



THE FAMILY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"We gather, we reach-out to share God's saving grace"

Basic Biblical Discipleship

Book 3

Topics:

9. Other Christians
10. Giving
11. Money and Possessions
12. Dealing with Sin

Lesson 9: OTHER CHRISTIANS

What is My Relationship to Other Christians?

As we learned in lesson one, when you got saved, you moved from the devil's family to God's family. Spiritually you now have a new family with many brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We saw how the church is likened to a body in the previous lesson and in this lesson, we will study the special relationship which you now have with your spiritual family. This lesson is designed to give the individual a clear understanding of how the body of Christ operates as a family unit.

- I. How am I related to other Christians?
 - A. They are your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Be sure to understand, only those in Jesus Christ (saved people) are your brothers and sisters, regardless of any other factors. Likewise, those NOT in Jesus Christ are not your brothers and sisters regardless of any other factors. Romans 8:29; Romans 9:8; Hebrews 2:9-12; 1 John 3:1-3
 - B. They are your fellow laborers in service for Christ Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:5-10
- II. What are my responsibilities toward other Christians?
 - A. We are to pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul's letters opens with a prayer for those he is writing to. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:3
 - B. We are to minister to each other
 1. Physically – for those in your immediate family. Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13

11. List three ways that help minimize the influence of a sinful world on your life?

- A. Don't involve yourself with sinful activities (Ephesians 5:5-12)
- B. Separate yourself from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4
- C. Realize that separation is also a positive thing (Romans 1:1)

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

To realize that sin/temptation is real and not easy to handle it, but we can overcome it with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Key memory verse: Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 6:11

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. There are big sins and little sins
2. Sometimes you have to sin because someone else forces you to.
3. Our sins can be forgiven by other men if we confess to them
4. If I sin bad enough, I can lose my salvation

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false and why?

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

- A. The lust of the flesh – good for food - Genesis 3:6
- B. The lust of the eyes – pleasant to the eyes
- C. The pride of life – to be decided to make one wise

6. Match the above categories with the three areas the devil tempted Jesus with in Matthew 4:3-11 (The devil will do everything to pull us away from God)

- A. The lust of the flesh – when the devil tried to get Jesus to turn stone into bread
- B. The lust of the eyes – when the devil showed Him all the kingdom of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship
- C. The pride of life (power) – when the devil asked Him to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him

7. List three ways that God looks at your sin.

- A. My sin was judged by god at Calvary (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- B. If we continue to sin, God will chastise/discipline us a father discipline his son (Hebrews 12:5-11)
- C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown (Galatian 6:7-8)

8. Why must you accept responsibility for your sin?

Because we will never correct anything until we face up to responsibility.

9. Briefly explain the instruction given to us in the following verses

- A. Romans 13:14 – don't make provisions for the flesh
- B. 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 – judge your sin. Agree with God that is a sin.
- C. 1 John 1:9 – confess your sins to God.
- D. 2 Corinthians 7:1 – Trust God's promise to cleanse us and to fight our battles for us. (cleanse ourselves and work toward purity)

10. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting scriptures (Matt. 4:3-11). What do the following verses teach us about this?

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:13 – all of us face the same temptation. When we are tempted, God will show us a way out, so that we will not give in.
- B. Psalms 119:11 – it is important to put the word of God in our heart to avoid sin against God.

As well as the entire body of Christ in other areas.

Acts 11:27-30

2. Spiritually

Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-2; Hebrews 13:3

- C. We are to encourage and edify one another.
1 Thessalonians 5:11
- D. We are to serve one another with humility
Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28

III – What should be my attitude toward other Christian?

- A. The primary attitude should be to love them.
1 John 3:14-16; 1 Peter 4:8
- B. Be patient with them.
Romans 15:5-7
- C. Be sensitive to their needs.
1 John 3:17-18; James 2:15-16
- D. Be forgiving of each other.
Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

IV – What is fellowship?

- A. Fellowship is a term commonly used by Christians generally referring to getting together for activities or times of sharing common interests. However, this is only a small part of true fellowship. It is true that to fellowship is to share things, but true biblical fellowship goes FAR BEYOND just a meal or an activity. It is sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with another believer.
Philippians 1:3-6; 2:1-2
- B. The essential elements of true biblical fellowship are not physical matters such as social status, friendship, common interests, etc.

but are spiritual requirements of personal character.

1. Humility – Philippians 2:3-8
2. Honesty – Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:8-9; 2 Corinth. 4:2
3. Love – John 13:35; Galatians 5:13-15
4. Hospitality – Titus 1:8; Acts 2:42; 46-47

C. The areas of true fellowship include among others:

1. Prayer – 2 Corinthians 1:11
2. Faith – Romans 1:12
3. Ministry – 2 Corinthians 8:3-6; Galatians 2:7-9
4. Suffering – Philippians 3:7-10; 1 Peter 4:13; 5:1

D. Although doctrinal beliefs are vitally important, true biblical fellowship is not based on exact doctrinal statement, but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. You MUST LEARN to have fellowship with Him personally before your fellowship with other believers will be proper.

2 John 1:3-7; 1 Corinth. 1:9-10

V – Basic Questions.

- A. What if another Christians offends me?
Unfortunately, this will probably happen to you if you spend any time with your brother and sister in Jesus Christ. There will be times of offense, hurt and disagreement within the body of Christ, just as in your physical family. If and when this happens, if it is serious enough, the Bible gives a definite progression of principles to deal with the matter. How should you respond in such a case?
1. Take offense directly to other party first, privately and try to settle it between yourselves.
Matthew 18:15
 2. If the matter is not resolved privately, take it to a leader in your church to attempt to mediate this situation.
Matthew 18:16; 1 Corinthians 6:1-5

3. Realize that separation is also a positive thing. Not only are you to be separate from the world, but you are to separate yourself UNTO gospel. Romans 1:1

DEALING WITH SIN: LESSON 12

1. List three definitions of sin.
 - A. Sin is breaking God's Law (1 John 3:4)
 - B. Sin is any unrighteousness (1 John 5:17)
 - C. Sin is anything done apart from faith (Romans 14:23)
2. Why do we have to battle sin?
 - A. We sin because we inherited a sinful nature from Adam
 - B. We sin because our old nature draws us into sin
3. Briefly explain in your own words what the apostle Paul is communicating to us in Romans 7:14-25.

We always battle/struggle with sin.....but thank God Jesus freed us from this bondage. He is the only One who can freed us from our sin

4. All sin originates from one of three categories. List the three that are seen in 1 John 2:16
 - A. The lust of the flesh
 - B. The lust of the eyes
 - C. The pride of life
5. Match the above categories with the three things that Eve saw in Genesis 3:6

Romans 6:6-13; Colossians 3:1-10

- E. Judge your sin. Agree with God that it is a sin.
1 Corinthians 11:31-32
- F. Confess your sins to God.
1 John 1:9
- G. Hide God's word in your heart to battle sin.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that God has made a way of escape from temptation.
 - 2. The way of escape is found in Psalm 119:9-11. It is the word of God.
 - 3. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting scripture
 - 4. The only sure way of overcoming sin in your life is through the power of the word of God as you hide it in your heart and apply it to your life
- H. Trust God's promises to cleanse you and to fight for your battles for you.
2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 4:15-16
- I. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-8

V. Basis Question

A. How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?

1. Don't involve yourself with sinful activities. Of course, you must associate with lost people in order to try to win them, but don't get involved in their sin.

Ephesians 5:5-12

2. Separate yourself from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4

3. Do NOT go to the lost world to settle a problem within the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:6

4. If this matter still cannot be resolved:

a. Personally accept the wrong.

1 Corinthians 6:7-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9

b. Commit the situation to the Lord Jesus Christ. He will handle it justly.

1 Peter 2:19-23

c. Forgive your brother.

Colossians 3:13

d. Pray for your brother.

Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14

OTHER CHRISTIANS: LESSON 9

- 1. List the two primary aspects of your relationship with other Christians
 - A. They are your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, only those in Jesus Christ.
 - B. They are your fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ.
- 2. List four responsibilities you have toward other Christians, and give a scripture reference that best defines each point.
 - A. We are to pray for each other.
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:3

B. We are to minister to each other. Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13
(Spiritually-Galatians 6:1-2, Romans 15:1-2; Physically-Acts 11:27-30)

C. We are to encourage and edify one another

1 Thessalonians 5:11

D. We are to serve one another with humility

Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28

3. List four attitudes you should have toward other Christians, and give a scripture reference that best defines each point.

A. To love them – 1 John 3:14-16; 1 Peter 4:8

B. Be patient with them – Romans 15:5-7

C. Be sensitive to their needs – 1 John 3:17-18; James 2:15-16

D. Be forgiving to each other – Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

4. What does the term fellowship mean?

Commonly used by Christians generally referring to getting together for activities or times of sharing common interests. But true fellowship goes FAR BEYOND just a meal or activity. It is sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with another believer.

5. The essential elements of true biblical fellowship are not physical matters, but pertain to spiritual requirements of personal character.

6. List four character qualities needed in the Christian's life in order to participate in true fellowship with other believers.

A. Humility

B. Honesty

C. Love

D. Hospitality

7. List four areas of true fellowship, and give a scripture references for each.

A. Prayer – 2 Corinthians 1:11

B. Faith – Romans 1:12

C. Ministry – 2 Corinthians 8:3-6; Galatians 2:7-9

D. Suffering – Philippians 3:7-10; 1 Peter 4:13; 5:1

1. The lust of the flesh – Eve was tempted in this point in Genesis 3:6 when she saw that the tree was “good for food”. Jesus was tempted in this point in Matthew 4:3 when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread.

2. The lust of the eyes – Eve was tempted here when she saw the tree was “pleasant to the eyes”. Jesus was tempted when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship.

3. The pride of life – Eve fell to the temptation “to be desired to make one wise”. Jesus overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him.

III – How does God look at my sin?

A. Your sin was judged by God at Calvary.
2 Corinthians 5:21

B. If you continue in sin, God will chastise you as a father chastises his son. Hebrews 12:5-11

C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown.
Galatians 6:7-7

IV – What things can I do to overcome sin?

A. Your sin is your own fault, not anyone else's. You must accept responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to responsibility.
Proverbs 28:13

B. Don't allow sinful thoughts to control your mind.
2 Corinthians 10:5

C. Don't make provisions for the flesh.
Romans 13:12

D. Realize that you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ.

LESSON 12: DEALING WITH SIN

How Do I Overcome Sin in My Life?

A famous preacher once said that when a saved person begins to battle sin in his own life, he enters a combat so intense it makes World War II look like a Sunday school picnic. This truth is not evident to a young Christian, but as you grow, you will realize further the intensity of the struggle.

As we saw very briefly in lesson one, when you got saved, you become two people. Your old man in Adam's image. This lesson is designed to help you combat the sin nature of the old man.

I – What is sin?

- A. A sin is breaking God's Law.
1 John 3:4
- B. Sin is any unrighteousness.
1 John 5:17
- C. Sin is anything done apart from faith.
Romans 14:23

II – Why do I sin?

- A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam.
Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
- B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin.
James 1:13-14; Romans 7:14-25
- C. You sin as a result of temptation in three major areas which outlined in 1 John 2:15-16. Jesus was also tempted in these three areas, yet without sin as stated in Hebrews 4:15

8. True or False:

False A. True biblical fellowship is based on exact doctrinal beliefs.

False B. True biblical fellowship is possible with a lost person

True C. We must have fellowship with Jesus Christ before we can have true fellowship with other Christians.

9. In the event another Christian offends you, list three principles which should govern your actions in attempting to resolve the matter.

A. Take the offense directly to other party first, privately and try to settle it between yourselves (Matt. 18:15)

B. If the matter is not resolved privately, take it to a leader in your church to attempt to mediate the situation (Matt. 18:16; 1 Corinthians 6:1-5)

C. Do not go to the lost world to settle a problem, deal with in the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:6

10. In the event your brother or sister refuses to help resolve a problem, what should I do?

- personally accept the wrong

- commit the situation to our Lord Jesus Christ. He will handle it justly

- forgive your brother (Colossians 3:13); pray for your brother (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14)

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

To give us a clear understanding of how the body of Christ operates as a family unit.

Key memory verses: Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 3:14; 1 John 1:7

NOTE: Among many Christians today, the following attitudes prevail:

1. We are not to associate with Christians who do not believe exactly as we do.

2. Fellowship must be centered around a meal or an activity.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong and why?

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson **7**

LESSON 10: GIVING

What is the Meaning of Giving and What Are My Responsibilities in this Area?

Giving is an extremely controversial subject in Christianity today, largely due to the severe pressures exerted on God's people to give to so many worthy causes. This is perhaps one of the most misunderstood subjects in Christianity.

Before you can properly understand the nature of the New Testament giving, you must understand one fact clearly, "God does not need your money". He owns everything.

This lesson will deal with the Christians responsibility in stewardship of his life as well as his resources.

I – Before any giving can be truly proper, you must be willing to give of yourself first.

- A. God bought you with a price, His blood and you belong to Him.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- B. God commands you to present your body as a living sacrifice, not just your pocketbook/bankbook.
Romans 12:1
- C. A willing mind and heart with a life committed to serve God must precede financial giving in order for God to bless it.
2 Corinthians 8:3-5; 12

II – What is the reason for my giving?

- A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:8

- Necessity; practical

Needs: physical - James 2:15-16 (food and clothing), feelings/emotions – Hebrews 4:15-16, food – Mark 2:25

Wants: it is your own human desire – no contentment. Only God can give us contentment – Psalms 23:1; Proverbs 13:25; Philippians 4:11; James 1:4

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

- Our success is not measured by our material wealth but fulfilling God's plan in our lives.

- To understand how to use our God's given resources properly.

Key memory verses: Philippians 4:11; 19; Colossians 3:2

NOTE: Some common attitudes regarding physical possessions are:

1. If you get enough material wealth, you will be satisfied.
2. God must be pleased with wealthy people for Him to have blessed them so much.
3. A wealthy person must have violated God's laws to obtain His wealth.
4. Your worth as a person is measured by your material wealth.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong why?

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson

6. What does the apostle Paul teach us through the attitude displayed in the following verses?

A. Hebrews 13:5 – stay away from the love of money

B. 1 Timothy 6:8 – learn to be content

C. Philippians 4:11 – we are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves whether we have much or little. Learn to rest in the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. List six important things that money cannot buy and that only God can give you.

A. Wisdom – Proverbs 16:16

B. A righteous life – Proverbs 28:6; 16:8; Psalms 37:16

C. A good night sleep – Ecclesiastes 5:12

D. God’s word – Psalms 119:14, 72, 127

E. Good health – Luke 8:43

F. Quietness and peace – Ecclesiastes 4:6; Proverbs 15:16; 17:1

8. List five other attitudes you should develop toward money and physical possessions.

A. If and when God blesses you physically/financially don’t forget Him. (Deut. 6:10-12)

B. Realize that if God takes all your wealth away, it should not affect your relationship with Him

C. Don’t be envious of someone else’s wealth

D. Stay away from get rich quick schemes

E. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual instead of physical because the media and advertising has a tremendously negative materialistic influence on you.

9. God promises to provide your needs, not necessarily your wants. Your needs are both physical as well as spiritual. Give some examples of your needs and wants.

B. Giving develops an attitude of grace for other works. It takes no special talents or abilities to give, only grace.

2 Corinthians 8:6-7; 9:8

1. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets your eyes off of earthly riches, which will fade away.

Philippians 4:17; Matthew 6:19-21

1. The person who benefits most from your giving is YOU.

Acts 20:35

III – Where am I to give?

A. Your primary responsibility is to your local church. All giving in the New Testament is done within the context of a local church ministry. 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 is the definite passage.

B. Obviously, anyone is free to give to causes outside the local church, and God may even use and bless it. However it is the local church which is central in God’s plan. Any giving outside of it should never be done at the expense of what God would have you do in your church. This is equally true of time and service as well as money.

IV – What does my money go for?

A. The support of the leaders of the church.
1 Corinthians 9:13-14, Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

B. Other works of God supported through your church.
Philippians 4:15-16

C. Support of those within the church body who are UNABLE to support themselves, and who have proven themselves FAITHFUL under the New Testament guidelines.
Acts 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:16, 9-10

D. To meet general needs as determined by the leadership of your church.

II Corinthians 8:4; Acts 11:27-30

V – What am I supposed to give?

You are supposed to give your “life”. Your giving is to be out of a willing heart and because you love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us examine amounts of giving from the Bible.

- A. The “tithe” – in the Old Testament, the Jews were required by their religious law to give a certain percentage of their income. This tithe was one –tenth of a person’s income. In addition, the Jews gave freewill offerings for various other works of God, bringing their total giving well over ten percent. 2 Chronicles 31:11-12, Deuteronomy 12:5-7
- B. The church is not bound by the letter of the Old Testament law. However, the principles of the Old Testament establish patterns for our relationship with God. 1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4

VI – The New Testament principles of giving are applied in three areas:

- A. Structure – A young Christian should establish discipline in his life in all areas. In giving, the principles of ten percent can help provide that structure.
- B. Cheerful Giving – as an individual grows in the Lord, he will develop an attitude to go beyond structures. The grace of cheerful giving becomes a reality in his life.

The New Testament principles of giving are summarized in 2 Corinthians 9:7

1. “As a man purposeth in his heart” – your giving is between you and God.
2. “Not grudgingly” – if your giving is done with the wrong attitude, you will not experience God’s grace.
3. Or of necessity – you are not bound by the tithe or any other law.
4. For God Loveth a CHEERFUL GIVER.

MONEY & POSSESSIONS: LESSON 11

1. Does the amount of wealth you have determine whether or not God is pleased with you? NO.
Briefly explain: Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone simply for having money. Spiritually is not measured by either the abundance or lack of material goods.
2. What can we learn about man and money from 1 Timothy 6:10? The bible does not say that money is the root of all evil. It says, “the love of money is the root of all evil”.
3. Two men in the bible who were very wealthy had an attitude that was uncommon among others. What was so different about their attitude concerning wealth?
 - A. Solomon – fear God and obey His commands because He will judge us for everything we do.
 - B. Job – he acknowledged that God is the one who gave everything and also have the power to take it away. He can’t bring anything when he dies.
4. List five wrong attitudes towards money that will interfere with your relationship with God. Give a scripture verse that helps you best understand each wrong attitude.
 - A. When you trust money rather than God (Mark 20:23-27; Prov. 11:4,28)
 - B. When your affections are set on your earthly possessions instead of your heavenly possessions (Matt. 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4)
 - C. When you think your own spirituality, another man’s spirituality or God’s blessings can be measured by material possessions. Luke 12:15; 1 Samuel 16:7
 - D. When your objective in life becomes to earn as much money as possible. (Prov. 23:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-12)
 - E. When you think that you provide for your own needs instead of God providing them. Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 8:10-18
5. What is the most important attitude you should develop toward physical possessions?
First and foremost, BE CONTENT with what you have.

IV – You must strike a proper balance in your attitude toward money and possessions.

A. Proverbs 11:1 says, “A false balance is abomination to the Lord....”

1. The same Bible that says not to worry about your physical provisions in Matthew 6:25-34 also says that if a man doesn’t provide for his family he is worse than an infidel in 1 Timothy 5:8.

2. The same bible that says “.....the love of money is the root of evil...” also says “...the laborer is worthy of his reward” 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

B. These are not contradictory statements, but balancing principles to show you how to handle physical possessions.

V – Basic questions.

A. What will God provide for me?

1. God promises to provide your NEEDS.
Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25-34

2. Those NEEDS will be physical as well as spiritual.

3. You must discern between NEEDS and WANTS. This is a very difficult thing to do, especially in our society. Compare the following verses on needs and wants.

a. Needs – James 2:15-16; Hebrews 4:15-16; Mark 2:25

b. Wants – Psalm 23:1; Proverbs 13:25; Philippians 4:11; James 1:4

C. Sacrificial Giving – Christian maturity will result in sacrificial giving. When a person gives beyond his power to give, it costs him something. At this point, the grace giving is maximized in his life.

2 Corinthians 8:3; 2 Samuel 24:24

VII – Other principles of giving.

A. Give as God has prospered you. Don’t concern yourself with the giving of others, just give according to the amount God has blessed you with.

1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:12

B. Remember at all times the law of sowing and reaping.

2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-9

C. True New Testament giving goes much further than a simple tithe. It is turning over complete control of your life and resources to Jesus Christ. If God has control of your life, he will have control of your resources. All of the above principles of giving can be applied to your time and service as well as your money.

1. God’s plan is that we be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 8:29

2. God’s essential nature is giving, manifest in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:16; 1 John 4:10; 2 Corinthians 8:9

3. When you give according to bible principles, you will manifest the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life, resulting in God being glorified through you.

2 Corinthians 9:8-15, 1 Chronicles 29:8-13

VIII – Basic Questions

A. How can I be sure I am giving to the right things and that my money (and time) is being used as God would have it?

1. Build your giving (time, service and money) around the local church. It is God's ordained institution for this age.
2. In most churches, a group of men are entrusted with the responsibility of handling the financial matters of the body. If you have prayerfully sought God's leadership in choosing a local church, and you have followed the principles in His word in doing so, then you ought to trust the leaders of the church to handle this matter properly. If you have good reason to believe that the church's resources are not being used scripturally, then speak to the individuals with that responsibility. If the matter is not answered to your satisfaction, then perhaps you should consider praying about seeking another church. 2 Corinthians 8:20-21

GIVING: LESSON 10

1. Give one reason from your own studies in the bible why you believe that God doesn't need your money.
Because God owns everything
2. Before you consider giving any money to the Lord's work, you must give of yourself first. List three reasons for this.
 - A. God bought you with a price, His blood and you belong to Him.
 - B. God commands you to present your body as a living sacrifice, not just your pocket
 - C. A willing mind and heart with a life committed to service to God must precede financial giving in order for God to bless it.
3. List three reasons for giving your resources.
 - A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ
 - B. Giving develops an attitude of grace for other works
 - C. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets your eyes off of earthly riches, which will fade away.

- B. Realize that there are many things which are far more important than money, which money cannot buy.
 1. Wisdom – Proverbs 16:16
 2. A righteous life – Proverbs 28:6; 16:8; Psalm 37:16
 3. A good night sleep – Ecclesiastes 5:12
 4. God's word – Psalm 119:14, 72, 127
 5. Good health – Luke 8:43
 6. Quietness and peace – Ecclesiastes 4:6; Proverbs 15:16; 17:1
- C. If and when God blesses you physically, don't forget Him. Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Proverbs 30:7-9; Revelation 3:17
- D. Realize that if God takes all your wealth away, it should not affect your relationship with Him. Job 1:20-22
- E. Don't be envious of someone else's wealth. Psalm 49:16-17; exodus 20:17
- F. Stay away from get rich quick schemes. Proverbs 20:21; 28:20, 22
- G. Finally, realize that our culture through the media and advertising has a tremendously negative materialistic influence on you. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual instead of physical.

Luke 8:1-3; John 12:3

II – At what point does money and possessions interfere with my relationship with God?

- A. When you trust money rather than God
Mark 20:23-27; Prov. 11:4, 28
- B. When your affections are set on your earthly possessions instead of your heavenly possessions
Matt. 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4
- C. When you think your own spirituality, another man's spirituality or God's blessings can be measured by material possessions.
Luke 12:15; 1 Samuel 16:7
- D. When your objective in life becomes to earn as much money as possible.
Prov. 23:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-12
- E. When you think that you provide for your own needs instead of God providing them.
Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 8:10-18

III – What are the proper attitudes I should develop toward physical possessions?

- A. First and foremost, BE CONTENT with what you have.
Understand – to be content is not to grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state, but to rest satisfied in God's provision; realizing whatever you have been given is a blessing.
 - 1. We are to be content with our possessions.
Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:8
 - 2. We are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves, resting in the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 4:11 – note that Paul wrote these words while in jail.

4. The Christian should give of his time, service and resources first to the local church. Briefly explain why this is true. All giving in the New Testament is done within the context of a local church ministry.

5. List four areas in which money is to be used by the local church. Give verse that best defines each point.

A. The support of the leaders of the church.

1. Corinthians 9:13-14, Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

B. Other works of God supported through your church.

Philippians 4:15-16

C. Support of those within the church body who are UNABLE to support themselves, and who have proven themselves FAITHFUL under the New Testament guidelines. Acts 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:16, 9-10

D. To meet general needs as determined by the leadership of your church. II Corinthians 8:4; Acts 11:27-30

6. The Christians giving is to be from a willing heart. Why is this? Because you love the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Briefly detail the three levels of giving.

A. Structure

B. Cheerful Giving

C. Sacrificial Giving

8. Tithing is not a set law for Christian. Instead of the tithe what are four attitudes on giving found in 2 Corinthians 9:7

- A. "As a man purposeth in his heart" – your giving is between you and God.
- B. "Not grudgingly" – if your giving is done with the wrong attitude, you will not experience God's grace.
- C. Or of necessity – you are not bound by the tithe or any other law.
- D. For God Loveth a CHEERFUL GIVER.

9. If God has control of your life, He will have control of your resources.

10. Explain that true New Testament giving is. It goes much further than a simple tithe. It is turning over complete control of your life and resources to Jesus Christ.

11. Who benefits the most from giving: God, the church, the pastor, or the giver? Us (the giver)

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

To understand giving in biblical way.

Key memory verses:

2 Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:2; 2 Corinthians 8:9

NOTE: From many pulpits and on most radio, television shows, you will hear the following teachings regarding giving.

1. The Christians primary responsibility in giving is his money.
2. Christians are obligated to give any good cause.
3. If you don't give, the work of God will suffer.

From the bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subject in this lesson.

LESSON 11: MONEY AND POSSESSIONS IN GENERAL

What Should Be My Attitude Toward Money and Possessions?

One of the greatest temptations we face as Christians in North America is the tremendous materialism in our culture. We are geared to think that success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth; when in reality, a man's success is measured by fulfilling God's plan for his life as we saw in a previous lesson.

The bible has a great deal to say about our attitudes toward physical possessions. The object of this lesson is to determine how God would have us deal with this matter in light of biblical principles.

1. You do NOT have to be wealthy or poor to please God!
 - A. This is very important to understand. Spirituality is NOT measured by either the abundance or lack of materials goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone simply for having money. Instead, he deals with their heart attitude.
 - B. The Bible does NOT say that money is the root of all evil. It says "...the LOVE of money is the root of all evil..." 1 Timothy 6:10.
 - C. Many godly Bible characters were wealthy.
 1. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history, yet observe his conclusion of this matter. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (Job 1:3), yet when all his wealth was gone, observe his attitude. Job 1:20-22
 3. Even the Lord Jesus Christ was accompanied by a groups of wealthy women who provided for Him materially