Me Lord?

We have learned from **Proverbs 14:12** and **Jeremiah 10:23**, (see Chapter 4) that man cannot run his own life. When self gets on the throne and starts to rule, he winds up making a mess of things. And as we will see later in this chapter, he ends up displeasing himself as well as God.

The surrendered life, however, is backed up by the authority of Jesus Christ. When the apostles were told to stop preaching in the name of Christ, their reply was, *"We must obey God rather than men."* (**Acts 5:29b**) They were no longer living to the blame or praise of men but by the authority of their Lord. It wasn't a matter of doing and saying what they wanted to any longer but whatever their Lord would have them do and say.

In **Luke 6:46**, Christ asked, *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things which I say?"* One of the first things a person learned then was that being a true disciple of Christ depended upon whether or not he was faithful to the Lord's word. The same is true today. Jesus said, *"If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples."* (**John 8:31b**)

A part of abiding in the words of Christ is being **true** to his Word, not adding anything to it or taking anything from it. It is refreshing, in light of this, to hear many young people say, "Tell it like it is." But we need to remember that before we can tell it like it is, we have to **know** it like it is!

This is why many are telling it wrong—they don't **know** it like it really is. As Christ said, *"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God..."* (**Matthew 22:29b**) A great many things are done and said in the name of Christ which are not by His authority. (See **Matthew 7:22**) This is why Christ stated, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."* (**Matthew 7:21**) And this is why the Bible admonishes and encourages us over and over again that we must not preach or teach any message other than the truth. (See **Romans 16:17; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19**)

A good example of this is Paul's admonition to Timothy. Paul told him to remember that not all doctrine was sound (healthy or correct). <sup>3</sup> *For the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts; <sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside to fables."* (**2 Timothy 4:3-4**) Furthermore, he was to charge *"...certain men not to teach a different doctrine."* (**1 Timothy 1:3b**) Again notice that **1 Timothy 6:3-4a**, says <sup>3</sup> *If anyone teaches a different doctrine, and doesn't consent to sound words, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is conceited, knowing nothing...* Then finally, **1 Timothy 6:20** says, *"Timothy, guard that which is committed to you, turning away from the empty chatter and oppositions of what is falsely called knowledge."*

Yes, sound doctrine implies a love for the truth. You're not ashamed of that which you love

*"...a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed..."* **2 Timothy 2:15b**

*"Therefore don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..."* **2 Timothy 1:8a**

*"For I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ..."* **Romans 1:16a**

So Paul says, first know it like it really is and then tell it like it is.

But there's still another part to abiding in the words of Christ. Not only must we know it like it is and **tell** it like it is, but we must also **practice** it like it is. Read the Lord's words in **Luke 19:17**, and notice He didn't say *"Well thought..."* or *"Well intended..."* or *"Well preached..."* but **"Well done..."** It hurts to hear some young person today

talking about “Lordship,” when he apparently couldn’t care less about doing the will of God. It is nothing less than mockery to call Christ our Lord and then not live according to His will!

I read once of a woman who was having difficulty accepting what she knew to be the Lord’s will in a certain matter. But when she prayed she said, “Lord, I confess I don’t like it, but please do not give in to me. Just wait, Lord - I will give in to You.” That’s not the kind of prayer we hear every day, is it? But it reflects the attitude that every person should have who calls Christ his Lord. Sure, there will be times when we just don’t understand and when we may not even agree, but since Christ is our Lord and because we love him, we do what he wants done the way he wants it done.

Early in the Lord’s ministry Peter was told to do something which he felt was useless. In fact, he said so, “*Master, we worked all night, and took nothing*” then he added, “*but at your word I will let down the net.*” (**Luke 5:5b**) They had probably just dragged in their nets for the last time and Peter couldn’t see letting them out again, because he thought they would only bring them in empty like they had done all night. But because Christ said to, he was willing to do it. And when he did, they caught more fish than they could handle! And this is always true when one obeys the Lord—he will be blessed!

Remember this, **Christ knows where the blessings are!** There’s never been a Lord/servant relationship like Christ and the Christian. Every directive, every command from the Lord is **for the servant’s benefit**. Which brings up this point, most of the time it seems we tend to think only of the punishment we will receive if we violate the Lord’s will, but I feel that the Lord tends to think of the blessings we will miss. Just as the parent, who tells the child what to do and what not to do, thinks of the good his directives will bring to his child; often the child thinks only of the punishment he will get if he doesn’t do as he is told. I suppose this is why words like those of **Psalm 40:8**, strike many of us as being a little odd. “*I delight to do your will, my God. Yes, your law is within my heart.*” I’ve heard people say things like, “I really enjoy reading the Bible,” or “My favorite book in the Bible is...” But when I read these words in Psalms, it occurred to me that this was the first time I’d heard anyone say they really liked to do God’s will! Think about it, though. Why shouldn’t a person delight to do God’s will? When he does, he has everything possible going for him.

*“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.” **Romans 8:28***

*“<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who didn’t spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give us all things?” **Romans 8:31-32***

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...” **James 1:17a***

*“But seek first God’s Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.” **Matthew 6:33***

No wonder Christ said happiness is doing the Lord’s will. “*If you know these things, blessed (happy) are you if you do them.*” (**John 13:17**) He did not say that Christians will have a “heaven on earth” with no pain or sorrow. Anyone who knows anything about the scriptures knows that doing the Lord’s will may sometimes bring persecution, etc. (See **2 Timothy 3:12**) But the servant who is backed up by the authority of Christ doesn’t have to worry about the outcome. He knows if he does his Master’s will, it will all work out to his advantage because that’s the way the Lord intends it. And if God be for us, who can be against us?

## **Would It Break Your Heart?**

After a young man I had asked to read the manuscript of this book returned it, I asked, “Well, what do you think?” His reply was, “This is a really **good** book!” The question that came to my mind then was, “How good is it? Is it good enough to motivate someone to take themselves off the throne and let Christ be the real Lord of their lives?” Because you see, that is its main purpose and if it fails there it is of little value. Christ says the same thing is true

in calling him, "Lord, Lord," and not doing what He says. If we fail here we fail in all for, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (**Matthew 7:21**).

Someone once asked an elderly gentleman what he thought would be the most heartbreaking experience a person could face in life. His soft reply was, "To hear the Master ask, 'Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things which I say?' (**Luke 6:46**) "

Don't let your heart be broken, but rather - "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...*" **1 Peter 3:15a**

This concludes Chapter 9. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 10
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1. What happens when "Self" gets on throne and starts to rule?
  - a) He is successful
  - b) He messes up
  - c) He dies
  - d) None of the above
2. A surrendered life is backed up by:
  - a) the love of Christ
  - b) the authority of Christ
  - c) the love of money
  - d) Both A and C
3. Which passage says, "*We should obey God rather than men*"?
  - a) Acts 5:29
  - b) Luke 6:46
  - c) John 8:31
  - d) Matthew 7:21
4. The first thing the Christians in the New Testament learned about being a true Christian was that it was dependent upon whether or not you were:
  - a) Loving
  - b) Rich
  - c) Faithful
  - d) Healthy
5. Part of abiding in Christ's word means:
  - a) being true to his words
  - b) not changing his words
  - c) changing his words
  - d) Both A and B
6. TRUE or FALSE: Everyone who says "Lord, Lord," to Christ will enter into the kingdom.
  - a) True
  - b) False
7. Which passage talks about false teachers?
  - a) 2 Timothy 4:3-4
  - b) 1 Timothy 6:3-4
  - c) 1 Timothy 1:3
  - d) None of the above
8. What does Paul say about a man who teaches a different doctrine?
  - a) He is puffed up
  - b) He knows nothing
  - c) He is right
  - d) Both A and B
9. Which passage says "*a workman that needs not be ashamed*"?
  - a) 2 Timothy 2:15
  - b) 2 Timothy 1:8
  - c) Romans 1:16
  - d) Luke 19:17
10. Which passage says "*Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord*"?
  - a) 2 Timothy 2:15
  - b) 2 Timothy 1:8
  - c) Romans 1:16
  - d) Luke 19:17
11. Which passage says "*For I'm not ashamed of the Gospel...*"?
  - a) 2 Timothy 2:15
  - b) 2 Timothy 1:8
  - c) Romans 1:16
  - d) Luke 19:17

12. Fill in the blanks: we must \_\_\_\_\_ it like it is.
- know, tell, and practice
  - eat, sleep, and pray
  - know, tell and brag
  - know, sleep, and practice
13. TRUE or FALSE: The woman's prayer ("*don't give in to me...*") in the lesson is a kind of prayer we hear every day.
- True
  - False
14. What is always true when one obeys the Lord?
- You will be rich
  - You will be blessed
  - You will die
  - You will always pray
15. TRUE or FALSE: There has been many Lord/Servant relationships like Christ and Christians?
- True
  - False
16. Where does it say, "*I delight to do your will, Oh my God!*"?
- Proverbs 14:12
  - Jeremiah 10:23
  - Psalms 40:8
  - None of the above
17. Which passage discusses being called according to God's purpose?
- Romans 8:28
  - Romans 8:31-32
  - James 1:17
  - Matthew 6:33
18. Which passage says, "*If God is for us who can be against us?*"?
- Romans 8:28
  - Romans 8:31-32
  - James 1:17
  - Matthew 6:33
19. Which passage talks about gifts from above?
- Romans 8:28
  - Romans 8:31-32
  - James 1:17
  - Matthew 6:33
20. Which passage talks about seeking the kingdom first?
- Romans 8:28
  - Romans 8:31-32
  - James 1:17
  - Matthew 6:33
21. TRUE or FALSE: Christians will not have a "Heaven on Earth" with no pain and sorrow.
- True
  - False
22. In **John 13:17**, Jesus says that happiness is doing:
- the will of the Lord
  - Good deeds
  - Evil works
  - None of the above
23. What does **2 Timothy 3:12** talk about?
- Jesus' birth
  - Persecution
  - Immersion
  - None of the above
24. In the chapter, when asked about the book, what was the response of the young man to the question "Well, what do you think?"?
- "It was bad"
  - "It was OK"
  - "It was really good"
  - None of the above
25. What did the elderly man say would be the most heartbreaking experience a person could face?
- Hearing Luke 6:25 come true
  - Hearing Luke 6:46 come true
  - Hearing Luke 4:66 come true
  - Hearing Luke 6:64 come true

# CHAPTER 10

## How Do You Decide Between Right and Wrong

What was your initial reaction when you first read the title of this chapter? Did you feel like this chapter was going to interfere with your life more than any of the others? Was it, "Oh brother, here comes another one of those do-not's!" Did you have an urge to just flip on over to chapter eleven?

Well I don't know if you'd call these **natural** reactions, but they surely are common ones! A great many people could agree with Alexander Woolcott<sup>10</sup> who said, "All things I really like to do are either immoral, illegal, or fattening." The word **morality**<sup>11</sup> itself conjures up in many minds the idea of something that keeps them from enjoying life - that puts a stop to having a good time. (Later in this chapter we'll see how false an idea this is.)

The Christ-controlled person views the questions of right and wrong in a different manner. His concern is to do that which pleases his Master, when his Master is pleased it brings him pleasure. Thus, to be able to know how to decide between right and wrong is of great importance to him.

### Some Questions Asked, Some Answers Given

*What about pre-marital sex, since we're in love and plan to get married anyway? What difference does a marriage license make?*

*Is engaging in sexual "touching" alright if you don't go "all the way" and have intercourse?*

*How do you decide between right and wrong?*

These are the type of questions I'm often asked in group sessions with young people. What are the answers? Are there any real ones? Let's see.

### The Two Extremes

First comes an answer from the Playboy Philosophy. It openly says, "Anything goes, since sex is good, clean fun and is to be enjoyed by all married or not." In this approach women are said to be here for men's pleasure, and while sex can be an expression of love, it isn't necessary. This kind of thinking stems from the sexual revolution which claims that we've had a sick and perverted view of sex - a puritanical, Victorian view which makes sex into something evil. It's no secret that the Playboy Philosophy is a choice many are making, but it's really nothing new. There is a very old philosophy called Hedonism which says, "Enjoy pleasure now. Pleasure is the chief goal in life." In the words of Aristippus<sup>12</sup> "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

On the other end of the spectrum is the legalistic approach to moral decision making. The legalists answer by saying, "It's simple. Here is a set of rules; now just go out there and follow the rules!" Have you ever been given that kind of an answer? Yeah, and how long was it before you crossed the line and found yourself in the state of frustration-being torn between the pull of your fleshly desires on the one hand and the desire to follow the rules on the other? You want to do the right thing but you lack the will to follow through, so you're left feeling guilty and hypocritical every time you break a rule. Before Christ entered his life Paul said he felt the same way. (**Romans 7:14-24**) No wonder some people have tried shutting themselves up in monasteries!

10 - A famous America critic who lived in 1887-1943.

11 - Action based on a standard of right and wrong. Christian morality is based on the authority of God's Word.

12 - A Greek philosopher who lived in 435-356 B.C.

## The Halfway House

In recent years there has been a lot of emphasis placed upon a third alternative which stands as sort of a “Halfway House” between the two extremes of the Playboy approach and the legalistic one. It’s called “Situation Ethics” or the “New Morality”.

The answer given here is that the situation determines whether a thing is right or wrong **if** your decision is based on “The law of Love”! In other words, to the one who follows situation ethics, the main question which determines a moral choice is “*What is the loving thing to do?*”? It doesn’t take much thinking to see what this can lead to, for example, with an engaged couple who are in love. “Honey, if you **really** love me you’ll...” Could this alternative for decision making have something to do with the fact that at least one-third of today’s teen-age brides are pregnant on their wedding day?

So there you have it, three alternatives for making moral decisions:

1. Do your own thing-as long as it makes you feel good and gives you pleasure.
2. Live by a list of set rules-and if you enjoy it you are slipping.
3. Do whatever you feel the situation calls for - *lovingly*.

That seems to pretty well cover it doesn’t it? You have the two extremes on either end and the halfway house in the middle. Not much else left, at least it would seem that way to some.

But let’s stop for a moment and ask what have we learned thus far in this course of study: *What controls the life of a Christian?* If Jesus Christ is in control then the **real** question is “*What does my Lord want me to do?*” Right? Right! So the Christian has a fourth alternative **based** upon a **unique relationship with Jesus Christ**: a slave-Lord relationship, a life-changed relationship, a personal relationship! Thank God for this fourth alternative!

What does my Lord want me to do? He is my Ruler now. What does He say to me in His Word? Not “What do I want to do?” Self is **off** the throne. Not, “What is popular?” or “What do my natural instincts dictate?” <sup>23</sup> *And whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord, and not for men,* <sup>24</sup> *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)* Not what the “loving thing” to do in a given situation is, but rather because I love and revere my Lord, what would He have me do?

Jesus said, “*If you love me, keep my commandments.*” (**John 14:15**) This is the Lord’s approach to rules and regulations! A Christian obeys the rules of God because he is **in love with the rule maker**. This gives him the power and the motivation to do God’s will. Laws do not become an end in themselves but rather a means of showing our love for our Lord! And that makes a lot of difference! **I want to do right because I love!** Another point to take into account here is what we read in **1 John 5:3**, “*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not grievous.*” The commands of the Lord are not difficult to the servant of Christ for at least two reasons. **One**, which we’ve already mentioned, is because he is in love with the command giver. And **two**, because he comes to realize through study and experience that, in the words of C. S. Lewis, “... moral rules are directions for running the human machine. Every moral rule is there to prevent a breakdown, or a strain, or a friction, in the running of that machine.” God made man and knows what will and what will not work in man’s life. Every directive from God to man has been for man’s best interest, both for now and the hereafter. The Lord’s commands will not only save a person’s soul but his life as well. God is love.

Now let’s apply the Christian’s alternative to the original questions at the first of the chapter.

1. What about pre-marital sex now that we are in love and plan to get married? *Answer:* What does my Lord say about it in his Word? “*But the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body*” (**1 Corinthians 6:13b**) And in verse 18, “*Flee sexual immorality! Every sin that a man does is outside the body,*” *but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.*” The Lord wants me to flee fornication and to keep myself pure before marriage and then faithful to my partner in marriage (note **Matthew 19:9**) Paul said in **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4**, <sup>43</sup> *For this is the will of God: your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality,* <sup>4</sup>

that each one of you know how to control his own body in sanctification and honor,” and again in **1 Timothy 5:22b**, “... Keep yourself pure.”

Now think a moment and see the many reasons why the Lord’s way is the best way for a person to follow with regard to pre-marital sex.

2. What difference could a marriage license make anyway? *Answer:* My Lord wants me to conform to the laws of civil government and obey the higher powers. (**Romans 13:1**) “Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God.”

Why is it best for mankind to have and obey civil laws? What is the difference between children born in a “legal” marriage compared to a situation where parents simply live together unmarried?

3. Is sexual touching - sometimes called necking and petting - all right if you don’t go “all the way” and have intercourse? *Answer:* The Lord condemned lasciviousness<sup>13</sup>. He told us to avoid “lusting” in **Matthew 5:28**, “but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart” Lasciviousness is condemned as one of the works of the flesh. (**Galatians 5:19-21**) Actually people who engage in pre-marital sex are not able to go “all the way” in spite of the physical act. Why? Because sex is designed by God for those who are committed to each other in the marriage relationship. It is not a matter of getting, but rather, one of **giving**. It is the surrender of one private identity to the private identity of another so that they become one identity, or as the Bible states “one flesh.” Think! Think of the guilty feelings, the heartaches and tears of those who’ve given in to lasciviousness. Now, think of those who didn’t - what have they really missed? Which way is really best?

4. How do you determine what is right and wrong? *Answer:* You ask “What does my Lord want me to do?” If you don’t know, you turn to his Word and find the answer, and then do what you find. This way of living is based on Biblical Authority. Biblical morality takes in the entire scope of the Christian’s behavior and causes him to be controlled by the Lord Jesus Christ!

## Does Christianity Dehumanize?

There are many who feel that they must not have been truly converted because they still have these desires of the flesh, or else the Lord is asking something of them that they just can’t give, etc. But listen to Paul again as he talks about what happens in conversion. “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.---” (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) - Paul says that these old things **become** new things.

Look at it this way. Certainly a person still has the sex drive after conversion, but it isn’t lust anymore, it is a creative desire. Within a marriage relationship the creating of offspring and a closer tie between husband and wife, and outside of marriage this creative energy can be channeled into the many fields of human endeavor and work in the kingdom. Then there’s the urge of the ego to draw attention to self. Does this pass away? No, it is now a desire fulfilled in reflecting Him to the world. The unruly, destructive urges turn to fulfillment in fighting for the kingdom. Yes, the urges are still there, but by following God’s directives they are now used the right way.

So, Christianity doesn’t dehumanize a person (or turn off their human emotions and appetites), but rather it helps us convert our urges and desires that have been perverted by sin into a reunion with life as God intended it. And through studying the Bible we find the ways God has provided for fulfilling these desires and urges by asking, “What would my Lord want me to do? What way has he provided? What does his Word say?” Truly a person is never closer to having the mind of Christ dwelling in him than when he is seeking to live according to the will of God.

13 - Greek ASELGEIA - denotes an absence of restraint in the area of lewd, lustful thoughts. Lasciviousness has to do with anything that tends to produce lustful sexual emotions that cannot be fulfilled outside of the marriage relationship. It is classed among the works of the flesh since it leads to fornication and adultery.

This concludes Chapter 10. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 11

1. Who said "All things I really like to do are either immoral, illegal, or fattening?"
  - a) Alexander Woollcott
  - b) Alexander the Great
  - c) Aristippus
  - d) None of the above
2. What is a person's concern if he has Christ on the throne?
  - a) To do what pleases himself
  - b) To do what pleases his friends
  - c) To do what pleases his master
  - d) None of the above
3. What is the Playboy philosophy?
  - a) Men are here for women's pleasure
  - b) Women are here for men's pleasure.
  - c) All of the above
  - d) None of the above
4. What is the Victorian idea or approach to sex?
  - a) It is evil
  - b) It is healthy
  - c) It is good
  - d) None of the above
5. What philosophy said "Enjoy pleasure now. Pleasure is the chief goal in life"?
  - a) Hedonism
  - b) Heathenism
  - c) Sodomy
  - d) None of the above
6. Who said "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die"?
  - a) Alexander Woollcott
  - b) Alexander the Great
  - c) Aristippus
  - d) None of the above
7. What is it that legalists answer our set of questions with?
  - a) Other questions
  - b) Rules
  - c) What every will be will be
  - d) None of the above
8. What passage talks about Paul and his life before Christ?
  - a) Romans 7:14-24
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:3
  - c) Colossians 3:23-24
  - d) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:22
9. What is between the Playboy philosophy and the legalist approach to morality?
  - a) Nothing
  - b) Situation Ethics
  - c) Do what you want
  - d) Enjoy life
10. What is the first approach to morality?
  - a) Rules
  - b) Do what you want
  - c) Do what the situation merits
  - d) None of the above
11. What is the second approach to morality?
  - a) Rules
  - b) Do what you want
  - c) Do what the situation merits
  - d) None of the above
12. What is the third approach to morality?
  - a) Rules
  - b) Do what you want
  - c) Do what the situation merits
  - d) None of the above
13. TRUE or FALSE: If Christ is in control the real question we ask is – "What do I want to do?"
  - a) True
  - b) False
14. TRUE or FALSE: The three types of relationships we should have with Christ are, Slave-Lord, life changed, and a personal relationship.
  - a) True
  - b) False
15. Who is on the throne when you do not do what is popular or "natural"?
  - a) Self
  - b) Christ
  - c) Satan
  - d) All of the above

16. What passage says *"You serve the Lord Christ"*?

- a) John 14:15
- b) Colossians 3:23-24
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:22
- d) Romans 5:17

17. What passage says *"If you love me, keep my commands"*?

- a) John 14:15
- b) Colossians 3:23-24
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:22
- d) Romans 5:17

18. TRUE or FALSE: A Christian obeys the rules of God because he is in love with himself.

- a) True
- b) False

19. What passage talks about the love of God and keeping God's commands?

- a) 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:3
- b) Colossians 3:23-24
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:22
- d) Romans 5:17

20. TRUE or FALSE: The Lord's commands will only save the soul.

- a) True
- b) False

21. Which passage says that we are to keep ourselves pure?

- a) John 14:15
- b) Colossians 3:23-24
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:22
- d) Romans 5:17

22. Which passage says something about submitting to the governments?

- a) 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:3
- b) Colossians 3:23-24
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:22
- d) Romans 13:1

23. Which passage says something about being a new creature?

- a) 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:3
- b) 2 Corinthians 5:17
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:22
- d) Romans 5:17

24. If you are in Christ you should turn the unruly and destructive urges into:

- a) fulfillment in fighting for the kingdom
- b) even greater urges
- c) advantage in the world
- d) None of the above

25. TRUE or FALSE: Christianity doesn't dehumanize a person.

- a) True
- b) False

# CHAPTER 11

## How to Lose Your Mind!

Have you ever thought you were losing your mind? Maybe sometimes you're like a friend of mine who says that he often tries so hard to be sane it's driving him nuts!

I remember talking to a young man about the Lordship of Christ and what it involved, and how he looked at me in disbelief, shook his head and said, "Man, a person would have to be out of his mind to live like that!" You know something, he's right. A person does have to be "**out of his mind**" to live the Christ-controlled life. In fact, this is the key to it all. Study these words:

*"Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 2:5***

A Christian who is living with the Lord on the throne has lost his mind for the mind of Christ. He is Christ-controlled because he has in him the attitude and disposition of his Master. He has brought "*every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*" (**2 Corinthians 10:5b**)

Is this being very realistic, or would you say it's more like idealistic? Is it really possible for a person to so overhaul his mind? Has God ever mocked man with commands that he couldn't obey? No. And "Have this mind in you" is no unimportant remark by Paul - it is a divine command. So there must be a way to achieve it! It's up to you to find and fulfill the conditions that bring it about. Therefore, as **crazy** as it may sound, in this chapter you are going to learn how to lose your mind.

### The Way

A person who has the mind of Christ has met certain conditions.

First, he **desired** to have the mind of Christ; **he wanted to**. "Want to's" are powerful little things. In the field of athletics there are many men and women who were supposed to be crippled for the rest of their lives, but because of a great **want to** they are back on the field of competition. A successful person is sometimes asked what he attributes his success to and often the answer is, "This is all I've ever wanted to do in life. Nothing else has ever appealed to me. This has been my only desire." Because of such desire he was willing to work and sacrifice regardless of the circumstances, situations, or what other people might say, do, or think. Great desire was the thought behind the words of Christ when He said, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.*" (**Matthew 5:6**)

But what about the people who desire to have the mind of Christ? They haven't always **wanted to**. Where do they get that kind of desire? Well, any number of things can trigger this desire. One is a dissatisfaction with one's life (i.e., the Prodigal Son, who out of disgust **desired** to return home). Often a person finally gets so "fed up" with the way he is living that he is a prospect for something better. Then there is desire that comes out of attraction to an ideal - the pursuit of excellence. People have always been attracted to excellence and are often motivated to better themselves by such examples. This was part of the driving desire in Paul.

*"<sup>13</sup> Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do. Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 3:13-14***

Those words remind me of what Ralph Waldo Emerson<sup>14</sup> said once about desire. "There is nothing capricious in nature; and the implanting of a desire indicates that its gratification is in the constitution of the creature that feels it." In other words, the person who desires to have the mind of Christ can. Which brings us to the next point.

14 - A famous American writer and philosopher who lived from 1803-1882.

This person **believed** it was possible. He believed that he could have the same attitudes and disposition of Christ, and that he wasn't trying to achieve the impossible. He also believed that God had supplied the way and the means for him to accomplish it. As Christ said, *"According to your faith be it done to you."* (**Matthew 9:29b**)

Then, he **continuously exposed** himself to the mind of Christ. How? Through a constant, consistent reading and study of the gospels and epistles. During the time of Christ it was still the custom for a teacher to teach his students by the apprenticeship method. Rather than a classroom situation, the disciples would follow their teacher around through the market place, the home, etc., learning by watching and listening to the master. A disciple (or student) of Christ today does the same thing with his Master through daily association with the gospels.

Henry Drummond<sup>15</sup> once said, "It is the law of influence that we become like those whom we habitually admire." This reminds me of Hawthorne's<sup>16</sup> story of **The Great Stone Face**, and how the young man kept looking up at that face of stone on the mountainside through all those years until finally his own face was transformed into the same image. It's the same principle at work here. **Romans 12:2a** says, *"But be transformed" (or changed) by the renewing of your mind..."* and **Hebrews 12:2a** says, *"looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith..."* Then look at Paul's words in **Colossians 3:10**, *"and (you) have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator."*

So, this person who has the mind of Christ has paid attention to the Master. He has daily exposed himself to the Master's mind. He has habitually followed him about through the gospels observing his attitudes. And this conscious exposure to the Lord leads to an unconscious growing like him.

Finally, this person **associates with Christ-minded people**. What we associate with rubs off on us. A German proverb says, "When a dove begins to associate with crows its feathers remain white but its heart grows black." Paul said, *"Don't be deceived! 'Evil companionships corrupt good morals.'" (1 Corinthians 15:33)* But of course the reverse of this is also true. If we associate with the best we will be better. It is said of the early disciples that *"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship."* (**Acts 2:42a**)

To sum this up in a "1-2-3-4" manner it looks something like this. For a person to have the mind of Christ:

1. He must desire to have the mind of Christ.
2. He must believe that it is possible.
3. He must continuously expose himself to Christ.
4. He must associate with Christ-minded people.

## "Just Like That?"

Some have put this down as serving up easy formulas. A few of them were sincere in their objection and I asked them to simply turn it around. If you let Satan have your mind and serve sin, how does it work? The same way, right? You see, it isn't a "formula", it's just the way it happens. But for many who make that objection, I've sensed it to be simply a way of trying to avoid the responsibility it places upon them. I place the same challenge upon them that Christ placed upon the Jews in **John 7:17a**: *"If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching..."*

"Okay," someone says, "my mind for the mind of Christ. Now since you've been able to tell me so specifically how to 'lose my mind' as you put it, can you be a little more specific about exactly what the mind of Christ is? Or can you?"

15 - A Scottish evangelist who lived from 1851-1897.

16 - Nathaniel Hawthorne, a famous American writer who lived from 1804-1864.

17 - Greek METAMORPHOO - Indicates a change from one form or appearance to another. A term used in Biology to describe the life cycles of certain plants and animals, characterized by growth and change "in stages".

I don't have to. Paul did in the same passage of **Philippians 2:5-8**.

*"<sup>6</sup> Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, yes, the death of the cross."*

The mind of Christ is described here in one word - **servant**. This was the dominant attitude of his life. Hear him:

*"For who is greater, one who sits at the table, or one who serves? Isn't it he who sits at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." **Luke 22:27***

*"Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work." **John 4:34***

*"I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is righteous; because I don't seek my own will, but the will of my Father who sent me." **John 5:30***

*"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." **John 6:38***

*"Whoever of you wants to become first among you, shall be bondservant of all." **Mark 10:44***

So, there it is. The mind of Christ is the attitude of an obedient servant. And, as Peter said:

*"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps," **1 Peter 2:21***

## The Only Way to Conquer

History supposedly records that Aristotle<sup>18</sup> told Alexander the Great before he went out to conquer the world, "Wherever you go, draw hard and fast the line which separates the Greek from the Barbarian." To which Alexander replied, "No, wherever I go, I shall make it my aim to give all men a Greek mind."

And so it is with those who set out to bring *"...every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* (**2 Corinthians 10:5**) Their only hope being to aim for a Christ-like mind!

This concludes Chapter 11. Please answer the following questions before going on to Chapter 12 & 13
---

1. TRUE or FALSE: A person must be "out of their mind" to follow Christ.
  - a) True
  - b) False
2. Our mind must be replaced with the mind of:
  - a) Satan
  - b) The world
  - c) Paul
  - d) Jesus
3. Who tells us that we must *"Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"*?
  - a) Paul (Philippians 2:5)
  - b) Paul (2 Corinthians 10:5)
  - c) The writer of Hebrews (Hebrews 12:2)
  - d) Luke (Acts 2:42)
4. Which passage tells us that a Christ-controlled person has brought *"Every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"*?
  - a) Philippians 2:5
  - b) 2 Corinthians 10:5
  - c) Matthew 5:6
  - d) Philippians 3:13-14

18 - Aristotle was a famous Greek philosopher who lived from 384-322 BC, and Alexander the Great was a famous Macedonian ruler who lived from 356-323 BC.

5. TRUE or FALSE: As Christians we must “lose our minds”.
- True
  - False
6. Does God ever tell us to do something we cannot do?
- Yes
  - No
7. A person who has the mind of Christ must:
- Desire to have that mind.
  - Be attracted to the pursuit of excellence
  - Be dissatisfied with his current life
  - All of the above
8. The passage where Jesus speaks of someone having a great desire for justice is:
- Philippians 2:5
  - 2 Corinthians 10:5
  - Matthew 5:6
  - Philippians 3:13-14
9. We can read about Paul’s desire to move on and do better every day in:
- Philippians 2:5
  - 2 Corinthians 10:5
  - Matthew 5:6
  - Philippians 3:13-14
10. TRUE or FALSE: A person who desires to have the mind of Christ CAN.
- True
  - False
11. How must one expose himself to the mind of Christ?
- Following Jesus around
  - Reading and studying the Gospels
  - Being guided by the Holy Spirit
  - None of the above
12. A disciple is a:
- student
  - apostle
  - preacher
  - All of the above
13. In which passage do we read that we must be transformed, or changed, by changing the way we think?
- Romans 12:2
  - Hebrews 12:2
  - Acts 2:42
  - 1 Corinthians 15:33
14. Which passage tells us that we must use Jesus as the model for change?
- Romans 12:2
  - Hebrews 12:2
  - Acts 2:42
  - 1 Corinthians 15:33
15. TRUE or FALSE: When a person associates with people who are not good they can turn into someone who is NOT GOOD.
- True
  - False
16. We read “*Evil companionship corrupts good morals*” in:
- Romans 12:2
  - Hebrews 12:2
  - Acts 2:42
  - 1 Corinthians 15:33
17. TRUE or FALSE: The four points mentioned in the lesson are a “formula” for us to follow to become like Christ.
- True
  - False
18. TRUE or FALSE: To get the mind of Christ is easy.
- True
  - False
19. We can find an explanation about the mind of Christ in:
- John 7:17
  - Luke 22:37
  - Philippians 2:5-8
  - Nowhere in the scriptures

20. The mind of Jesus can be described with which one word?

- a) Lord
- b) Dictator
- c) Servant
- d) None of the above

21. Jesus was a servant of others, but also of:

- a) His Father
- b) "The one who sent me"
- c) God
- d) All of the above

22. Jesus said that "*Whosoever would be first among you, shall be the servant of all*" in:

- a) John 5:30
- b) Mark 10:44
- c) John 6:38
- d) John 4:34

23. Who tells us that Jesus left us an example, "*..that we should follow his steps*"?

- a) Paul (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- b) John (1 John 3:4)
- c) Peter (1 Peter 2:21)
- d) All of the above

24. TRUE or FALSE: Alexander the Great told Aristotle that he wanted to give all men a "Macedonian mind".

- a) True
- b) False

25. The only hope for every Christian is:

- a) To aim for a Christ-like mind
- b) To bring "every thought into captivity into obedience to Christ"
- c) To follow Jesus' example
- d) All of the above

# CHAPTER 12

## The Greatest Thing in the World!

Henry Drummond once wrote a book called, The Greatest Thing In The World. This was his proof-text:

*“But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. The greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13*

That’s quite a rating for love isn’t it? Napoleon rated love like this: “Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded his empire upon love - and at this hour, millions of men would die for Him.” Even one of the most vocal opponents of Christianity, Bertrand Russell<sup>19</sup>, reluctantly admitted that love rated the number one spot: “There are certain things that our age needs... The root of the matter is a thing so simple that I am almost ashamed to mention it for fear of the derisive smile with which wise cynics will greet my words. The thing I mean—please forgive me for mentioning it—is love, Christian love... “The point is that love is not just something that’s important; it really is the greatest thing in the entire world. It stands as the very foundation of the Christ-controlled life. No wonder Paul said that without love, “...I am nothing.” A life void of love is a void life.

### The Problem with Love

While love is “The Greatest Thing in the World,” it does present a problem. Have you ever heard the question, “How do I learn to really love?” Maybe it was in the back roads of your own mind. Most of us who’ve ever given much thought to it have ended up with that question. Maybe you’ve had the experience, at one time or another, of hearing a lecture or sermon on love. And you left rather frustrated because you knew you were to love - and wanted to; but either you didn’t know how or there seemed to be lacking the motivation necessary for you to be a person who loves.

Well, let’s see if we can do something about it. It isn’t easy, but it isn’t impossible either. As Christ said, “*with God all things are possible...*” (See **Matthew 19:26b**) And that’s the backdrop for the whole story of love.

### What Is Love?

Someone has said that love is like light. We all think we know what it is until we try to describe it to someone else. One thing is for sure though, love is a misunderstood and misused word. Webster defines love as the “unselfish concern that freely accepts another in loyalty and seeks his good”. “Affection based on admiration or benevolence; the attraction based on sexual desire,” We use the word in various ways.

The commercial says, “Cars love Shell gasoline”, or you say to a friend, “I just love your new shoes.” And we speak of various kinds of love. (1) The “if” kind of love - a mother says to a child, “Mamma will love you if you drink your milk.” (2) The “because” kind of love - a boy says to a girl, “I love you because you have a pretty face”, or a girl says to a boy, “I love you because you drive a neat car.” (3) The “in spite of” kind of love - “I love you in spite of your big ears or bald head or the pimples on your face.”

In the Greek, there are three words used to define the word “love”. **Eros** means sexual or passionate love. **Philia** is equal to friendship. **Agape** is the love attributed to God - the love that asks nothing from the one loved.

It gets a little confusing doesn’t it? What is love anyway? What does the Bible say: Here it is - **1 John 4:8**, “*He who doesn’t love doesn’t know God, for God is love.*” How is that again? **God is love**. That means if we admit that we don’t have love in our lives, then we don’t have God!

19 - A British philosopher and writer who lived from 1872-1970. He was also a critic of Christianity.

So that makes this question all the more important - How do we learn to love so that we can have God in our lives?

First, love is not a matter of resolution. You don't just decide one day to start loving. Neither can you manufacture it with slogans and songs.

But we are born with the capacity to receive and experience love and **we learn to love by being loved**. Listen to this amazing statement in **1 John 4:19**, "*We love him, because he (God) first loved us.*" Sink your mind into that - **we** love because **He** first loved! In other words, God's love for us is where our love for God and others **begins**. So, we must first come to realize that God is love and that He loves us personally!

A few years ago a famous European theologian went to the US to speak at several universities. A reporter asked him, "What is the most profound thought you have ever had or heard?" With pencil poised, he waited several seconds in silence for a response. Finally the scholar said very deliberately, "The most profound thought I've ever heard is Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." This "profound thought," when realized, is the beginning of a person's love for God.

Someone says, "Talk is cheap. How do you know God loves me?" Well, God did more than talk. He demonstrated His love for us and the final proof is seen on the cross, "*By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us...*" (**1 John 3:16a**) And get this, God loved us before we ever made a move in His direction. He didn't love the sins but He loved the sinners. "*But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" (**Romans 5:8**) What more could it take to get the message through - **God loves you!** God is saying to me, "Kenneth Reed, I love **you**." I respond with, "Yes, I know you love everybody in a general sense-but me personally?" God says, "Kenneth Reed, I love **you**." Now, that's amazing! God cares about me! He really loves me, not in some wandering general way but in a meaningful and specific way. As Christ said:

*<sup>6</sup> Aren't five sparrows sold for two assaria coins? Not one of them is forgotten by God. <sup>7</sup> But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore don't be afraid. You are of more value than many sparrows.*  
**Luke 12:6-7**

I can love God like I've always wanted to because I can love someone who loves me! Think of how Paul felt toward Jesus, "*I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.*" (**Galatians 2:20**) Paul realized that forgiveness wasn't a matter of God saying, "Well, that's alright. It doesn't matter." It was a costly thing for him to be forgiven, and there's nothing that brings a person to his senses like that of seeing the effect his sins have had on someone who loves **him**. There was no doubt in Paul's mind that God loved him and every other soul on a personal basis. And when this gets through to a Christian, he can also say, "It is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me."

But there is more. **John 13:34** says, "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another.*" We are to love others with the same kind of love that God had for us. Most people want to "check others out first" to see if they want to love them; you know - the right personality, the right disposition, the right color, etc. We want to love their good qualities, but not necessarily **them**. Yet we have learned that God loved us when we were in sin, and in spite of our condition He showed love for us. Now He wants us to love others as He loved us.

That's a "pretty tall order" isn't it? Especially when looking at the mass media, we realize how much emphasis is given to how concerned **we** should be about how **we** smell or look rather than how much we should care. We are told to be suave man, play it cool, be better than the family living in the house next door to us. Most people are geared to run on low-octane love when it comes to others. And yet, supposedly 80% of the people polled for **Life** magazine by Harris Associates, said they wanted most of all in the decade of the 70's a world where people loved their neighbor as themselves. Well, I don't like to be negative but it'll never happen. Here's why.

**A person can never love others the way God said by his own self-effort.** Have you tried it?

Have you ever made up your mind that you were going to love someone that you feel nothing for? What happened? And yet Christ says love your neighbor as yourself, love others like I've loved you, and even love your enemies! Isn't that carrying it just a little too far? It would be without God. But you see, our love for God and our love for others is directly connected. **We love with God's love.** When Christ rules our lives - when he is in control - we have the motivation and the ability to love our neighbor, even our enemy. For when we love God, we love what He loves. The pipe-line for this love is faith. As Christians we not only walk by faith, we love by faith. We believe that our Master would never try to force us to do what we cannot do, or to try, by taking thought, to add to our spiritual stature. God has promised that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears and answers. Hence, by faith, we simply connect His promise with His command to love, believing that He will enable us to do His will.

## Headlights On Behind

*The little firefly hasn't any mind.  
He spends his entire life  
With his headlight on behind.*

I don't know if that's a legitimate poem or not but it does have a point. Some people try to live the Christ-controlled life **backwards** - trying to obey the rules without being in love with the rule maker. Jesus said, however, *"If you love me, keep my commandments."* (**John 14:15**) In other words, with our headlight out in front where it's supposed to be, we're more likely to get there!

On one occasion Christ was asked by a lawyer, <sup>36</sup> *Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"* <sup>37</sup> *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."* <sup>38</sup> *This is the first and great commandment.* <sup>39</sup> *A second likewise is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* <sup>40</sup> *The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.'* (**Matthew 22:36-40**) What else? Could the first and greatest commandment deal with anything less than the greatest thing in the world?

## Conclusion

"God loves me and I love him and want to live according to his will." This is it! This is what we want, and can have.

Sure, you will have your moments of doubt and discouragement. There will come times when you have so many problems, feel so lonely, think that God must be too big or too busy to care about you, etc. But don't let Satan talk you back up on that throne! Stop! Pick up **the** Book.

Read where Christ died for you. Look at the cross. If God loved you enough to let that happen so you could be saved, there is no doubt that you can trust him in all your problems, loneliness, suffering, and moments of doubt.

Yes, when I look at the cross I can see God's love and I can love and trust Him in every situation. God's love for me is where my love for God and others begins. And because of this love I am more than anxious to vacate my throne and let Christ rule my life!

*"But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. The greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13*

# CHAPTER 13

## Getting It All Together!

Well, we've reached that point where we have to get it all together and bring our study to a close.

There are several things I want to emphasize again. I pray it will encourage those of you who have submitted to the Lordship of Christ to continue, and that it will motivate those of you who haven't to do so **now**.

In Chapter one, we mentioned that the transformation of many of the early New Testament Christians was such that on occasions it was said of them that, "...*They recognized that they had been with Jesus..*" (**Acts 4:13b**) We then asked if that sounded out of place today, and was there any reason why we should not have the same thing happening today among 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians? Have you ever heard of it happening?

### On A University Campus

Let me tell you what happened to one of the students here at the University where I teach. One night, after about a week of working up the courage to do it, she asked her roommate, "Would you like to read the Bible with me every night before we go to bed?" To her surprise the answer was, "Yes, I would." So for a couple of weeks just before going to sleep they would read from God's Word. Then one night after they had closed the Bible" the roommate said, "Chris, I know that you love God and I know that you love me and that you are trying to help me understand God's Word. I just want you to know that I am watching every move you make and listening to every word you say, because one of these days **I want to be just like you.**" Two months later, Chris saw her roommate baptized into Christ! And this all came about because there was a Christ-controlled life that was seen on a university campus.

Yes, even now it is still possible for Christ to be the Lord of someone's life to the degree that it will draw others to him.

### True Freedom

You remember also that in the Forward of this book we talked about being free, and how we have all at one time or another wished we were "free as a bird" or like Elsa the lioness<sup>20</sup>, "born free". Since then this thought has occurred to me as we progressed through this book, that a Christian is the only creature on this earth of whom it can truly be said that he is "born free"!

While it is true that man is only free in the sense of freedom of choice, look what happens to the one who chooses to be controlled by the Lordship of Christ. Having heard that "*God so loved the world...*" (**John 3:16**), they become aware that to choose to serve God is to choose to serve someone who loves them enough to let his own Son die for them. Thus because God loved, they find it possible to love God. Or in other words, they can love the One to whom they would become a slave! Because of what God has done for them they find themselves willing to say "NO" to all sin forever and "YES" to Jesus as the Lord of their lives. Not only that, but they are also motivated to confess that they believe



20 - From the movie *Born Free* (1960) by Joy Adamson)

Jesus to be the Son of God, to the people around them, (see **Romans 10:9-10**) and to be buried in a watery grave of baptism to have their sins washed away. (**Acts 22:16**)

Now look at such a person. He has become what every soul yearns for; he has been born anew - given a new life and a free life. Someone says, "Well, how can you be free and a slave of Christ at the same time?" Good question. Here's the answer.

First we've seen that when one dies to sin, he becomes **free from his past sins**. Because he becomes free from the guilt of his past sins, he at the same time becomes **free from the wrath of God**. Also, because he died to sin and buried his old man, he became **free from the domination of sin**. Having then been freed from the rule of sin, he is now in the family of God and thus in a position to receive the **free gift of God** - eternal life through Christ our Lord. (**Romans 6:23**). That is being "born free"! This is one place where to surrender is freedom, and where to lose is to win. As the Master said, "... *he who loses his life for my sake will find it.*" (**Matthew 10:39b**)

### **God Is Waiting...For a Settlement**

*"<sup>18</sup> A certain ruler asked him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one—God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Don't commit adultery,' 'Don't murder,' 'Don't steal,' 'Don't give false testimony,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" <sup>21</sup> He said, "I have observed all these things from my youth up." <sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard these things, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have, and distribute it to the poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Come, follow me." <sup>23</sup> But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was very rich." **Luke 18:18-23***

There are a great many lessons in the incident of this young man's encounter with Christ, but the one we want to emphasize right here is this: There must come a time - a definite time - as definite as the day we were born into this world, when we surrender to the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ. A time when all that we are and have is turned over to Him. And not until the Lordship of Jesus is settled and becomes a fact in our lives will we know the true joy of his salvation. Are you living with Christ as the Ruler of your life? Has there been such a definite time in your life when you surrendered all to Him? Until then we will be just like this young man. Every encounter we have with Christ and His will for us will only make us uncomfortable and miserable.

Maybe that's too general, so let me ask it this way. Is there something in your life right now that Christ is asking of you that you are still holding on to and won't turn loose of even for him? Is there still a small war going on inside you - some controversy between you and God? You see, a person's surrender to the absolute control of Christ usually hangs up on some one particular thing - a bad habit, pride, fear, etc. But God must have it to have our all. So He waits for that one thing. "... *but is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*" (**2 Peter 3:9**) Whatever it might be, there must come a definite time when it is settled. **God is waiting for the settlement!**

If you are not a Christian why don't you become one?!? Surrendering to the absolute control of Christ means you are willing to make His will your will, and that means you are willing to obey the gospel and become a child of God.

If you are an unfaithful Christian, having once enjoyed a slave/Lord relationship with Jesus Christ, why don't you return to your first love by being restored? (See **Acts 8:22**)

And so I close by asking a simple, direct question: **What controls your life?** Is it sin, or is it Christ the Lord? No man can serve two masters! Have you been truly "born free"? God is waiting for our settlement, our answer-your eternal destiny awaits your answer.

This concludes Chapter 12 & 13. Please answer the following questions.

1. **1 Corinthians 13:13** says that of faith, hope and love, the greatest is:
  - a) faith
  - b) hope
  - c) love
  - d) None of the above
2. Napoleon, Alexander the Great, Caesar, and Charlemagne founded their empires on what
  - a) Force
  - b) Love
  - c) Hatred
  - d) Wealth
3. Jesus founded his empire on what?
  - a) Force
  - b) Love
  - c) Hatred
  - d) Wealth
4. The main problem a Christian has with love is:
  - a) Having motivation to love
  - b) Knowing how to love
  - c) Both A and B
  - d) None of the above
5. Love is:
  - a) "Like light"
  - b) Misused and misunderstood
  - c) A word with various meanings
  - d) All of the above
6. In Greek you will find how many words for "love"?
  - a) One
  - b) Two
  - c) Three
  - d) Four
7. The kind of love that is passionate is:
  - a) Eros
  - b) Philia
  - c) Agape
  - d) None of the above
8. The kind of love that is equal to friendship is:
  - a) Eros
  - b) Philia
  - c) Agape
  - d) None of the above
9. The kind of love that asks nothing from the one loved is:
  - a) Eros
  - b) Philia
  - c) Agape
  - d) None of the above
10. The Bible definition of love can be found where?
  - a) 1 John 3:16
  - b) John 13:34
  - c) 1 John 4:8
  - d) 1 John 4:19
11. TRUE or FALSE: Love can be learned by listening to songs.
  - a) True
  - b) False
12. A person learns to love when:
  - a) They are loved
  - b) We decide to love
  - c) We say that we love
  - d) None of the above
13. One of the passages which shows us just how much God loves us is?
  - a) 1 John 3:16
  - b) Romans 5:8
  - c) Luke 12:6-7
  - d) All of the above
14. TRUE or FALSE: God loves us and doesn't care if we love other people.
  - a) True
  - b) False
15. We are to love:
  - a) Your neighbor as yourself
  - b) With God's love
  - c) As Christ loved us
  - d) All of the above

16. It is impossible to obey God's rules without:

- a) Love for the rule maker
- b) Singing songs to praise the rule maker
- c) Always praying to the rule maker
- d) None of the above

17. The two greatest commands in the Bible revolve around what?

- a) Hope
- b) Faith
- c) Love
- d) All of the above

18. The proof that God love me is in:

- a) The cross
- b) Christ
- c) His making it so that we might be saved
- d) All of the above

19. Chris' roommate became interested in God because of:

- a) Reading the Bible
- b) The example of Chris
- c) Going to Church
- d) A preacher evangelizing at the University

20. A Christian is just like Elsa except that they are not:

- a) "Born free"
- b) A lioness
- c) "Free as a bird"
- d) None of the above

21. A Christian is FREE, but also is a slave to:

- a) No one
- b) Himself
- c) God
- d) His church

22. A Christian, though a slave, has received freedom from what?

- a) The wrath of God
- b) His past sins
- c) The domination of sin
- d) All of the above

23. TRUE or FALSE: One cannot become a slave to Christ until he submits to the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ.

- a) True
- b) False

24. God is waiting for:

- a) The settlement
- b) Us to surrender ourselves
- c) Give him our all
- d) All of the above

25. TRUE or FALSE: One must choose whether Christ the Lord or SIN is his master. He cannot have both.

- a) True
- b) False