2-11-03 MECHANICS OF

APPLYING DOCTRINE

**LESSON # 1 (2-11-03)**

# I. INTRODUCTION

1. Mental Attitude Sins (MAS) can rob any believer of the happiness (+H) and contentment that God desires for us.

 ***John 10:10 -******I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***

1. The fact that every believer has MAS from time to time is not disputed, but that does not mean that we are unable to control what we think. The issue is, What happens when a MAS pops into our mind? Can it be removed, replaced, tossed out, or are we doomed to suffer under its malevolent influence.
2. Some believers think that it is impossible to control what they think, therefore, they excuse their MAS and bad behavior.
3. There are several things wrong with this notion:
4. It demonstrates a failure to take responsibility for what one does and what one thinks.
5. It is a defeatist attitude that believes that the Old Sin Nature (OSN) rules supreme in the life of a believer. This ignores or rejects the fact that Christ broke the absolute power of the OSN in the life of believers. *Rom. 6:6 – knowing this, that our old self (OSN) was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

c It not only is a convenient excuse that tries to avoid volitional responsibility, but it also stands as an allegation that Bible doctrine does not really work

 5. ***Hebrews 12:15 -******See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that***

 ***no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many are defiled;***

1. **“*See to it*”** is the Greek word EPISKOPEO pres. act. ptcp.

 It means to keep on riding herd on yourself by checking your mental attitude

 constantly.

1. Do I keep reliving an incident in my mind when someone was nasty to me or when I was nasty to them? Am I planning how to get even with them afraid that they might get even with me?
2. Am I worried about my bills, my health, my job, my love-life, my children, etc.?
3. Am I setting myself up as judge over others whom I consider inferior to me?

2) **“*comes short”*** (HUSTEREO ***of the grace of God.”*** This means to miss out on, or not avail yourself of God’s grace.

1. This could refer to salvation grace, but the context demands that it

 refer to the regaining of fellowship with God or REBOUND grace.

3) ***“root of bitterness”*** When a sin is confessed, it is forgiven, it is dead and buried. However, as a dead seed grows roots, so can a dead sin grow roots of bitterness which are MAS. This is how “chain sinning” occurs.

1. ***“springing up”*** (PHUO  pre. act ptcp. The dead sin (the seed) grew roots of bitterness (MAS) and sprouted into verbal and/or overt sins which defile many. Other people are affected by and polluted by these type of sins.
2. ***“causes trouble”*** (ENOCHLEO pres. act. sub. The subjunctive mood is very encouraging! It means that we can choose not to allow roots of bitterness to grow from confessed sins. We can break the habit of chain of sinning.

**LESSON # 2 (2-13-03)**

1. **The ability to avoid MAS comes from self-discipline in applying (focusing on) the doctrines we know. There is a pertinent doctrine to neutralize every MAS.**
2. Doctrine in the soul is the raw material that the Holy Spirit uses to manufacture the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) .
3. Souls minus doctrine will surly reap a bitter harvest because there is no doctrine to neutralize the harmful effects of MAS.

 Rebound alone will not bring an end to chain sinning. There must be doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness to focus on or else your focus will fall right back into the old wheel ruts of MAS.

1. Volition is issue. 1) at salvation 2) in learning doctrine 3) in focusing on doctrine when tempted.
2. At salvation, the issue is, what think ye of Christ?
3. The next issue is growing to spiritual maturity by learning doctrine. This is

where the majority of believers fail.

1. For believers who learn doctrine, the issue is, will they choose to apply doctrine

or will they choose to yield to the temptation to sin?

1. Doctrine identifies MAS in the soul, then prescribes the solution which is Rebound, and then focus is directed to the pertinent doctrine which neutralizes the MAS. Even when the

believer is aware of the MAS, Rebounds, and identifies the neutralizing doctrine, he can still

choose to yield to the temptation rather than apply the doctrine

1. Emotions can undermine the effort of a believer who wants to apply doctrine. They can

 exert great pressure on us but they cannot destroy our volition. We still have the ability

 to control our emotions and concentrate on doctrine.

a. Sometimes this is accomplish only by asking God the Father to help us resist temptation and to keep our emotions in check *( I John 5:14-15, John 14:13 ).*

 b. This does not mean that we must be stoic, lacking animation, enthusiasm, and excitement. It means that rational thinking continues, uninterrupted by emotions that seek to take over our soul in stressful situations.

1. ***II Corinthians 6:12 -******You*** (carnal believers) ***are not restrained*** (from reaching spiritual maturity) ***by us*** (those who taught doctrine***), but you are restrained by your own affections*** (emotions*).*
2. God tests our emotions to see if we are in control of them, or if they are in control of

 us. ***Psa. 7:9 -******"For the righteous God tests the hearts*** (right lobes)

 ***and the emotions*** (reins)*.****"***

3) God did not design us to be subject to our emotions but for our emotions to

 be subordinate to us, to our will.

4) There are good and bad emotions. Good emotions are spiritual responses to

 life and bad emotions are carnal reactions to life.

 5) Emotions are designed to respond to what is in the soul and have no thought,

 virtue, or reason in themselves.

1. Emotions have nothing to do with our spiritual life. We are not spiritual because

 we feel spiritual and no one is close to God because he feels close to God.

 7) True love is based on what one thinks, not on what one feels.

1. You will either concentrate on the problem or you will concentrate on the solution. You

 cannot concentrate on both at the same time.

1. The problem is sin. Most believers think that unwanted circumstances are the problem but those are really nothing more than opportunities to apply doctrine.

b. The solution is doctrine. It is not the removal of the cause of the trouble that solves the problem because that is not really what its all about. The issue is what you think in times of trouble, not the trouble itself, that is important.

 c. Understanding this, and remembering it in times of adversity, helps us to put

 things in the proper perspective and avoid focusing on the wrong thing.

**LESSON # 3 (2-18-03)**

1. **IDENTIFYING SINS**
2. Sins cannot be dealt with until they are first identified. Many times believers live in the clutches of sin and are not even aware of it because they don’t realize that they are sinning.

2. Sins can be grouped into three categories: MAS, sins of the tongue, and overt sins.

## MENTAL ATTITUDE SINS

Arrogance implacability ingratitude hypersensitivity

Fear impatience insolence greed

Worry irresponsibility selfishness hypocrisy

Anger self-pity prejudice thoughtlessness

Guilt revenge jealousy approbation lust

bitterness hate disrespect power lust

judging stubbornness envy sexual lust

SINS OF THE TONGUE

gossiping lying perjury boasting

ridiculing sarcasm cursing interrupting

complaining bickering maligning excuse-making

criticism flattery whining mocking

**OVERT SINS**

 murder stealing disobedience adultery

 fornication incest bestiality pederasty

 homosexuality voyeurism necrophilia drunkenness

 trespassing cheating snooping drug abuse

 child abuse extortion treason gluttony

cowardice kidnapping suicide gloating

3. We will now go through the list of MAS and give the doctrine and verses that neutralize them. The first one we will cover is probably the most prevalent which is fear.

FEAR

1. PHOBOS ( s ) is a Greek word used for fear in the Bible. There are two types:

1. TYPE 1 is used for reverence, respect, or awe. It is a reverence manifesting itself in obedience. This type of fear is a Christian virtue.

b. TYPE 2 is used for a mental attitude sin, characterized by worry, apprehension,

 a feeling of dread, or panic, horror, and terror when in a dangerous situation.

1. TYPE 1 is a reverential fear that is more than a “fear” of His power and righteous retribution; it is a wholesome dread of displeasing Him.
2. Certainly we should fear divine discipline but this is much different than the Muslims

 who cower in fear of Allah who might annihilate them at any time.

b. ***Heb 12:28-29 -*** *. .* ***. let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with***

 ***reverence and awe***( EULABEIA - translated “godly fear” in KJV. It

means great respect ***for our "God is a consuming fire.***

c. ***1 Pet 2:17*** *-* ***Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king****.*

d. ***Deut. 17:19*** *-* ***It***(Mosaic Law)***is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees.***

*e.* ***Lev. 25:17 -******So you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your***

 ***God; for I am the Lord your God."***

1. ***Psa. 111:10*** *-* ***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do it*** (learn and apply doctrine).Respect for the Lord is the beginning of a lifetime of learning Bible doctrine and having that Bible doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness.

g. ***Exod. 20:20 -******And Moses said unto the people, Fear******not*** (YARE – to be afraid )***:***

 ***for God is come to test you, and that the fear***( YIRAH – respect, reverence )***of***

 ***Him may remain with you, so that ye may not sin.***

h. Children should have this type of fear (respect) for their parents:

***1 Tim 3:4 -******He*** *(the pastor)* ***must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.***

1) Children do not fear (respect) their parents unless their parents diligently teach

 them respect for authority by enforced humility.

1. 2) Many parents do not enforce humility in their children because they are afraid
2. their children will not love them.
* Without enforced humility, children will not respect their parents.
* Without respect, children cannot love their parents.
* Enforced Humility = Respect = Love

**LESSON # 4 (2-20-03)**

1. TYPE 2 is more than being anxious in a dangerous situation or having normal respect

 for something that could cause harm. When you, as a believer, reach a state when

 thinking stops and emotion takes over, you are guilty of the MAS of fear.

1. Fear is lack of thinking under pressure.
2. This fear can manifest itself in panic, horror, terror, and hysteria when the pressure is immediate and extreme.
3. Under less stressful conditions, it manifests itself in worry, apprehension, dread, anxiety, trepidation and foreboding.
4. Fear is something that, if not controlled, continues to develop in your soul until you become a complete loser with no capacity in any area of life.
5. The more you surrender to fear, the more it controls you and ruins your life. The MAS of fear is linked with arrogance because it causes a person to become totally preoccupied with himself.
6. It makes self, rather than Bible doctrine, the number one priority in life. The emotional complex of sins becomes the basis for making decisions instead of Bible doctrine.
7. Fear and the function of your spiritual life are mutually exclusive. You choose which one will be in control.
8. A few things that people fear:
9. Death 5) Rejection9) Responsibility
10. Danger 6) Witnessing 10) Exclusion
11. Single Status 7) Hardship 11) Failing
12. Married Status 8) Sickness 12) Not Being Loved
13. SCRIPTURES:

TYPE 1

 ***Psa.33:18-19* -** ***Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on***

***those who hope for His lovingkindness, to deliver their soul from death, and***

 ***to keep them alive in famine*.**

***Psa.34:7* -** ***The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and***

 ***rescues them***

7

 ***Psa.34:9 & 11* -** ***O fear the Lord, you His saints; for those who fear Him, there***

***is no want. Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.***

 ***Psa.36:1* -** ***Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; there is no***

***fear of God before his eyes*.**

***Psa. 103:13 & 17* -** ***Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him… But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to those who fear Him.***

 TYPE 2

 ***Deut.31:6* *-******Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them:***

 ***for the LORD your God, he it is that goes with you; he will not fail you , nor***

 ***forsake you.***

 ***Deut.31:8* -** ***And the LORD, he it is that goes before you; he will be with you,***

 ***he will not fail you, neither forsake you: fear not, neither be dismayed*** (anxiously

looking about).

***Prov. 29:25, -******The fear of man provides a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord***

***shall be exalted.***

 ***Josh 8:1*** *-* ***And the LORD said to Joshua, `Fear not, neither be dismayed****: `*

***Isa. 41:10 -******Fear not; for I am with you: be not dismayed, for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness***

 *Psa. 4:8 - In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O Lord,*

***make me to dwell in safety****.*

***Ps 56:3-4 -******What time I would be afraid, I will put my trust in You, instead. In***

***God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid of***

***what man can do to me.***

***2 Tim 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of sound judgment.***

 *I John 4:18 - There is no fear in love. But perfect love* (virtue love inside the

 Divine Domain) *drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The*

 *one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

*Heb 13:5-6 - Let your way of life be free from the love of money. Be content with what you have; for He Himself has said, `I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,` so that we confidently say, `The Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid what man shall do to me.`*

*Heb 4:1 - Let us therefore fear* (respect the Lord)*, lest, a promise being left us*

*of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

**LESSON # 5 (2-27-03)**

# DEATH

1. Death is a natural part of life that every person will have to face (except the Rapture generation).
2. Fear of death is typical for those who are not prepared for it.
3. There is a time to be born and a time to die. Both are God’s decisions.
4. It is the fear of the unknown that causes people to fear death.
5. Knowledge of Bible doctrine (eschatology) replaces fear with confidence.
6. People who fear death have no hope or personal sense of destiny.
7. Those who are afraid to die are also afraid to live.

# DANGER

1. Life is full of danger. It’s always been that way, always will be, and there is nothing you can do about it.

1. We can try to minimize danger, but it’s always present.
2. Danger is no cause to fear. Be cautious, yes. Fear, no.
3. People working in dangerous occupations who are afraid should work somewhere else, i.e. policemen,

firemen, military, construction, pilots, chemical plants, rodeo, football, racing.

# SINGLE STATUS

1. If you fear being single and are unhappy, you will not be happy when you get married.
2. Marriage is not the solution to your unhappiness.
3. You carry your unhappiness right along with you into your marriage.
4. People are no happier married than they are single.
5. Marriage is a problem-creating device.
6. Two old sin natures are joined together with the potential of double trouble
7. If both husband and wife do not know their proper roles, the marriage is doomed.
8. If you have difficulty managing your affairs and think life is too complicated as a single person, then you will be completely overwhelmed by the demands of marriage.
9. Single people are often lonely, but replacing single status with conflict is a poor trade, ***Prov. 17:1****,* ***21:9-19****.*

# MARRIAGE STATUS

1. Some married people think they’ll never be happy unless they replace their current spouse with someone better or become single again.
2. Getting rid of an unwanted mate will take care of some problems, but it will also create new ones.
3. The idea that “the grass is always greener on the other side” is a lie.
4. For believers, joy, happiness, and contentment do not depend on marital status or circumstances. They depend on your relationship with God, not on how wonderful your spouse is.
5. You may not be able to change your spouse, but you can change yourself, and that does not require a

 change of marital status.

1. There are Biblical grounds for ending a marriage, but divorce is no solution for unhappiness any more than marriage is.

# REJECTION

1. Most people would be lousy salesmen because they fear rejection.
2. Many girls stay at home Saturday nights because boys fear rejection.
3. Girls lose their virginity for fear of rejection.
4. Insecurity and low self-esteem are behind the fear of being rejected.
5. People will do almost anything to avoid rejection. They’ll change:
6. The way they look (hair, make-up, tattoos, piercings)
7. Their clothing style
8. The way they talk
9. Their values
10. Their personality
11. Husbands fail to assert their authority for fear of being rejected by their wife, kids, or friends.
12. Parents fail to discipline their children for fear of rejection or that their kids will hate them, ***Prov. 13:24***.
13. Parents spoil their children because they fear rejection. It’s more important for your children to respect you than to love you.

1. Children are unprepared for life today because they’re sheltered from facing rejection.
2. Everyone gets trophies, both winners and losers.
3. No one fails a grade, everyone passes.
4. Everyone makes the team and gets to play.

# WITNESSING

1. The main reason believers do not witness is fear of rejection.
2. The fear is so strong that they would rather be disobedient to God than to face rejection.
3. You are responsible to give the gospel accurately. You are not responsible for the acceptance or rejection of it.
4. If the hearers reject it, they are rejecting God, not you! ***I Sam. 8:7***

# HARDSHIP

1. Most people in this country have become so accustomed to a soft lifestyle of ease, that having to go without luxuries is considered a hardship. Examples:

\* air conditioning \* computers \* cell phones

\* car for every person \* credit cards \* eating out

\* personal telephones \* new clothes \* big screen TV & DVD

\* delicious fast food \* vacations \* wash & wear

1. It’s possible for a person to have none of these things and still be happy and content.

3. Most people are afraid to go without because they think that their happiness depends on

 having what they want. Our society and the media certainly give this impression. Self-

 absorption and self-gratification are being promoted, big-time.

1. Principal: Your happiness depends on your relationship with God, not on things you possess.

**LESSON # 6 (3-4-03)**

# SICKNESS

1. No one enjoys being sick, but everyone becomes ill from time to time. It is a natural part of life

 and is nothing to fear.

1. There is nothing wrong with doing all you can to stay healthy, but we have no guarantee that we will

 not suffer from accidents or illness.

1. Sickness sometimes comes as a form of divine discipline. If that is the case, Rebound is the

 solution. It is often difficult to determine why people become ill and contract diseases, but in

 any case, to have an active dread or worry about it is a mental attitude sin (MAS).

1. Like all other worries, this is to be cast onto the Lord, ***I Peter 5:7***.

# RESPONSIBILITY

1. It is impossible to be happy and successful without taking on responsibility.
2. Husbands are responsible to love, protect, and provide for their wives.
3. Wives are responsible to respect, obey, and respond to their husbands.
4. Parents are responsible for the care of their children. (See ***Col. 3:18-20*** for a,b,c) This includes proper training, which means implementing enforced humility to instill a proper respect for authority and for other people’s freedom, privacy, and possessions.
5. Children are responsible to obey their parents and are to learn to be accountable for taking care of their own possessions.
6. Bosses are responsible to be fair and just with their subordinates.
7. Subordinates are responsible to respect the authority of their bosses and to do their work as unto the Lord.
8. Responsibility is a source of fear for some people for various reasons:
9. They are afraid they might make a mistake. They do not like to be wrong, especially when their error would affect others.
10. They don’t want to be blamed for anything, and they avoid it at any cost.
11. They lack the intestinal fortitude to get tough when necessary in order to assert their authority. This type of courage comes from spiritual self-esteem, confidence, and sense of duty that results from consistent intake of Bible doctrine.
12. This fear is an extension of self-centeredness because a person is more concerned about the extra burden on himself than caring for those who would suffer because of him shirking his duty.
13. This fear motivates a selfish uncaring attitude. Someone else has to take up the slack when a person refuses to assume responsibilities that are clearly his.
14. Parents should train their children to be responsible so they will not be afraid of taking on responsibilities as they mature.

# EXCLUSION

1. This fear is similar to rejection, only a person can be excluded without formally being rejected.
2. This fear is very prevalent among teenagers. To be excluded from a certain circle of fellow students called the “in crowd” can produce the greatest of all fears.
3. People will take extreme measures to make sure they’re not excluded from parties, get-togethers, gangs, clubs, and organizations.
4. Insecurity and low self-esteem are behind the fear of not being included.

# FAILING

1. This is a fear that paralyses people so that they wont even try things they are fully capable of doing. If you don’t’ try, you won’t fail, and if you don’t fail, you won’t be embarrassed.
2. Everyone fails. People are not successful because they never fail. They are successful because they don’t quit when they fail.
3. There is no reason to be ashamed of failure when you have done your best, learned from your mistakes, and you try again.
4. Many people are afraid to take a risk because they think it is humiliating to fail. What is truly humiliating is to allow fear to keep you from trying.

**LESSON # 7 (3-6-03)**

# DEATH

1. Death is a natural part of life that every person will have to face (except the Rapture generation).
2. Fear of death is typical for those who are not prepared for it.
3. There is a time to be born and a time to die. Both are God’s decisions.
4. It is the fear of the unknown that causes people to fear death.
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firemen, military, construction, pilots, chemical plants, rodeo, football, racing.

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1. If you fear being single and are unhappy, you will not be happy when you get married.
2. Marriage is not the solution to your unhappiness.
3. You carry your unhappiness right along with you into your marriage.
4. People are no happier married than they are single.
5. Marriage is a problem-creating device.
6. Two old sin natures are joined together with the potential of double trouble
7. If both husband and wife do not know their proper roles, the marriage is doomed.
8. If you have difficulty managing your affairs and think life is too complicated as a single person, then you will be completely overwhelmed by the demands of marriage.
9. Single people are often lonely, but replacing single status with conflict is a poor trade, ***Prov. 17:1****,* ***21:9-19****.*

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2. Getting rid of an unwanted mate will take care of some problems, but it will also create new ones.
3. The idea that “the grass is always greener on the other side” is a lie.
4. For believers, joy, happiness, and contentment do not depend on marital status or circumstances. They depend on your relationship with God, not on how wonderful your spouse is.
5. You may not be able to change your spouse, but you can change yourself, and that does not require a

 change of marital status.

1. There are Biblical grounds for ending a marriage, but divorce is no solution for unhappiness any more than marriage is.

# REJECTION

1. Most people would be lousy salesmen because they fear rejection.
2. Many girls stay at home Saturday nights because boys fear rejection.
3. Girls lose their virginity for fear of rejection.
4. Insecurity and low self-esteem are behind the fear of being rejected.
5. People will do almost anything to avoid rejection. They’ll change:
6. The way they look (hair, make-up, tattoos, piercings)
7. Their clothing style
8. The way they talk
9. Their values
10. Their personality
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 having what they want. Our society and the media certainly give this impression. Self-

 absorption and self-gratification are being promoted, big-time.

4. Principal: Your happiness depends on your relationship with God, not on things you possess.

**LESSON # 8 (3-11-03)**

5. EMOTION AND FEAR

1. Legitimate emotion can respond to doctrine but can never legitimately apply doctrine. Nor is an emotional response required in order to apply doctrine. In other words, an emotional response may result from application, but it is not necessary.
2. Emotion becomes sinful when one is under stress because it motivates irrational thought. “Feelings” can become the basis of illogical opinion or belief.

c. God designed emotion to be the appreciator of thought , decision, and action, not the source of them. The source of legitimate emotion is the soul, the origin of sinful emotion is the OSN.

1. Neither legitimate nor sinful emotions contribute anything to the inculcation of truth, nor can they be depended upon to sustain the spiritual life.
2. Sinful emotion is destructive because it contains:

1) No rational thought

1. 2) No ability to draw conclusions from doctrine in the soul
2. 3) No wisdom or spiritual common sense
3. 4) No technical vocabulary
4. Believers who stay in the Cosmic Compound emote themselves to death. Rather than responding to doctrine in the soul, they continually react to outside adversities, which creates stress in the soul which wears them out emotionally.
5. The emotional believer:

1) Does not think doctrine, nor does he advance in the Divine Domain.

2) Does not have spiritual self-esteem, therefore he lacks confidence. To defeat

fear, one must have confidence in the Lord and be able to concentrate on His

Word under pressure.

1. Concentration is necessary in learning doctrine.
2. It is also necessary in applying doctrine.
3. The ability to concentrate on doctrine under pressure is called courage.
4. The failure to concentrate on doctrine under pressure is called fear.
5. The emotional believer is distracted from doctrine (Romans 16:17-18).
6. Emotional believers have impeded spiritual growth (II Corinthians 6:11-12).
7. They have made emotion their god (Phillippians 3:18-19).
8. The Bible identifies the problem of sinful emotion by means of certain physiological references.
9. The Hebrew word KILYAH, and the Greek word NEPHROS are both are

 translated into English as “kidneys”.

2) The adrenal glands are located in the fat pads around the kidneys, and they

 secrete many hormones , one of which is adrenaline which is the hormone of

 fright, flight, or fight. This hormone increases the pulse rate, increases

 glucose, increases blood supply to the muscles, and increases blood pressure.

3) Several passages demonstrate the importance of controlling our emotions. The

 Lord examines our thinking to see if we are responding to doctrine or reacting

 to circumstances.

*Jeremiah 11:20 - O Lord of the Armies, Who judges righteously, Who tries the kidneys* (Kilyah: emotions) *and the heart* (LEB: stream of consciousness) . . .

*Jeremiah 17:20 - I the Lord search the heart and I examine the emotions. . .*

*Revelation 2:23b – I am He Who searches* (constantly investigates or inventories) *the reins* (nephros - *emotions*) *and the heart* ( kardia – stream of consciousness in the soul).

6. THE SOLUTION TO FEAR, CONCLUSION

1. Spiritual self-esteem, personal love for God, and confidence in doctrine motivate courage toward man and circumstances.
2. This courage is expressed by sound thinking under pressure, and sound decision –making and action founded in thought rather than emotion.
3. Personal love for God and unconditional love for man generate the virtue love that drives fear out of the soul (I John 4:18).
4. The more you allow fear in your soul, the more you become preoccupied with yourself. Self-centered people fall into the arrogant traps of self-justification, self-

deception, and self-absorption.

1. These three forms of arrogance result in unrealistic expectation. This is reflected in

the emotional sins of fear, anxiety, self-pity, and duplicity.

1. Emotions can completely take over and replace the spiritual life, converting reality into unrealistic expectation, denial, and projection. Believers are too quick to excuse emotional revolt in their soul and the bad decisions that result from it.

 g. Arrogance takes on the façade of false courage and boasting in time of prosperity,

1. but under pressure it is transformed into fear, whining, and complaining.
2. h. Rebound and the Faith-Rest Drill are the antidote to fear.
3. i. The following was posted on a sign in an English pub during the Battle of Britain:

**LESSON # 9 (3-13-03)**

**ANGER**

1. Anger in man is a mental attitude sin. Although anger is used in the Bible to describe God expressing His change of policy towards man related to divine judgment , we know that **God does not ever sin**. Ascribing anger to God is called an anthropopathism.

1. Anger is expressed by antagonism, hatred, exasperation, resentment, and irrationality. It can be mental or emotional or both. In the Greek, ORGE refers to mental anger and THUMOS refers to emotional anger. Both types are related to bitterness (Eph. 4:31).

3. You can react in mental anger (ORGE) when your soul is dominating. Or you can react with emotional anger (THUMOS) when you emotionally revolt. Both are unjustifiable.

1. Results of Anger:
2. Anger is a sin from the old sin nature (Gal 5:20).
3. It is never an isolated sin. ***Prov. 29:22. - An angry person stirs up strife, and a hot tempered person abounds in transgression.***

3) Anger motivates jealousy and cruelty. ***Prov. 27:4 - A person can't be angry***

 ***without being cruel and unfair.***

4) Anger is related to stupidity.  ***Eccl. 7:9 - Do not be hasty to be angry in your soul, for anger resides in the bosom of fools.*** Satan’s genius was turned into stupidity by anger. Anger turns any person into a stupid ass. The reason why many stupid and embarrassing things are said is because people are never smart when they are angry.

5) Anger is associated with grieving the Holy Spirit. ***Eph. 4:30-31 - Stop grieving the Holy Spirit, the God by whom you have been sealed to the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and slander be removed from you, together with all evil.***

 This verse uses five words to describe bitterness.

6) Believers are commanded to put aside anger and its attendant sins of the tongue.

 ***Col 3:8 – But now you also put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander,***

 ***and abusive speech from your mouth***

***Eccl. 7:9 -*** ***Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.***

7) It hinders effective prayer, ***1 Tim 2:8 - Therefore, I desire that men in every***

1. ***place pray, lifting up holy hands without anger and without dissension.***

 8) It destroys a nation, ***Amos 1:11 - So decrees the Lord, `For three sins of***

 ***Edom, even for four, I will not revoke its punishment. Because he pursued***

 ***his brother with a sword, stifling all compassion, because his anger raged***

 ***continually and he maintained his anger forever*.'"**

5. We are not to associate with people who cannot control their temper***. Prov.22:24 –***

 ***Do not associate with a man given to anger, or go with a hot-tempered man, lest you learn his ways, and find a snare for yourself.***

1. We are to do our best not to provoke anger in others. ***Prov. 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. Prov. 15:18 - A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel. Prov. 19: 11 - A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.***

**LESSON # 10 (3-18-03)**

7. A description of one who controls his temper*:* ***Prov. 16:32 - He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that rules his spirit, than he that takes a city.***

1. Translations of Ephesians 4:26:

(KJV) ***Eph. 4:26 -Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath.***

(NIV) ***Eph. 4:26 - `In your anger do not sin`: Do not let the sun go down while you***

 ***are still angry,***

(Corrected translation) ***Eph. 4:26 - Be angry with righteous indignation*** *(ORGIZO),*

 ***yet do not allow it to become sin; never let the sun go down on your anger***

*(PARORGISMOS).*

 Eph. 4:26 is a quote from Psalm 4:4:

(KJV) ***Psa. 4:4 - Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.***

(NIV*)* ***Psa. 4:4 - In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah.***

(Corrected Translation) ***Psa. 4:4 - Tremble with anger, yet do not sin; commune with your heart*** *(meditate on doctrine)* ***upon your bed and be still. Selah.***

1. David was tempted to become angry with his son Absalom, but he was

able to keep his anger in check (II Sam. 18:5).

1. It is normal to be knocked off balance when maltreatment occurs, but we

can keep from reacting with an emotional, sinful anger. How? By concentrating on Bible doctrine.

1. Righteous Indignation
2. Anger which does not destroy the virtue of the subject is classified as righteous

 indignation.

1. Unconditional love maintains the virtue of the subject, but sinful anger destroys the

 function of unconditional love.

1. Believers must be careful not to have emotional sins of anger and call them

 righteous indignation.

1. Righteous indignation does not seek revenge or try to get even. It recognizes that two

 wrongs do not make a right. Sinful anger always motivates a cluster of more sins.

**LESSON # 11 (3-20-03)**

1. Mark 10:14 gives us an account of our Lord’s righteous indignation when His disciples tried to keep children away from Him. When Jesus said this, He was ***“indignant”*** . . .
2. Christ expressed righteous indignation with regard to the Scribes and Pharisees in Matt. 23:13 – 36.
3. ***Mark 3:5 – And after looking around at them with anger (ORGE ). . .***  This is referring to our Lord as He looked at legalistic unbelievers with righteous indignation

as they were rebuking Him for healing on the Sabbath.

1. Anger as an anthropopathism - ascribing to God a human characteristic that He does

 not possess in order to communicate to man divine policy:

1. ***“The anger of the Lord”*** – Num. 25:24, 32:14, Deut. 29:20, Judges 2:14, 3:8, 10:7, II Kings 24:20, Lam. 4:16, Jer. 4:8, 25:37, 30:24, 51:45
2. ***“The wrath of God”*** – II Chr. 28:11, Ezra 10:14, Psa. 78:31, John 3:36, Rom.

 1:18, Eph. 5:6, Col. 3:6, Rev. 14:10, & 19, 15:1 & 7, 16:1, 19:15

1. Critical areas where one must NEVER lose his cool:
2. Marriage - Verbally attacking your spouse around others.
3. Children - Disciplining your children when you are angry.
4. Rage – Using a weapon to get even.

**LESSON # 12 (3-25-03)**

**GUILT**

1. It is normal feel guilty when we commit sin. It is a feeling that is sometimes experienced the moment we recognize that we have committed a sin , or at least think that we have committed a sin. There is nothing wrong with guilt at this point.
2. The problem is when guilt continues because 1) we have not Rebounded or 2) We Rebounded but still feel guilty as if we were not really forgiven *(Phil. 3:13-14).*
3. Guilt is a MAS which brings out a sense of inadequacy. This is dangerous, because it leads to arrogant pre-occupation with the correctness of one's behavior from self-righteous arrogance.
4. Untold numbers of people lead miserable, unhappy lives because they constantly feel guilty about one thing or another. The problem is that they do not recognize it as a sin and do no know how to deal with it because they lack knowledge of Bible doctrine.
5. Guilt and manipulation”
6. Guilt is probably the number one device used by people to manipulate others.
7. Some have become experts in the use of guilt as a tool to manipulate. The weak control the strong through manipulation.
8. Three ways guilt can manipulate the life of any believer:
9. Manipulation of self – this is sometimes called a guilt trip.
10. Subjective manipulation – is when a person is manipulated by someone else.
11. Crusader, legalistic manipulation – becoming a manipulator of others yourself.
12. Experiences involving guilt or shame are likely to be repressed which forms garbage in the subconscious. This garbage has a tremendous effect upon the decisions that are made in interaction with people.
13. Repression is how we accumulate garbage in the subconscious, and guilt is a part of that garbage that can do major damage.
14. Often, people project their own sins onto others in order to leave themselves guiltless or even victimized. If you can make the other person feel guilty in some problem then you feel less guilty.
15. Guilt brings on a system of double discipline. You discipline yourself with guilt and God adds to that, divine discipline.
16. Rebound is the divine solution for the removal of guilt from the soul and for bringing the believer back into fellowship with God. Without Rebound as the protection of the soul, the believer becomes a slave to the emotional complex of sins, especially guilt.
17. Guilt often becomes a motivator of life rather than doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness. False motivation from guilt supercedes true motivation from doctrine.

**LESSON # 13 (3-27-03)**

1. Guilt causes the believer to be manipulated by legalism and controlled by self-righteous arrogance. Guilt causes people-emphasis over God-emphasis so that the weak control the strong.
2. We enter into the most awful system of slavery when we are controlled by guilt. Guilt occurs when someone knocks the lid off the garbage can in our soul and then uses that guilt to manipulate us to suit themselves.
3. Believers must be on guard no to allow guilt to penetrate their souls when the gospel they share is rejected, or when they stand firm for the truth of God’s Word and people totally ignore it or become antagonistic.
4. We must remember that we are not responsible for the negative volition and indifference of others.
5. No one is perfect, and we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. Guilt is an arrogant preoccupation with self which ignores the fallibility and depravity of all men. It often stems from a sense of superiority over others in belief that one will not falter as others do.

**BITTERNESS**

1. Bitterness as a noun in the English language means: intensity of suffering of the mind and body; something that is difficult to bear; something that causes animosity and reaction. It is one of the most devastating MAS a person can get into. Like the pin of a grenade when it is pulled, bitterness causes the life of the believer to explode.
2. Bitter people are arrogant, irrational, inconsiderate of others, withdrawn from society, and indifferent or adverse to conformity with conventional standards of social behavior.
3. Examples of bitterness:

1) Foolish children - ***Prov 17:25 - A foolish son brings grief to his father and***

 ***bitterness to the one who bore him.***

2) Childless women - ***1 Sam 1:10 - In bitterness of soul, Hannah wept much and***

1. ***prayed to the LORD.***

3) 5th Cycle of Discipline - ***Isa 33:7 - Behold, the brave men cry in the streets, the***

1. ***ambassadors for peace weep bitterly.***
2. 4) Approbation and power lust - ***Acts 8:23 - For I see that you are full of***
3. ***bitterness and captive to sin*** (Simon tried to buy a spiritual gift)***.***
4. 5) Suffering - ***Job 7:11 - Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the***
5. ***anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.***
6. 6) Complaining - ***Job 10:1 - My soul is weary of my life; I will give free course to***
7. ***my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.***

 ***Job 23:2 - Even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy in spite of my***

 ***groaning.***

7) Gossiping - ***Psa 64:3 - Who have sharpen their tongue like a sword, and have***

 ***aimed their arrows, even bitter words.***

1. 8) Jealousy and Strife - ***James 3:14 - But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish***
2. ***ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.***
3. 9) Falsely Accusing God - ***Job 9:17-18 - For he breaks me with a tempest, and***
4. ***multiplies my wounds without cause. He will not allow me to take my***
5. ***breath, but fills me with bitterness.***
6. Forsaking the Lord - ***Jer 2:19 – 19 - Your own wickedness will correct you,***

 ***and your backslidings will reprove you: know therefore and see that it is an***

1. ***evil thing and a bitterness, that you have forsaken Jehovah your God, and that my fear is not in you, says the Lord, Jehovah of hosts.***

11) Contagious Bitterness - ***Heb 12:15 - See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.***

1. Bitter people are troublemakers who lack all sense of grace-orientation. They destroy

 their marriage and all other relationships that they have. ***Col 3:19, "Husbands, love***

 ***your wives, and stop being bitter against them.***

5. Anger always accompanies bitterness. ***Eph 4:31 – Remove all bitterness, both anger and***

 ***wrath, both quarreling and slander, must be removed from you, along with all malice.***

6. Bitterness is the monstrous combination of arrogant and emotional sinning. It results

 in the self-deception that you are always right and that everyone else is wrong.

1. Bitter people seek revenge and try to hurt others at every opportunity. They are

 implacable. They hold grudges and refuse to forgive others or to accept their

 apologies. They try to build their happiness on someone else’s unhappiness.

1. The solution to bitterness is Rebound coupled with the consistent intake of doctrine

 with emphasis on understanding the doctrines of self-righteous arrogance, humility,

 unconditional love, anger, and forgiveness.

**LESSON # 14 (4-1-03)**

**JUDGING**

1. We all must make judgments and use discernment in order to correctly live the Christian way of life. This is necessary to determine what we should accept and what we should reject.

***Acts 4:19 - But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.***

***Luke 12:57 - Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?***

***1 Cor 10:15 - I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.***

***1 Cor 6:2-4 - Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?***

***Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.***

1. However, believers are not allowed to set themselves up as judge other people.

 ***Matt 7:1-2 - Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you***

 ***judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be***

 ***measured to you.***

1. Believers guilty of judging and maligning others are visible losers. You cannot be occupied with the sins and failures of others and at the same time advance spiritually.
2. Believers who have a habit of judging others never receive the distribution of their

 escrow blessings for time and eternity.

1. When someone judges us, it can becomes a source of frustration and discouragement

 and irritation, which means loss of motivation for believers in spiritual childhood.

The only person that you can legitimately judge is yourself. ***1 Cor 11:31 - But if we***

***judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.***

1. Exception to this is your children. You are responsible for judging their behavior and attitude to see if any adjustments are necessary.
2. Those who set themselves up as judge over others take upon themselves authority that belongs only to Jesus Christ. It is not our responsibility to straighten out those who are out of line. We need to mind our own business.
3. Illustration: We are not to judge homosexuals personally. We learn from Scripture that homosexuality is a grievous sin; one which requires us to separate from those who engage in it. But this in no way means that we are to hate them or try to harm them in any way. We are required to love them unconditionally, but that does not include accepting their degenerate lifestyle or them, as long as they continue to think that they are doing nothing wrong.
4. Many times people judge others in order to feel good about themselves. They choose some despicable person to compare themselves with in order to feel good about themselves.
5. It is easy to find faults in others but we must not allow ourselves to dwell on their weak- nesses and peccadilloes. This results in judging which usually leads to gossiping and maligning.
6. John 8: 3-11 gives us a good illustration of the attitude of people who set themselves up as a judge over someone else.
7. John 8:1-11 does not appear in some of the older manuscripts. It could be

 considered parenthetical but has a few doubtful comments. It is however,

 considered to be a true account.

 2) There was no doubt that the woman was guilty because she was caught in the

act. Obviously, the man was also caught in the act but was not brought along

with her or even mentioned.

1. This could be because the legalistic men who were charging her were guilty

 of the same thing so they didn’t want to draw any attention to him.

1. Under the Mosaic Law, both the man and the woman would be stoned to

 death if it was proven that he was guilty *(Lev. 20:10 and Deut. 2:22).*

 3 ) Notice that the Scribes and Pharisees called Him, “DIDASKALOS” - “Rabbi” or

 “Teacher”. They were unbelievers and did not recognize Him as Lord.

1. Our Lord did not answer them because He knew that they were laying a trap. If He said RELEASE HER, then they would say He is against their Mosaic Law. If He said STONE HER, then they would say He is inconsistent with His own policy of grace. In the end, they were the ones who were trapped.
2. Probably every one of them was guilty of the same sin.
3. The woman addressed Jesus as Lord, ‘KURIOS” meaning supreme authority, God. This woman was a believer.
4. How could Christ let her go?
5. Jesus Christ is God. He is the One who gave the Mosaic Law and He certainly had the authority to amend it if He wanted to.
6. The Mosaic Law required death, however this was a transitional period be- tween the Jewish Age and the Church Age. The Jews had already rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah and the Church Age was about to begin.
7. The Scribes and Pharisees accused her and she did not deny it, which was

 tantamount to a confession on her part.

1. Jesus did not tell her to go and sin no more. That would be ignoring the fact that she had an OSN and that we all fail from time to time (Rom. 3:23).

He said, “from now on, stop this category of sinning.'"

9) Who was guilty of the more serious sin, the woman or the Scribes and Pharisees?

Proverbs 6:: 16 – 19 will give you the answer.

**LESSON # 15 (4-3-03)**

1. People involved in judging have succumbed to arrogance, hatefulness, self-righteous –

ness, and wrongful competition. Doctrines related to grace orientation, relaxed mental attitude, live and let live, minding your own business, and unconditional love will neutralizes judging in the soul of believers who know and apply them. Chapter 14 of the book of Romans gives excellent information on the subject of judging.

**LESSON # 16 (4-8-03)**

**Implacability**

1. Definition - Not placable, not easily placated, soothed, or mollified; not tolerant ; not willing to be appeased, pacified, or mitigated; unforgiving.
2. We are commanded by our Lord to forgive others:

***Col 3:13 - Bearing one another and forgiving each other. Whoever has a complaint against anyone else, just as the Lord forgave you, so also you should forgive others.***

***Eph 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other just as God in Christ has also forgiven you.***

***Matt 6:14-15 - For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.***

***Matt 18:21-22 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but up to seventy times seven*** *(490 times)****.***

***James 2:13 – For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.***

***II Cor. 2: 5-11***

1. Implacability is a form of taking revenge. It is an effort to make someone suffer for what they have done to you. It is a violation of ***Rom. 12:19 – Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”***
2. We should always have unconditional love towards others and be eager to forgive them, but there are times when relationships cannot be mended until the person who is responsible for offending someone takes responsibility for it and seeks forgiveness, ***Matt. 18:15-35.***
3. Can you forgive someone who doesn’t want forgiveness? You can and should love them unconditionally with no MAS directed towards them. But unsolicited forgiveness gives them the idea that no wrong or harm was done in the first place.

It fosters the notion that there are no consequences for one’s actions.

1. We cannot regain fellowship with God until we acknowledge our sins to Him, nor can we regain fellowship with others until we acknowledge our sin or wrongdoing before those that we have offended

**LESSON # 17 (4-10-03)**

**Impatience**

1. Definition - a restlessness of spirit, irritation and shortness of temper when delayed; to be anxious and or intolerant.; not bearing pain with composure.
2. We are commanded to have patience:
* ***1Thes 5:12-14 - Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those*** ( pastor-teachers) ***who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient***  (MAKROTHUMEO  pam 2p; long suffering, from MAKROS, “long,” and THUMOS, "temper;” is usually rendered longsuffering or patient; to keep on bearing) ***with everyone.***
* ***James 5:7-8 - Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.*** PATIENCE (HUPOMONE  lit., an abiding under from HUPO, "under," and MENO, "to abide"), is almost invariably rendered patience.
* ***Rom 12:10-12 - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.***

3. The first thing mentioned about love in the famous description given in I Cor. 13:4-8 is, guess what? Patience! ***Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous . . .***

1. We have a great need for patience.

 ***Heb 10:35-36 - Don’t throw away your confidence*** (in Bible Doc. as something worthless, like trash)***, which hath great recompence of reward. For you need patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.***

**LESSON # 18 (4-15-03)**

1. We must acquire patience if we are to grow to spiritual maturity because it is a very

necessary part of developing the character of Christ.

 ***James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brethren, when you fall into manifold temptations*** (trials), ***Knowing that the proving of your faith works patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect*** (mature) ***and entire*** (complete)***, lacking in nothing.***

6. Other scriptures that address the issue of patience: ***Romans 15:1-6, James 5:9-11, Col. 1:9-11.***

**LESSON # 19 (4-17-03)**

**irresponsibility**

1. Definition. - not responsible: not being answerable to higher authority; things said or done with no responsibility; unreliable, untrustworthy.
2. When we come into this world, we are helpless and have no responsibilities until we grow and mature. This means that we are accountable for our conduct and obligations.
3. Profile of an irresponsible person:
4. They do not respect authority.
5. They are arrogant and self-centered.
6. They are thoughtless and unconcerned about the welfare of others.
7. They are immature in their soul.
8. They don’t care if others are inconvenienced or suffer because of their actions.
9. They are hedonistic in the sense that their pleasure and comfort comes first.
10. God is our ultimate authority, and He has made us responsible to do the following:
11. We must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, ***John 3:36, II Thes. 1:8, I John 3:23.***
12. We must grow up spiritually by learning Bible doctrine, ***II Peter 3:18, II Tim. 2:15.***
13. We must keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit, ***Eph. 5:18,***  so, therefore,
14. We must keep on confessing our sins, ***I Jn. 1:9, Eph. 4:22, James 1:21, Heb. 12:1.***
15. We must witness, ***II Cor. 5:18-20, I Thes. 2:10, II Tim. 4:5.***
16. We must unconditionally love others, ***John 13:34, Gal. 5:14, Rom. 13:8.***

7. We must keep on praying, ***I Thes. 5:17, Eph. 6:18.***

1. We must forgive others, ***Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13,***
2. Love our wives, ***Eph. 5:25-28 & 33, I Peter 3:7,***
3. Submit to the authority of our husbands, ***Eph. 5:22-24, Col. 3:18, Titus 2:5,***
4. Provide for our family, ***I Tim. 5:8,***
5. Provide spiritual training and discipline for our children, ***Eph. 6:4, Prov. 22:6,***

12. And stand firm for the truth of God’s Word, ***Eph. 6:14, I Cor. 16:13, Gal. 5:1.***

13. It is important to remember that God never gives us a responsibility without also

 providing us with the means to accomplish it.

14. This means that people who are irresponsible cannot accuse God of putting more

 on them than they can handle. The blame for their irresponsibility can only be

 placed in one place – their own volition.

4. The good news is that things can turn around the moment one admits his irrespon-

 sibility to the Lord and start making a concerted effort to be responsible.

1. Understanding the doctrines dealing with our priesthood and our ambassadorship are

 instrumental in neutralizing any tendency towards irresponsibility *I Pet. 2:9, II Cor. 5:20*

**LESSON # 20 (4-22-03)**

**SELF- PITY**

1. Def. - self-indulgent, lingering on our own sorrows or misfortunes; feeling sorry for self.
2. Solicitation of pity from others is a way of getting attention. We play the victim and depend on the sympathy of others for encouragement in place of the promises of God.
3. Self-pity motivates us to complain, whine, and to give up under pressure. Persistence is essential if we are to overcome the world, and that is something that is sorely lacking in us when we feel sorry for ourselves.
4. A good example is found in Jonah, chapter 4.
5. Often self-pity leads to pouting and sulking. We are not happy when we are in this mode until everyone else is as unhappy as we are, and then we still aren’t happy.
6. Self-pity is totally human viewpoint, and it ignores :

***James 1:2 - Consider it all joy*** (a great honor)***, my brothers, whenever you face***

***trials of many kinds.***

7. As a believer, you have a choice. You can either claim the promise of ***I Cor. 10:13***,or

 you can feel sorry for yourself. If you choose to feel sorry for yourself, you can change

 your mind, confess self-pity to God the Father, and then claim ***I Cor. 10:13.***

1. Most of us in this country are spoiled because we live in the most affluent society in the world. Teenagers are ready to throw a big pity-party if their parents can’t afford to buy them designer jeans and $100 tennis shoes.
2. None of us have to look very far to find others who are much worse off than we are. When we use self-pity to handle pressure, we lose our opportunity to demonstrate the veracity of our Lord and His faithfulness to provide for our every need.
3. When we choose self-pity, we are the losers. We are unable to advance spiritually

because growing up always involves pressure, adversity, and testing. Self-pity causes

us to fail every time. We must change our focus from self to God.

1. Parents can help their children from acquiring the bad habit of self-pity by not modal -

 coddling them every time they solicit pity. For instance, when they get a scratch or a

 scrape, they should receive compassion and care, but never pity

1. Understanding that God allows adversity in the life of every believer and that He uses

 it for our good and for His glory helps to neutralize the MAS of self-pity.

.**REVENGE**

1. def. - to inflict pain deliberately and maliciously, contrary to the laws of justice and humanity, in return for an injury or pain received. Vengeance is the just and legal execution of punishment upon offenders which proceeds from, and is supported by, laws. Revenge is a MAS which is motivated by anger and passion. On the other hand, vengeance is bona fide and is motivated by justice.

**LESSON # 21 (4-24-03)**

2. ***Rom. 12:17 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in***

 ***the eyes of everybody.***

 ***Rom. 12:19 - Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the***

 ***wrath of God: for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay,’ says the Lord.***

 ***Prov. 20:22 - Do not say, `I'll pay you back for this wrong!` Wait for the LORD,***

 ***and he will deliver you.***

 ***Prov. 24:29 - Do not say, ‘I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man***

 ***back for what he did.’***

 ***Heb. 10:30 - For we know him who said, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay.’ And***

 ***again, the Lord will judge his people.***

 ***Acts 28:4 - And when the natives saw the venomous beast*** (viper) ***hanging on***

 ***his*** (Paul’s) ***hand, they said among themselves, ‘No doubt this man is a murderer,***

 ***and though he has escaped the sea, vengeance has not allowed him to live.’***

3. God is called “the God of vengeance” in ***Psa. 94:1***. The following will help us to

 remember to leave retribution in the Lord’s hands:

1. The Lord has all of the facts.
2. He never forgets about a wrong done to His children, ***I Sam. 15:6.***
3. The vengeance of the Lord is always perfect - not too harsh and not too easy.
4. When you seek revenge, God will turn His wrath away from them and onto you.
5. When you seek revenge, you shoulder the responsibility and burden of getting even instead of putting that burden where it belongs, on God.

4. The old saying, “Revenge is sweet,” is a lie. Revenge is not sweet. It is very bitter,

 especially when divine discipline is administered. It never brings us happiness nor

 does it help to ease our suffering.

5. Revenge can set off a continuing cycle of violence and misery when the target of our

 revenge retaliates against us or when the judicial system gets involved.

6. In righting a wrong, we must trust the Lord, not ourselves, to do the right thing in the right

 way.

7. Imprecatory prayers are legal and valid for other dispensations but not for us in this

 Church Age. Therefore, imprecatory prayers are not answered by God. An

 imprecatory prayer is for the purpose of invoking a curse or judgment on one’s enemies.

 Example – ***Psa. 58:6-8 – O God, shatter their teeth in their mouth, break out the***

 ***fangs of the young lions, O Lord, let them flow away like water that runs off . . . let***

 ***them be as a snail which melts away as it goes along.***

**HATE**

1. Definition - intense hostility and aversion; a habitual emotional attitude of anger and distaste coupled with sustained, ill will; to loathe; to abhor.
2. In all languages, except Saxon, ***hate*** and ***heat*** are distinguished in orthography which is part of the language study dealing with letters and spelling.But the elements of the word are the same, and probably, they are one word meaning to stir, to irritate, or to arouse.
3. We are commanded to hate evil:

***Psa. 97:10 - Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.***

***Psa. 101:3 - I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men, I hate; they will not cling to me.***

***Psa. 119:104-105 - I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.***

***Psa.119:128 - and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.***

***Psa. 119:163 - I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.***

***Prov. 8:13 - To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.***

***Prov. 8:36 - But whoever fails to find me*** ( wisdom, B.D.) ***harms himself; all who hate me love death.*** Fools hate knowledge, ***Prov. 1:22 & 29, Prov. 5 :12, Prov. 12:1.***

**LESSON # 22 (4-29-03)**

***Eccl. 3:8 - there is . . . a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.***

***Amos 5:15 - Hate the evil, love the good, and establish justice in the courts. . .***

***Micah 3:1-2 - Then I said, ‘Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice, you who hate good and love evil ?’***

***Rev. 2:6 - But you have this in your favor: you hate the practices of the Nicolaitans which I also hate.***

4. Things God hates:

 ***Deut. 16:22 - Neither will you set up any image which the LORD your God hates.***

***Mal. 2:16 - ‘I hate divorce,’ says the LORD God of Israel . . .***

***Prov. 6:16 - These six things the LORD hates: yes, even seven are an abomination to Him . . .***

***Isa. 61:8 - For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. . .***

***Jer. 44:3-4 - Because of the evil they have done, they provoked me to anger by burning incense and by worshiping other gods that neither they nor you nor your fathers ever knew. Again and again I sent my servants, the prophets, who said, ‘Do not do this detestable thing that I hate!’***

***Zech. 8:17 - ‘Do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,’ declares the LORD.***

5. We are commanded to love, not to hate, each other:

***Matt. 5: 43 - 48***

***Lev. 19:1 - Do not hate your brother in your heart . . .***

***I Jn. 2:9 & 11 - Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness*** (Cosmic Compound)***. Vs 11 - Whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.***

***I Jn. 4:20-21 - If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: ‘Whoever loves God must also love his brother.’***

1. Description of people just before Jesus Christ returns - ***Matt. 24:10-11 - At that***

***time, many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and***

***many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.***

7 . Believers who stand for the truth of God’s Word can expect to be hated by others:

***Luke 6:22 - You are blessed when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.***

***John 15:17-19 - This is my command: Love each other. If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.***

***I Jn. 3:13 - Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.***

***Prov 29:10 - Bloodthirsty men hate a man of integrity and seek to kill the upright.***

8. Sometimes “hate” is used as a word of comparison:

 ***Luke 14:26 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple.***

 ***Luke 16:13 - No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.***

***Prov. 13:24 - He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.***

***John 12:25 - The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.***

**LESSON # 23 (5-1-03)**

9.Sometimes we do the very things we hate - ***Rom. 7:15 - I do not understand what I***

 ***do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate, I do.***

1. Interesting verse - ***Prov. 25:17 - Seldom set foot in your neighbor’s house; too***

 ***much of you, and he will hate you.***

**STUBBORNNESS**

1. Definition – to be obstinate; inflexibly fixed in opinion; not to be moved or persuaded by reason; to obstinately adhere to an opinion, purpose, or course in spite of reason, arguments, or persuasion.

1. Being stubborn is not the same as being persistent, tenacious, or resolute. Stubborn- ness is a close-minded attitude which is motivated by arrogance and pride, whereas persistence, tenacity, and resolve are motivated by reason and character.

3. A stubborn person refuses to admit he is wrong. He will not be persuaded by facts, reason, or evidence, even when they are abundantly clear.

4. Believers should be open-minded, and when the evidence proves them wrong, they should be willing to admit it. BUT, the evidence must always be the Word of God!

5. The Word of God must be our number one priority instead of our trying to be right or to vindicate what we believe. Multitudes of people will spend eternity in hell because it is more important that they are right than accepting the gospel.

1. When the Bible commands us to “stand firm,**” *Gal. 5:1, Phil. 4:1, II Thes. 2:15, II***

 ***Cor. 1:24****,* it does not mean for us to be stubborn. It means that we are not to be

 wishy-washy, weak, and easily swayed by false teachers and false doctrine.

**LESSON # 24 (5-6-03)**

1. Discernment is a major issue for us in order to correctly execute the Christian way of life. The more Bible doctrine we have, the more discerning we are. Knowing when to be flexible and when to be rigid comes with spiritual maturity.
2. What the Israelites did with a stubborn recalcitrant child is found in ***Deut. 21:18-21).***
3. A habit of stubborn rebellion in us can be hard to break, but if we do not break it, God will break us, ***Judges 2: 18-19.***
4. The Israelites had a reputation of being stubborn and rebellious, ***Psa. 78:8.***

**ingratitude**

1. This MAS has risen to epidemic proportions in our society of abundance to the degree that most people seldom show appreciation, especially younger people.
2. Self-centeredness, arrogance, and ingratitude comes naturally, but expressing gratitude

 is something that must be taught.

1. Two of the most powerful words in the English language are “Thank You”. They are

just as important to say when someone opens a door for you as when someone gives you an expensive gift.

1. Showing ingratitude is the danger sign that there is a lack of appreciation in the soul. No one can be happy without the capacity to appreciate what they have.

 ***1 Tim. 6:5-8 -*** (False teachers) ***. . .think that godliness is a means to financial***

 ***gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into***

 ***the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing,***

 ***we will be content with that.***

**LESSON # 25 (5-8-03)**

1. We are commanded to give thanks:

***Col. 2:6-7 - So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.***

***Col. 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

***`1Thess. 5:18 - In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

***Eph. 5:20 - Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

1. Most people don’t even give thanks when they receive good things, much less when they receive something that they would rather not have. It takes more than a little Bible doctrine in the soul to be able to obey the command to give thanks in all things. It is soooooo easy to fall into old wheel-tracks of whining and complaining when experiencing adversity.
2. We must all be on guard not to “look a gift horse in the mouth”. When we do, we are focusing on the gift rather than the giver. It is the person and the expression of love behind the gift, not the gift itself, that is important.
3. The greatest gift that we will ever receive is salvation. We should be motivated to be good servants and produce good works because of our gratitude and love for the Lord, not just to gain rewards.

**INSOLENCE**

1. Definition - haughtiness; an impudent, cocky boldness with a total, disregard for others; an overbearing, contemptuous, domineering attitude.
2. People who are given authority without the ability to handle it often become tyrants with an insolent attitude.
3. Insolence is a major manifestation of arrogance. What does God do with those who

 are arrogant?

***James 4:6 - . . . God makes war against the arrogant but gives grace to the humble.***

***James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.***

1. Haughty eyes go with an insolent attitude and are on the list of seven things that God hates in ***Prov. 6:17***.

5. Other verses that deal with insolence:

***Prov. 15:25 - The LORD will destroy the house of the proud. . .***

***Prov. 16:5 - The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: they***

***will not go unpunished.***

***Prov. 16:18-19 - Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.***

***Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.***

***Prov. 21:24 - The proud and arrogant man, ‘ mocker’ is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.***

***Isa. 13:11 - I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.***

***Prov. 29:23 - A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.***

***Lev. 26:18-19 - If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over. I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.***

1. None of us are immune from getting mad at God at times, but a continual attitude of insolence demonstrates that a believer is in the latter stages of reversionism and no longer has respect for authority of any kind, including God’s.

7. The good news is that a believer can acknowledge his arrogance to God the Father at

 any point and get back on track.

1. Some believers have to be ground into a fine powder by God’s divine discipline

 before they ever humble themselves under His mighty hand.

1. Some believers refuse to humble themselves, never Rebound, and are event-

 ually removed from this life by the justice of God.

1. This does not imply in any way that they lose their salvation. However, they do lose out in that they are miserable on earth, and then they lose the wonderful,

 indescribable rewards and decorations that remain in escrow for all eternity

8. The importance of humility:

***1 Pet. 5:5-7 - Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God makes war against the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble your- selves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may promote you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety (burdens) on Him because he cares for you.***

***Prov. 15:33 - The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.***

***Prov. 18:12 - Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.***

***Prov. 22:4 - Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.***

***Col. 2:18-19a - Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.***

***He has lost connection with the Head . . .***

**LESSON # 26 (5-13-03)**

AUTHORITY

1. God is the ultimate authority.
2. All other legitimate authority is delegated by Him.

***Rom 13:1-2 - Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.***

1. Arrogance is basically an anti-authority attitude, and when you rebel against God’s delegated authority, you are rebelling against God.

 **God’s Delegated Areas of Authority - CHAIN OF COMMAND**

**FAMILY**  - Husband **CHURCH** - Pastor

 Wife Church Officers

 Children Deacons

 Dog, Cat, etc. Committee Heads

**WORK** - Management **LOCAL GOV**. - Mayor

 Superintendent City Council

 Foreman Police Chief

Journeyman Captain, Lieutenant

 Apprentice Detective, Patrolman

**LESSON # 27 (5-15-03)**

4. **Points on child-REARING:**

1. Make sure that your children do not fall below your number three priority.
2. Set the boundaries (rules) and be consistent.
3. Encourage them, and be eager to praise them.
4. Teach them: about God, about safety, sports, sex, animals, love, death, cars, stars, how to read, write, add, and spell. Teach them all you know and answer their questions.
5. Do not allow them to disrespect anyone, especially you.
6. NEVER DISCIPLINE THEM IN ANGER !
7. When the punishment is over, hug them, and tell them that you love them.
8. You are not their pal, buddy, or girlfriend. You are their parent. Act like it !
9. Don’t try to over-protect them. Let them experience disappointment and rejection, but help them through it.
10. The goal is to use enforced humility in order to instill true humility so that they will be authority-oriented. Thus, are they prepared to leave the nest needing only a minimum amount of adjustment in order to live successfully in the real adult world.
11. This goal can be accomplished with a minimum amount of discipline and a maximum amount of encouragement, praise, love, and attention.
12. If the job is done right, it will be more important for your children to please you than it will to for them to please themselves. The last thing they will want to do is to disappoint you in any way or to make you unhappy.

**LESSON # 28 (5-20-03)**

1. **ExampleS of standard rules for the behavior of Children :**
2. Always show respect to your parents.
3. Do what you are told to do right away. Don’t make them wait.
4. Never sass or talk back to them.
5. Never threaten them, curse them, or mock them.
6. Do not raise your voice to them.
7. Do not correct them, especially in front of others.
8. Obey them, even when you think they are too strict.
9. Do not talk about them behind their back to anyone.
10. Do not lie or deceive them.
11. Do not roll your eyes, stomp your feet, or throw a fit in order to get your way.
12. Never try to play one parent off of the other.
13. Do not play the victim or pout to try to get your way.
14. Do not make excuses or “pass the buck,” blaming someone else.
15. Take your discipline with poise and honor.

**LESSON # 29 (5-22-03)**

**SELFISHNESS**

1. Definition - excessive or exclusive concern with oneself; concentrating on or seeking one’s own advantage, pleasure or well-being without regard for others; supreme self-love or self preference. Selfishness, in its worst sense, is the very essence of human depravity and stands in direct opposition to the benevolent character we are commanded to have.

***Phil. 2:3-5 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility of mind, consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.***

***Rom. 12:10-13 - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.***

***John 13:34-35 - A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.***

 ***Prov. 18:1 - An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment.***

***1 Tim. 6:18 - Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.***

***Heb. 13:16 - And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.***

 ***Genesis, Chapter 13***

1. Selfish people can never truly enjoy the blessings they have that they refuse to share with others because:
2. They are disobeying God’s commands
3. The gift is more important to them than the GIVER
4. They underestimate God’s ability to give
5. They miss out on the joy of giving
6. They do not have the capacity to be happy

**LESSON # 30 (5-27-03)**

1. The problem with selfishness is that people try to derive happiness from material

 things rather than a relationship with the ONE who owns everything.

1. People who are generous may have less from having shared what they have with others, but they possess more of what really counts, like capacity for life, love, and happiness. Besides, God will always give us more stuff (Doctrine of Logistical Grace).

**PREJUDICE**

1. Definition – prejudgment; an opinion or decision of mind formed without due examination of the facts or arguments which are necessary for a just and impartial determination; preconceived judgment; an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, a group, or a race.

2. ***1 Tim. 5:21 - I charge you before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that you observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.***

***James 3:17 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.***

***James 2:1-4 - My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Here's a good seat for you,’ but say to the poor man, ‘You stand there’ or ‘Sit on the floor by my feet,’ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?***

 ***Deut. 1:17 - Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike . . .***

***Deut. 16:19 - Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.***

 ***Prov.18:5 - It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the innocent of***

 ***justice.***

 ***Prov. 28:21 - To show partiality is not good, yet a man will do wrong for a piece***

 ***of bread.***

3. Prejudice Bible examples: ***Matt. 13:53-58, Acts 2:5-7, 12-15, Acts 28:3-4, Gal. 2:11-13.***

**LESSON # 31 (5-29-03)**

4. No believer can harbor prejudice in his soul and obey the command to have unconditional

 love for others, ***John 13:34, John 15:12, I John 3:23.***

1. One thing that makes gossiping so hurtful is that it causes people to have prejudice

towards the one who is being talked about, and the victim suffers because of the bias that exists that he is not even aware of.

**JEALOUSY**

1. Definition: (1) that passion or peculiar uneasiness which arises from the fear that a rival may rob us of the affection of one whom we love; (2) hostility toward a rival or one who is believed to enjoy an advantage; (3) suspiciousness or vigilance in guarding a possession.
2. Jealousy is motivated by fear of losing something that you already possess, whereas **envy** is the fear of not being able to acquire something that you would like to possess.
3. Jealousy, like so many other MAS, comes from a preoccupation with self and a total

 disregard for God and His mandates.

1. Jealousy definition #1 demonstrates an insecurity in self and/or a lack of trust in the object of your affection as well as lack of trust in the real or imagined competitor.
2. No one should ever try to make someone jealous in order to gain attention or

affection because jealousy is a very strong and dangerous MAS.

1. b. Jealousy never helps to maintain relationships; it destroys them.

 c A married person should never be pressured by their spouse to compete for their

love and devotion.

1. If a situation occurs which appears to be inappropriate, then it is not improper to

 ask questions in order to clarify the situation.

1. e. If someone you love chooses someone else and rejects you, don’t fall into a fit of
2. jealous rage. Leave things in the Lord’s hands and move on.
3. People caught in jealousy definition #2 are self-promoters in that they rely on themselves rather than on God to get what they want in life.

***Psa. 37:4-5 - Delight yourself also in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in him, and he will bring it to pass.***

 ***Psa. 37:34 - Wait on the Lord and keep His way*** (keep studying doctrine) ***and***

 ***He will promote you . . .***

 ***Psa. 145:19 - He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry***

 ***and saves them.***

 ***Luke 14:11 - For whosoever exalts himself shall be abased; and he that***

 ***humbles himself shall be exalted*** (promoted)***.***

 ***1 Pet. 5:6 - Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that***

 ***he may exalt you in due time.***

**LESSON # 32 (6-3-03)**

1. MAS of jealousy:

 ***Prov. 6:34 - For jealousy is the rage of a man; and he will not spare in the day of***

 ***vengeance.***

 ***Song Of Solomon 8:6 - Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your***

 ***arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof***

 ***are coals of fire which have a most vehement flame.***

 ***Prov. 27:4 - Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand***

 ***before envy?*** (Heb. QINAH, jealousy)

7. Definition #3 type of jealousy:

***2 Cor. 11:2 - I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.***

8. Jealousy as an anthropopathism:

***Ezek. 16:36-38 - This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Because you poured out your wealth and exposed your nakedness in your promiscuity with your lovers, and because of all your detestable idols, and because you gave them your children's blood, therefore I am going to gather all your lovers, with whom you found pleasure, those you loved as well as those you hated. I will gather them against you from all around and will strip you in front of them, and they will see all your nakedness. I will sentence you to the punishment of women who commit adultery and who shed blood; I will bring upon you the blood vengeance of my wrath and jealous anger. . .***

 ***Ezek. 16:42 - Then my wrath against you will subside and my jealous anger will turn away from you; I will be calm and no longer angry’.***

1. Law of Jealousy, ***Numbers 5:11-31***. This is part of an adultery trial, also known as the ordeal of jealousy. If a man accused his wife of adultery but had no proof of her guilt, the Law provided a ritual to determine whether she was innocent or guilty***, Num. 5:11-31***. If she swore her innocence, the woman was forced to drink a potion made of holy water mixed with dust from the floor of the tabernacle, ***vs. 17***, and the priest burned the offering made of barley meal on the altar, ***vs. 2***6. If she was guilty of adultery, she would suffer; but if she was innocent, she would be spared. In this way, the decision was placed in the hands of God.

10. Examples of Jealousy: Cain and Able, ***Gen. 4:5-8****;* Sarah and Hagar,***Gen. 16:5****;*

Joseph’s brothers, ***Gen. 37:4-11, 18-28***; King Saul and David**, *I Sam. 18:8-30****;* Joab

 and Abner, ***II Sam. 3:24-27****,*

**DISRESPECT**

1. Definition - a failure to show respect or proper regard to someone; an act of incivility, rudeness, contempt, or thoughtlessness.
2. Disrespect is so common in our society today that hardly anyone notices it. Many, if not most, young people think that it is cool to show disrespect and to defy authority.
3. There are many ways to display disrespect. Here are a few:
4. Rolling the eyes, heavy sighing, sticking out the tongue, wagging the head,

yawning, giving someone the finger

1. Failing to stand when our flag passes
2. Talking or unnecessary movement in Bible class, movies, concerts, etc.
3. Making improper advances toward the opposite sex
4. Failure to show proper deference to the elderly and the infirm.
5. Failure to recognize someone’s station, for example, “Mr. President,” “Professor Jones,” “Coach Brown,” “Officer Adams,” etc.
6. Sassing, shouting, cursing, mocking, arguing, interrupting, ignoring, disputing, or challenging those who are in authority
7. Teasing that goes too far

**LESSON # 33 (6-5-03)**

1. Disobedience which is the overt manifestation of disrespect in the soul

4. Commands to be respectful:

 ***Rom. 13:7 - Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if***

 ***revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.***

 ***1 Pet. 2:17 - Show proper respect to everyone: love the brotherhood of***

 ***believers, fear God, honor the king.***

 ***1 Tim. 6:2 - Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for***

 ***them because they are brothers . . .***

5. Examples of showing proper respect:

 ***Lev. 19:32 - ‘Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly***

 ***and revere your God. I am the LORD.’***

1. ***I Kings 2:19 - Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto***

***him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand.***

1. ***Job 32:4 - Now Elihu had waited before speaking to Job because they were older than him.***

ESTHER

(A Study on Disrespect)

*Even though His name is never mentioned, God and His work is greatly manifested in the Book of Esther.*

# Chapter 1

* 1. King Ahasuerus’s Banquet, 180 days
	2. The King summoned Queen Vashti (beautiful), and she refused.

 Was she right or wrong?

1. 18 He consulted with his advisors as to what to do (16-18).
	1. It was decided by written decree that she would lose her crown and that

 it would be given to another. This was very serious.

# Chapter 2

1-4 The search for her replacement begins.

5-14 Mordeai, cousin of beautiful Esther (orphan), was among those to be selected.

15-20 Esther chosen, she didn’t reveal that she was a Jew.

21-23 Mordecai heard of a plot to kill the king, he told Esther, and she told the king. The

 king was saved, and the assassins were hanged.

# Chapter 3

1. Haman was promoted.
	1. Mordecai would not bow down to him.

a. This showed disrespect for a national leader; was he wrong?

b. BOW, BEND - Kneeling was a common attitude for the worship of God:

 **I Kings 8:54; Ezra 9:5; Isa. 45:23; Phil. 2:10** (from Vine's Expository

 Dictionary of Biblical Words).

1. Haman probably was claiming to be deity and demanded homage that should have been reserved for God only (**Deut. 6:13-14**).
2. **Dan 3:16-18** is another account where Jews refused to bow down to a false god.
	1. Haman plotted to annihilate the Jews with a written decree from the king. He

 promised to pay the expense of carrying out the order.

10-15 The king signed it, and it was sent throughout the land to be carried out.

# Chapter 4

* 1. Mordecai and all the Jews in the land anguished over the decree.
	2. Esther heard that Mordecai was in sackcloth, sees that he is attended to, then finds

out from him about the decree. Esther told Mordecai that she wanted to help but that she could die for going before the king without being summoned. His reply, verses **13-14**.

* 1. Esther replied to him that she would do it. She, like Christ, put herself in the place of death for her people. She also portrays Christ’s work as an advocate on our behalf.

# Chapter 5

* 1. Esther went before the king and did not die. He asked her what she wanted, and she said she would tell him later that day at a banquet to be held for him and Haman. At that banquet, she set up another banquet for the next day where she would tell the king what was on her mind.
	2. Haman heard about the invitation and started gloating and bragging, then took

some bad advice from his wife. He had a gallows built in order to hang Mordecai.

# Chapter 6

1-3 That night, the king suffered insomnia that was divinely induced. He did what so many

people do when they can’t sleep; they read. His attendants read to him and just so happened to read about Mordecai exposing the plot to assassinate the king.

* 1. Haman got to court early to ask permission from the king to hang Mordecai. The king asked what should be done for the person he wanted to honor. Haman thought he was referring to him, so he laid it on thick.
	2. The king declares that the one to be honored was Mordecai. Haman had to carry

out all of the pomp and ceremony for Mordecai which he had planned for himself.

# Chapter 7

* 1. The king and Haman arrived at the banquet that Esther had arranged, and she

revealed to the king that she was among the ones that someone planned to kill.

She asked the king to spare her and her people.

* 1. The king asked who would do such a thing, and she said***, “a foe and an enemy, the wicked Haman.”*** The king stomped off in a rage, then returned and declared that Haman was to be executed.
	2. One of the king’s aids told about the gallows that Haman had built for Mordecai.

 Haman was hanged on it.

# Chapter 8

* 1. Mordecai was given Haman’s house, and the kings signet ring that belonged to

Haman was given to Mordecai. Esther again put her life on the line to save her people.

* 1. She implores the king to revoke the decree to massacre the Jews.
	2. The king could not revoke a decree, so he allowed Mordecai to write a new decree

 to save his people. It was carried out to all the provinces in haste.

# Chapter 9

* 1. The Jews completely prevailed over their enemies on the first day the decree went into effect.
	2. The next day the Jews prevailed again, ten sons of Haman were hanged, and the

 Jews killed 75,000 of their enemies.

* 1. The Jews celebrated, and the feast of Purium was instituted.

**Chapter 10**

* 1. The fame of Mordecai is extolled.

**LESSON # 34 (6-10-03)**

**ENVY**

1. Envy is the fear of not being able to acquire something that one would like to possess

 whereas jealousy is motivated by fear of losing something that one already possess.

1. People who envy others think that some thing or person that someone else has possession of would make them happy. WRONG!

3. ***Phil. 4:19 - And my God shall supply all your needs*** (not desires) ***according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.***  This is a logistical grace verse which applies to all believers.

4. ***Psa. 37:4-5 Delight yourself also in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of***

***your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in him, and he will bring it to pass.***

**Delight** – The Hithpael imperative of ANAG is a command to be soft or pliable. This

saying to obey the command to love the Lord with all your mind, ***(Matt.***

 ***22:37)***.

 **Commit**– The Qal imperative of GALAL is a command to commit or to entrust.

**Your Way** - The Pronominal Sufffix with the noun DEREK means wheel tracks or an

often used path, road, or highway. Figuratively, it means a way of life or one’s modus operandi.

**Trust** – The Qal imperative of BATACH is a command to trust. It means to take your

troubles and problems and slam them on the Lord the way a wrestler

 would pick up his opponent and slam him to the ground.

This verse refers not just to logistical grace blessings but to supergrace blessings which

are reserved for only those believers who obey the imperative mood commands found in this verse.

5. ***1 Tim. 6:7-8 - For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out***

***of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.***

If we delight ourselves in the Lord, commit our way to Him, and trust in Him, then we will be satisfied with the logistical grace blessings that He provides for us and will not be envious of what others have.

1. 6. ***Eph. 3:20 - Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that***
2. ***we can ask or think, according to the power that is at work within us . . .***
3. We must never doubt that God is able to provide more for us than we are able to
4. provide for ourselves. We can either trust Him to make us happy, or we can trust in
5. ourselves. We can do things His way, or we can do things our way.
6. **Our Way His Way**
7. Trust in ourselves Trust in the Lord
8. Connive Wait
9. Try to impress God and others Consistently learn B.D.

 Manipulate others Help others

1. Self-promotion God promotion
2. Impatient Patient
3. Uptight Relaxed

 Keeping up with the Joneses Keeping up with doctrine

 Depend on self-motivation Depend on doctrinal motivation

**LESSON # 35 (6-12-03)**

1. For some believers, logistical grace is a beautiful new home and a new Cadillac in the driveway. For others, it might be a teepee and an old horse.

8. The grass is not always greener on the other side. Some of the most miserable people in the world have the most money, the most beautiful wives, are extremely famous, and are the most intelligent and talented. We need to shift our focus from what we lack , to what we have.

# The fact that God created a customized package of supergrace blessings

# specifically for each believer in eternity past means that it is silly for us to envy what someone else has.

### ENVY THAT TURNED INTO GRATITUDE

#  Gen. 29:31-35

***1st Son of Leah - Reuben***  ("Behold, a son !") Leah recognized that God had seen how miserable she was, had opened her womb, and had given her this son. She interpreted that fact as God's way of enabling her to gain her husband's love. But did it work out that way? Apparently not. Then, less than a year later, Simeon was born.

***2nd Son of Leah - Simeon***  ("hearing") Leah was still unloved. Reuben's birth had not helped Jacob to love her. He still had eyes for Rachel only. God had heard Leah's crying, He had seen her tears, and He understood her deep desire to have Jacob’s love. So, he gave her this second son. Surely this time Jacob would love her. But did he?

***3rd  Son of Leah - Levi*** ("attached, joined") This expressed her consuming desire***, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons."***

***4th Son of Leah - Judah*** ( "praising") She explained that name by saying***, "This time I will praise the Lord."*** For the first time, in naming her sons, Leah turned from expressing her yearning for *Jacob's* love to recognizing and basking in *God's* love.

 WHAT HAPPENED?

1. Her focus had shifted from what she lacked to what she already had. Nothing changed in her relationship with Jacob. He was still starry-eyed over Rachel. Leah had four sons in a time when bearing sons meant everything. She woke up to the richness of her situation and said, ***"This time I will praise the LORD."***
2. She recognized that she could not change her husband, but she could change herself.
3. She finally came to the conclusion that she really didn’t need the one and only thing she had thought would bring her happiness. She learned that her plan for happiness would not work, but God’s plan for her happiness would.
4. We will miss out on God’s perfect plan for happiness for us if we don’t let go of our preconceived ideas of what happiness is. He knows what He is doing. We need to trust Him enough to get out of the driver’s seat and to just enjoy the ride.

 ***Psa. 37:4-5 Delight yourself also in the LORD, and he will give you the***

 ***desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in him,***

 ***and he will bring it to pass.***

Hypersensitivity

1. When we are sensitive, we are thinking of others, when we are hypersensitive, we

 are thinking only of ourselves. Hypersensitive people are arrogant, insecure, and

 very defensive.

1. Believers who are filled with the Holy Spirit have a **R**elaxed **M**ental **A**ttitude and don’t

take themselves too seriously. They are able to laugh at themselves, and if they are falsely accused, they don’t get bent out of shape. Instead, they depend on the Lord to vindicate them.

1. Often, hypersensitive people will not admit it when they are wrong and get very upset if anyone even suggests that they are in error. They take everything personally and cannot look things objectively. Because they are always focusing on themselves, they think that everyone else is too, so they think that everything is about them.
2. They are quick to judge, quick to make excuses, and quick to seek revenge. They are usually very slow to forgive.
3. It is easy to see that hypersensitive people are not very fun to be around because others have to always be on guard not to say or do anything that may set them off.

6. ***1 Cor 6:7-8 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have***

***been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.***

 ***Prov. 20:22 - Do not say, ‘I'll pay you back for this wrong!’ Wait for the LORD,***

 ***and he will deliver you.***

***1 Pet. 2:19-20 - For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.***

 ***1 Cor. 9:12 . . . we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.***

 ***Col. 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have***

 ***against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

7. We are all big blobs of supercharged, old sin natures trying to do our best, and even

though we try not to offend others by what we do or say, it is going to happen from time to time. So we must not wear our feelings on our sleeve if we plan to keep our friends and to apply the doctrine of unconditional love.

8. Unconditional love and hypersensitivity are mutually exclusive.

1. There is one area where we all tend to be a little hypersensitive and that is when we

are on the receiving end of criticism. Even constructive criticism that is given in a loving, thoughtful way can sometimes cause our blood pressures to rise and our voices to change pitch.

10.Hypersensitive people will not take criticism, correction, and certainly not a reprimand

 or censure very well. Therefore, because **“ you can’t fix what you don’t admit”** and hypersensitive people seldom if ever admit to any error or wrong-doing. They doom themselves to a lifetime of misery.

**LESSON # 36 (6-17-03)**

**GREED**

1. Definition - an inordinate or insatiable desire for wealth or gain.

2. ***1 Tim. 6:9-10 - People*** ( believers) ***who want to get rich*** (apart from Super Grace),

***fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction*** (reversionism)***. For the love of money keeps on being*** ***a root of all kinds of evil. Some people*** (reversionists)***, eager for money*** (have made it their #1 priority)***, have wandered from the faith*** (B.D.) ***and pierced themselves with many griefs*** (different stages of divine discipline)***.***

1. ***Prov. 15:27 - A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.***
2. ***1 Tim. 3:3 - not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. KJV - not greedy of filthy lucre***  (monetary gain, profit, money).Some of these qualifications for P-T are also given in verse 8 for deacons.

***Matt. 6:24 - No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon*** (money). Mammon was the Chaldean word for the false god of money (Mammonas).

1. 3. The MAS of greed is always linked to other MAS such as arrogance, envy, selfish-
2. ness, impatience, and ingratitude. The greedy person is never happy because he is never satisfied.
3. 4. A greedy person never has enough money, land, houses, cars, or clothes. He thinks that having more than anyone else will fill the void in his soul and make him happy, but it never does.
4. 5. Many times, the people who are most able to pay for services rendered are the very ones who are the hardest to collect money from. Why? Because they are greedy and they don’t mind cheating other people in order to keep or increase their wealth.

**LESSON # 37 (6-19-03)**

 6. Actually, money is just a commodity. It is not the money itself that is so alluring

 but what people think it will buy that makes them greedy:

1. a. Things, stuff d. Respect g. Leisure time
2. b. Security e. Independence h. Happiness
3. c. Love f. Friends

 7. Many people think that security comes from a fat bank account. Even people who

1. are doing fine financially and health-wise are not happy because they constantly fret
2. about the future. They worry about getting sick or losing their money.

 8. ***Psalm 112:7*** reveals an important aspect of a mature believer: ***He will have no***

***fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.***

 ***Psa. 56:3-4 - When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise,***

 ***in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?***

 ***Prov. 1:33 - ‘whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.’***  Wisdom is personified and speaking here.

***Prov. 3:25-26 - Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.***

***Phil. 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.***

9. Greedy people seek abundance in order to procure happiness, fulfillment, love,

security, etc. God tells us to seek Him and He will take care of all these things.

***Matt. 6:33 - Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you.***

hypocrisy

1. We get this word from the Greek word HUPOKRISIS (us) which means to

answer, as in acting, repeating a line; the act of playing a part on stage; to pretend to be what one is not.

1. *“Hypocrite”* comes from the Greek word HUPOKRITES (s) which is a stage actor; one who pretends to have virtues or qualities that he does not possess. It was a custom for Greek and Roman actors to speak in large masks with mechanical devices for augmenting the force of the voice. Hence the word became used metaphorically of "a dissembler or a hypocrite." It is found only in the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark & Luke), and is always used by the Lord, fifteen times in Matthew, and elsewhere (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words).

3. Our Lord made a connection between judging others and being a hypocrite in *Matt. 7:1-5*. Other people’s sins are none of our business. It is not our job to judge them or to evaluate them. When we do, we become hypocrites.

4. He exposed the hypocrisy of the religious leaders in the synagogue in ***Luke 13:10-17*.**

**LESSON # 38 (6-24-03)**

1. He exposed the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and scribes in ***Mark 7:11, Matt. 15:1-11 and Matt.23.***  In Mark 7, a “Corban” was something dedicated or given to the Temple Priests as a gift and then used to get out of paying taxes or having to take care of their aging parents ***(I Tm.5:8).***
2. ***Matt.15*** reveals how the Pharisees exploited this and made it tradition. Verse 8 quotes Isaiah, ***“with their lips they honor me, but their minds are far from me.”*** This describes Catholicism and all who ***“worship in vain.”*** Their teachings are but rules taught by men. Scribes and Pharisees were the Catholics of that day, deceiving billions who will go to hell for buying their lies. It is not what goes into but out of one’s mouth that defiles and corrupts Bible doctrine - hypocrisy.
3. ***Matt. 23*** could be called “THE HYPOCRISY CHAPTER” of the Bible. The Scribes and Pharisees had turned the Law into such bondage out of arrogant, approbation lust. Everything they did was to gain public attention and notice. They accused Jesus and the disciples of breaking the Law when in reality, they nullified the Law because of their self-righteous, legalistic, anti-grace, anti-God tradition.
4. Jesus issued seven “WOES” to them for exalting themselves and deceiving the God-conscious with their big act. They went to great lengths to get converts and talk them into taking on the yoke of bondage, making them twice the sons of hell that they were themselves.
5. They judged people to the smallest measure without mercy or grace, donning them for money. Jesus Christ calls them “fools” and “blind guides” for emphasizing money over the Temple and the true, unique offering of the universe - Him !

**LESSON # 39 (6-26-03)**

6. ***Matt 6:1-2 - “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be***

1. ***seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.”***

***Matt 6:5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray, standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.”***

7. Hypocrisy a MAS that affects all kinds of people. There is no particular personality

 or lifestyle that is exempt from its insidious attacks.

1. The self-righteous, legalistic, better-than-thou, church-goers’ characteristics:
2. Superior morals
3. Superior vocabulary - “Hallelujah,” “Praise the Lord,” “God willing”
4. Unparalleled do-gooding
5. Careful never to swear, curse, use a four letter word or an expletive
6. Strictly adhere to taboos
7. Experts in judging, gossiping, maligning, and bullying
8. The hell-raising, drinking, cursing, fighting, fornicating, biker dudes:
9. Proud that they have nothing to hide. What you see is what you get.
10. Hate phony, artificial, fake, hypocritical church-goers
11. Live in the real world, not in some synthetic, superficial, dreamland
12. See church-goers as weak and themselves as strong
13. Experts in judging, gossiping, maligning, and bullying

c. Mr. and Mrs. average American who don’t fit either of the above categories:

1. 1) Very middle-of-the-road and highly influenced by the mainstream media
2. 2) Wear the latest fashions, and buy popular music and movies
3. 3) Consider themselves to be modern, sophisticated, and hip
4. 4) Often politically active and depend on the government to solve problems
5. 5) Consider active church-goers to be zealous fools & bikers to be crude clods

6) Experts in judging, gossiping, maligning, and bullying

8. ***James 3:17 - But the wisdom that comes from above*** (B.D.) ***is first of all pure;***

 ***then*** ***peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit,***

 ***impartial and without hypocrisy.***

9. The believer who is thinking divine viewpoint and applying Bible doctrine is using the

 wisdom that comes from above. His attitude is one of “live and let live,” or “minding

 one’s own business.”

10. Hypersensitive people try to put on a front in order to impress people and then judge

 those who do not fit their arbitrary standards of what a person should be.

11. Positive believers recognize that all of us are prone to allow our OSNs to rule us and

 that our job is to stay filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can love others. Mature

 believers do not judge! The Lord will judge as to how successful we are at not

 judging others.

**LESSON # 40 (7-1-03) and**

**LESSON # 41 (7-3-03) as review**

**THOUGHTLESSNESS**

1. There is no excuse for believers NOT being the most sensitive and thoughtful people on this planet. Their thoughtfulness should go way beyond good manners.

2. We are commanded to have unconditional love for everyone which means that we must do our best **not to offend**. ***II Cor.6:3 - We are to give no cause for offense in***

 ***anything in order that the ministry be not discredited.***

 ***Rom. 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.***

3. We must always be alert to the feelings of others.

1. a. When in a group, we should try to include everyone in the conversation or in
2. whatever is going on.
3. b. Take care not to interrupt others speaking and not to dominate a conversation.
4. c. Restrain ourselves from doing things that we know might annoy someone.
5. d. Make sure that we are kind and gracious to all people, no matter how they look,
6. what their station in life, how different they are from us, or how they treat us.
7. e. Try our best not to embarrass anyone.
8. f. Refrain from talking, movement, or distracting other people in public places
9. such as cinemas, concerts, Bible Class, etc.
10. g. Refrain from correcting others unless it is absolutely essential to do so.

4. Believers should shine when it comes to good manners which display their self-control,

 aristocratic deportment, and loving-kindness towards others.

5. ***1 Cor. 13:4-7 -***  ***Love*** (“agape,” unconditional love) ***is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud*** (arrogant)***. It is not rude*** ( but exhibits exemplary manners)***, it is not self-seeking*** (thoughtlessness)***, it is not easily angered*** (not hypersensitive)***, it keeps no record of wrongs*** (no implacability or grudges)***. Love does not delight in evil*** (it minds its own business) ***but rejoices with the truth*** (+vol towards B.D.)***. It bears all things*** (keeps private things confidential), ***it believes all things*** (Faith-Rest),  ***it hopes all things*** (confident assurance about the future)***, it endures all things*** (never giving up, tenacious, persevering) ***.***

6. Sometimes we must refrain from doing things we want to do that are perfectly legitimate in order to be thoughtful of others who might be offended. This is known as:

The Law of Liberty - ***I Cor. 8:4-9*** - directed towards ourselves

 The Law of Expediency - ***I Cor. 9:16-23 & 10:23*** - directed toward unbelievers

 The Law of Love -  ***I Cor. 8:13*** - directed toward other believers

**LESSON # 42 (7-6-03)**

7. When a believer remains silent while someone is declaring a false gospel because he

does not want to embarrass anyone or cause any tension or unpleasantness, he is not

being thoughtful, he is being disobedient.

Verses commanding believers to stand firm for the faith**:**

# *1 Cor. 16:13 - Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage;*

#  *be strong.*

 ***II Th. 2:15 - So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we***

 ***passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.***

#  *Phil .1:27* - *… that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving*

#  *together for the faith of the gospel;*

## *Jude 1:3 - I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.*

## *1 Pet .3:15 - But in your hearts, set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared*

## *to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

 ***Gal. 5:1, Eph. 4:11-14, Phil. 4:1, Col. 4:12, I Th. 3:7-8, II Thes. 2:15, James 4:8***

**LESSON # 43 (7-10-03)**

1. These verses do not give us an open door to engage in argument, belittle, or bludgeon others with our superior knowledge of Bible doctrine. We must use discernment when we defend the truth of God’s Word, but that does not mean we must remain silent or avoid confrontation. **Asking questions** is the best technique for keeping people engaged, forcing them to express and to rethink what they really believe, and helping them to open up to what you have to say.

9. If they think you are preaching to them, they will tune out, get defensive, or become combative. If you give them a hearing first, then they owe you a hearing. We should be loving and sensitive when defending the faith without compromising Truth.

10. Discernment comes through knowledge of B.D. and the F/H.S.. Mature believers must

use discernment every day with regards to a number of issues. Discernment means that a believer knows when to speak and when to remain silent, when to be flexible and when to be firm, when to get tough, and when to be gentle.

11.Sometimes the most thoughtful thing one can do is to forcefully, uncompromisingly

hit someone between the eyes with the truth, even if it makes them uncomfortable or angry. NEVER COMPROMISE BIBLE DOCTRINE !

**lust**

1. Lust is the overwhelming desire for something; a passionate desire; an illicit, uncontrolled,

 intense desire which originates from the old sin nature and gains the cooperation

 of one’s volition.

2. The lust pattern of the sin nature includes:

 a. Approbation lust g. Inordinate ambition resulting in inordinate competition

 b. Power lust h. Crusader lust which is believer activism

 c. Sexual lust i. Revenge lust

 d. Social lust j. Criminal lust

 e. Chemical lust k. Pleasure lust

 f. Monetary lust

3. All of us succumb to lust from time to time. The category of lust related to you is

 directly related to both your personal areas of weakness and your personal areas of

 strength in your old sin nature.

 4. Lust divorces the believer from reality, causes unrealistic expectation, eliminates

 understanding, and prevents one from advancing spiritually to build floors of the Divine

 Domain. Happiness and contentment do not originate from the fulfillment of the lust

 pattern of the sin nature. Happiness and contentment come from relationship with

 God and the understanding of His principles applied to the circumstances of life.

5. Lust destroys the effectiveness and power of prayer.

 ***James 4:3 - You ask and receive not because you ask for yourselves with***

 ***wrong motives, that you may squander it on your pleasure lusts.***

 Lust destroys the believer's motivation to glorify God and replaces it with self-

 promoting motivation.

1. Lust divorces the believer from reality so that every mechanic of the Christian way of

 life is distorted. Lust can only be overcome through spiritual momentum and growth

 to spiritual adulthood.

7. ***Approbation Lust***

 a) Approbation lust is the ego trip of self-righteous arrogance or lascivious-

 lawlessness. It is related to a deep-seated sense of inferiority and low self-

 esteem which insatiably seeks constant approval and praise from others.

1. The desire to be liked by others is normal, but approbation lust means that a

 person must receive validation from others in order to feel worthwhile and happy.

 They cannot relax because they are compelled to compete with others.

1. The majority of people go through life trying to compensate for inferior feelings.

One person's weakness is another person's strength which is the basis for

arrogance, self-justification, and rationalizations about inferiority or superiority.

d) People with approbation lust are horrible in positions of authority. Rather than being objective and standing firm when necessary, they are hyper-sensitive, easy to manipulate through flattery, and will do nearly anything to get subordinates to like them.

1. People’s approbation lust quickly turns into revenge lust when they do not receive the attention or praise they crave. Such people target others who would dare disagree with or criticize anything they say or do.
2. Bible doctrine is the cure. It teaches us that we are all sinners and that no one is any better than anyone else. God loves all of us, all the time, and His love will never diminish no matter what we do.
3. Isn’t it great to know that we don’t have to compete for His Love or attention! When we grow to appreciate God and His Love for us, we start to reciprocate love back to Him which is the beginning of our spiritual self-esteem.

**LESSON # 44 (7-15-03)**

THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUAL SELF-ESTEEM

1. Self-esteem is a major issue in everyone’s life. A person’s attitude toward self affects

 his entire outlook on life. Following is a quote from Nathaniel Branden in **“*Honoring***

 ***the Self”*:**

***Of all the judgments we pass in life, none is as important as the one we pass on ourselves: for that judgment touches the very center of our existence. We stand in the midst of an almost infinite network of relationships: to other people, to things, to the universe. And yet, at three o’clock in the morning, when we are alone with ourselves, we are aware that the most intimate and powerful of all relationships and the one we can never escape is the relationship with ourselves. No significant aspect of our thinking, motivation, feelings, or behavior is unaffected by our self-evaluation.***

1. Human self-esteem is based on self, and there lies the rub. We all want to feel good about ourselves and yet, we all are fatally flawed.

***Jer. 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately***

 ***wicked: who can know it?***

1. Our nature is normally arrogant, greedy, self-centered, superficial,

cowardly, petty, rebellious, devious, self-righteous, cruel, and violent.

1. Even when we temporarily rise above our natural inclinations, we usually

 become arrogant, and then we self-righteously start to judge others.

1. The great majority of the human race does not have a positive self-image.

People fully recognize that they fall short of their own relative standards, to

 nothing of completely failing by God’s absolute standards.

3. ***“Human self-esteem is an elusive and flimsy substitute for what man really needs and what***

***God in His grace has provided: SPIRITUAL SELF-ESTEEM. Spiritual self-esteem is based on who and what God is, not on who and what man is. It stands on God’s absolute integrity, not on man’s unstable character.”***Christian Suffering, R.B. Thieme, pg. 70.

4. Spiritual self-esteem is the inevitable result of a believer’s reciprocal love for God

 which is just one of the many by-products of his consistent intake and application of B. D.

5. This love is much different from the pseudo-love for God that most believers profess to

1. have which is based on nothing more than emotion. True love is based on thought,

not emotion.

1. a) Rather than teaching spiritual dynamics and the mechanics needed to reach
2. spiritual maturity, the average pastor entertains and tries to stimulate the emotions of his congregation in an effort to make them **“feel”** like they are spiritual and close to God. And congregations lust to have their emotional juices flowing so that they can **“feel”** good about God and about themselves.

b) Consequently, the average believer remains ignorant of God’s attributes

 and His plan. Therefore, his relationship with God remains superficial while he

 continues to place his confidence in himself rather than God.

1. Church Age believers are a new spiritual species ***(II Cor. 5:17)***. We were baptized by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation which means that we were put into union with Jesus Christ for the purpose of using divine power and esteeming God instead of vesting our confidence in human power and esteeming ourselves.
2. Being spiritually ignorant, the average believer tries to execute the spiritual

 mandates for the Royal Family of God through acts of morality and human good.

1. Because he does not know how to access the supernatural power of God in order to obey commands, he misses the opportunity of seeing the grace and power of God at work in his life.
2. The result is a believer with lost potential, no proper appreciation for God’s character, and therefore, no true love for God.

**LESSON # 45 (7-17-03)**

1. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds ***(Rom. 12:2)***. We use our spiritual assets to advance to spiritual adulthood by concentrating on every word that is taught by an academically prepared pastor-teacher who is filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. True love for God precedes **spiritual self-esteem** which is the initial stage of

 spiritual adulthood.

1. It is not acquired by the believer who concentrates only on doctrines that apply to his current problems. Studying B.D. is not for the purpose of getting us out of our current jam. Every doctrine we study contributes some vital aspect of the magnificent love, grace, and character of God so that we can come to know and love Him.
2. **Love for God** cannot be obtained in a moment of emotional excitement. It is

developed over years of faithfully inculcating the Word of God. Believers must go

 through stages of spiritual childhood and adolescence before they can reach spiritual

 adulthood. ***Gal. 4:19, Eph. 4:11-14***

**LESSON # 46 (7-22-03)**

1. Eventually the believer is able to think independently using the doctrinal inventory in

 his soul. He **thinks** divine viewpoint and **applies** doctrine to his circumstances.

 He has moved out of spiritual childhood into spiritual adulthood with the beginning of

 spiritual self-esteem.

10. ***Prov. 19:8 - He who gets wisdom*** (B.D.) ***loves his own soul*** (spiritual self-esteem)***;***

1. ***He who keeps understanding prospers*** (is promoted into spiritual
2. adulthood)***.***
3. a) “***Wisdom”*** (Heb. **CHOKMAH**) does not refer to human intelligence but to divine
4. enlightenment. It is personified in Proverbs chapter eight.
5. b) ***“Loves his own soul***” does not refer to conceit, pride or self-adulation;
6. it refers to the high esteem of the doctrine in one’s soul.
7. c) ***“Keeps understanding”*** (Heb. **SHAMAR TABUWN**) means to keep, tend,
8. watch over, or retain for a long period of time the understanding of the doctrine
9. one has accumulated.
10. d) ***“Prospers”*** (Heb. **TOWB**) means to prosper or to find good. Believers who
11. maintain their spiritual momentum certainly find good as they acquire spiritual
12. self-esteem and are promoted to spiritual adulthood.

11. Such believers recognize the transformation that has taken place in their minds and

 greatly honor and esteem what God has accomplished.

**LESSON # 47 (7-24-03)**

12. The believer with spiritual self-esteem does not depend on the opinion of others to

 handle the exigencies of life, he does his own thinking from the abundant inventory of

 doctrine in his soul.

1. He has independent thought based on doctrine. He has the courage in his

 convictions and perceptions.

1. Independent thought does not mean that he is a rebellious free spirit, no longer needing guidance from the Holy Spirit or his pastor’s teaching.
2. It means that he leans on no one but God. He doesn’t require flattery, praise,

recognition, encouragement, or counsel from others.

1. Because of his intimate relationship with God, he neither craves approval from others

 nor does he fear their rejection. He does not overreact when they disapprove of him

 or talk about him behind his back.

1. He is relaxed and can always be himself because he doesn’t try to imitate anybody.

 a) The Lord is his role model and he tries his best to imitate Him.

 b) He knows and abides by the Royal Family Honor Code by being thoughtful and

 sensitive of others’ feelings, but he doesn’t change his personality or demeanor

 in order to gain approval or to get ahead.

1. Some believers attend Bible class for years and can recite numerous doctrines

 (**GNOSIS**), but have never acquired spiritual self-esteem. Why? Because they never

 metabolize, truly believe, and think them out them out for themselves (**EPIGNOSIS**)

 nor do they put them to practice on a daily basis. The doctrines are just information

 floating around in their heads that they spout off from time to time to impress others.

1. There has been no real transformation of the mind. They still think the way they always have, basing all decisions on old human viewpoint and emotions.
2. They know doctrine, but they just don’t apply it. Their vocabulary has been transformed but not their mind. They can parrot back doctrinal phrases, but they can’t explain them in their own words to others.
3. They seldom if ever tap into the divine power that is available because they

 consistently fall back into their old ways of thinking and acting.

1. Consequently, their relationship with the Lord remains superficial because they

 have no track record of seeing Him in action in their lives.

1. They lack spiritual momentum because they have developed little, it any, true

 love for God.

**LESSON # 48 (7-29-03)**

1. The adolescent believer goes through an awkward stage characterized by

 overconfidence. He is bursting with answers, quick to tell others that they are wrong

 and eagerly imposes his ideas on them. This is arrogance, not spiritual self-esteem.

1. The spiritually adult believer is genuinely humble, is a good listener, and honors the

privacy and space of other people. His motto is, “live and let live.” While he is always

 ready to defend the faith, he is not pushy. When a brick wall of negative volition

 is thrown up, he shakes the dust off and moves on.

***Luke 9:5 - If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them.***

18. **CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL SELF-ESTEEM**

1) **CONTENTMENT,** regardless of present circumstances.

***2 Cor. 12:10 - That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses*** (Undeserved Suffering), ***in insults***(People Testing)**, *in* hardships** (Thought Testing)**, *in persecutions*** (System Testing)***, in difficulties*** (Disaster Testing)***. For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

**LESSON # 49 (7-31-03)**

1. 2) **MENTAL STABILITY** is developed over a long period of time, learning B.D.

***Phil. 4:11-12 - I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty, or in want.***

1. 3) **SELF-ASSURANCE** belongs to the believer who has developed

confidence from experiencing doctrine at work in his life.

 ***2 Cor. 5:6-9 - Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (for we walk by faith, not by sight.) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.***

1. **GRACE-ORIENTATION** is a reality when all credit and honor are given to

God rather than to self. It is a complete confidence that God will always provide, based on who and what He is, not on who and what we are.

 ***1 Cor.15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to***

 ***me was not without effect. . .***

5) **ORIENTATION TO REALITY** means that the believer has developed spiritual common sense that keeps him humble and helps him maintain a sense of humor.

***Rom. 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself in terms of sanity, being rational as God has allotted to each one a standard of thinking from Bible doctrine..***

1. **STRENGTH** that comes from residing in the Divine Domain, thinking divine

viewpoint, and relying on divine omnipotence available to all believers.

***Eph.6:10 - Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might.***

 ***2 Tim.1:7 - For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power,***

 ***of love and of self-discipline.***

 ***Eph.3:16 - I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with***

 ***power through his Spirit in your inner being,***

7) **SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE** is a by-product of the consistent intake of doctrine

 and maximum use of one’s royal priesthood.

 ***Phil. 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.***

 ***2 Cor. 3:4-5 - Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God.***

 ***Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but***

 ***our competence comes from God.***

**LESSON # 50 (8-5-03)**

8)  **A NEW ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE** occurs when one’s perspective in life is focused on God rather than on people. Difficulties are seen as opportunities to utilize doctrine in the soul.

 ***2 Tim.2:3-4 - Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.***

 ***No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to***

 ***please his commanding officer.***

 ***Gal.2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ***

 ***lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who***

 ***loved me and gave himself for me.***

 ***Phil. 1:20-21 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed,***

 ***but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be***

 ***exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is***

 ***Christ and to die is gain.***

**LESSON # 51 (8-7-03)**

9) **MAXIMUM PRODUCTION OF DIVINE GOOD** is motivated by personal love for God as an effort to please Him.

 ***John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me***

 ***and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”***

 ***Col.1:10 - . . . live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every***

 ***way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.***

10) **AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK**  occurs when a person’s mind has been transformed by the consistent intake of doctrine. Instead of dreading trouble and problems in life, people with Spiritual Self-Esteem see adversity and unpleasant circumstances as spiritual tests and opportunities to strengthen application muscles.

 ***Eph.4:21-25 - Surely you heard of him*** (Christ) ***and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off*** (Rebound) ***your old self*** (OSN)***, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds*** (by intake of B.D.)***; and to put on the new self*** (as a member of the Royal Family of God)***, created to be like God in*** (the sphere of) ***true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood*** (Satanic lies) ***and speak truth*** (B.D.) ***to his neighbor*** (fellow believer)***, for we are all members of one body*** (the body of Christ)***.***

**LESSON # 52 (8-12-03)**

#### Power Lust

1. People encounter power lust in every area of society: in the home, at school, at work, in government, in sports, in church, in the military, and in clubs. Many times, people lust for power as a reaction of their inferiority complex.
2. All of us would like to have our own way, and that takes power, so in that sense, we all have bouts with power lust from time to time. Some people have become experts in finding ways to exercise power over others.
3. Intimidation and the threat of force d) Scintillating, charismatic personality
4. Guilt e) Super intelligence
5. Sex appeal and beauty f) Nagging
6. Flattery g) Money
7. People who are successful in using and manipulating others never receive the happiness they are seeking. Believers with power lust are really miserable because divine discipline is added to the self-induced misery they have already created for themselves.

**LESSON # 53 (8-14-03)**

1. It is true that we all need power in this world, but we don’t need power to overcome others. We need power to overcome the OSN and MAS in ourselves. We are our own worst enemy.
2. Fortunately for us, God has come to our rescue, as He always does, by supplying all our needs, including the power we need to overcome the obstacles of the world, the flesh, and the devil.
3. Jesus told the disciples of the power that would come upon them shortly after He left earth.

 ***Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . .***

 ***Heb. 4:12 - For the Word of God is alive, and powerful . . .***

### *Phil. 4:13 CT - I have the endowed* power (maximum doctrine resident in Paul's soul*) to obtain all things* (Super Grace and then Dying Grace) *by means of the One* (God the Holy Spirit) *Who keeps on pouring the power into me.*

7. Why do believers settle for weak, faulty, human power when they have access to God’s omnipotent power? Answer: ignorance of Bible doctrine, habitually falling back into the old habit of depending on self, and succumbing to the lure of the OSN.

8. We are not independent, free spirits who can resist the influence of powers and forces that

 lie way beyond our ability to control.

COSMIC SPHERE OF POWER

Eph. 2:2 - . . . wherein ye once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the powers of the air, of the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience;

DIVINE SPHERE OF POWER

***Eph. 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. . .***

 ***2 Pet. 1:3 - His divine power has given us everything we need for life and***

 ***godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and***

 ***goodness.***

9. We do not have the ability to change these spheres of power, but we do have the ability to

1. choose which sphere of power will change us. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, he has the omnipotent power of God available to him through the filling of the Holy Spirit and through the power of the B.D. that circulates in his stream of consciousness.

**LESSON # 54 (8-19-03)**

1. 10. Most believers pray for strength and power to help get them through adversity and rough
2. times. But in reality, God’s strength and power are already available to them; all they
3. have to do is learn how to access it.
4. 1) Rebound in order to regain the Filling of the Holy Spirit.
5. 2) Learn and apply Bible doctrine.

11. This does not mean that we should not ask God the Father for help or reveal the desires of our hearts to Him. It means that spiritual adults are spiritually sophisticated enough to know that God **(1)** knows about their problem, **(2)** has allowed it to occur, **(3)** already has the solution, **(4)** will give them the power to endure it, **(5)** will promote them for passing the test.

1. There is no need for believers to seek power in order to be promoted because it is God who promotes us, ***Matt. 23:12, I Peter 5:6***.

 13 . The more doctrine a person learns, the more he recognizes how powerless he is and how

 much he is dependent on the grace of God. Spiritual adults spend a lot of time waiting for

 God to provide solutions rather than forging ahead with contrived, pseudo-solutions that

 are usually cooked up on the spur of the moment.

14. We do not need power to slay the dragon; that is God’s job. We need power to endure,

 power to trust, and power to keep our OSN in check. We get into trouble the moment we

 forget that God is all-powerful and that He does not need our help.

15. The old saying, ”God helps those who helps themselves,” is not true. God helps the

 helpless. Most of the time, He will not even begin to help until a person has exhausted all

 of his human resources, is humble, and is desperate enough to admit that he needs God.

***Psa. 91:14-15 - "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will***

***protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will***

***answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.***

 ***Psa. 37:39-40 - The deliverance of the righteous*** [those with imputed +R] ***comes***

 ***from the LORD; He is their stronghold in time of trouble. The LORD helps them***

 ***and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because***

 ***they take refuge in Him.***

 ***Isa. 46:44 - Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am he who will sustain***

 ***you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.***

**LESSON # 55 (8-21-03)**

 ***Dan. 3:17-18 - If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the***

 ***burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not,***

 ***be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the***

 ***golden image which you have set up.***

 ***Rom. 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in***

 ***him, so that you may overflow with hope*** (Gr. Elpis = confidence) ***by the power of***

 ***the Holy Spirit.***

1. There are many people today who claim that they have the power of God and try to prove it by doing supernatural acts such as healing incurable diseases, getting the crippled to walk, speaking in tongues, handling poisonous snakes, and casting out demons. They try

to substantiate all this using scripture, and they declare that the first century believers

were empowered to do these things. They say that the anointed, Holy Ghost-filled believers of today are empowered to do them also. Scripture example:

***1 Cor. 2:4 - My message and my preaching were not with wise and***

***persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.***

 ***Acts 6:8 - Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great***

 ***wonders and miraculous signs among the people.***

17 Simon was a man who tried to buy the power to give the Holy Spirit to others,

 ***Acts 8:9-24.***

**LESSON # 56 (8-26-03)**

**CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**

 *(The following was taken from the wallbuilders.org website)*

Jefferson had committed himself as President to pursuing the purpose of the First Amendment: preventing the “establishment of a particular form of Christianity” by the Episcopalians, Congregationalists, or any other denomination. Since this was Jefferson’s view concerning religious expression, in his short and polite reply to the Danbury Baptists on January 1, 1802, he assured them that they need not fear; that the free exercise of religion would ***never*** be interfered with by the federal government. As he explained:

*Gentlemen,-The affectionate sentiments of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me on behalf of the Danbury Baptist Association give me the highest satisfaction. . . . Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God; that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship; that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should “make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” thus building a wall of separation between Church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties. I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association assurances of my high respect and esteem.*

Jefferson’s reference to “natural rights” invoked an important legal phrase which was part of the rhetoric of that day and which reaffirmed his belief that religious liberties were inalienable rights. While the phrase “natural rights” communicated much to people then, to most citizens today those words mean little. By definition, “natural rights” included “that which the Books of the Law and the Gospel do contain.” That is, “natural rights” incorporated what God Himself had guaranteed to man in the Scriptures. Thus, when Jefferson assured the Baptists that by following their “natural rights” they would violate ***no*** social duty, he was affirming to them that the free exercise of religion was their inalienable God-given right and therefore was protected from federal regulation or interference.

Jefferson believed that God, not government, was the Author and Source of our rights and that the government, therefore, was to be prevented from interference with those rights. Very simply, the “fence” of the Webster letter and the “wall” of the Danbury letter were ***not*** to limit religious activities in public; rather they were to limit the power of the government to prohibit or interfere with those expressions.

**CLIENT NATIONS**

1. A client nation is a national entity under the benevolent support of God. It is assigned the responsibility for the communication, and fulfillment of the canon of Scripture. [ formation, preservation (Jewish) ]
2. A client nation is a synonym for a priest nation.

 ***1 Pet 2:9, "But you are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a***

 ***holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may***

 ***proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out from***

 ***darkness into His marvelous light."***

1. A Client nation to God is a nation under divine protection,

Because it has a large pivot of mature believers. These mature believers have blessing by association to those around them and historical blessing to their nation.

 4. A client nation is responsible to do five things.

 a. It must evangelize its own population at home.

 b. It must communicate Bible doctrine to the believers in the nation.

 c. It is responsible for the custodianship of Bible doctrine.

 d. It provides a haven for the Jews.

 e. It is responsible to send out missionaries to evangelize other nations.

 5. Negative Volition to Bible doctrine destroys a client nation.

 **LESSON # 57 (8-28-03)**

 18. Every believer utilizes God’s power every time he gives the gospel, for there is

 power in the gospel.

 ***Rom. 1:16 - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power***

 ***of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . .***

 ***1 Cor. 2:4 - And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing***

 ***words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.***

 ***1 Cor. 1:23-24 - But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling***

 ***block, and unto the Greeks, foolishness; but nto them which are called,***

 ***both Jews and Greeks, Christ, the power of God, and the wisdom of God.***

19. The frailty of our power compared to God’s power is evident to every person

 through what God has created.

 ***Rom. 1:20 - For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world***

 ***are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His***

 ***eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:***

 20. God is not the only one that has supernatural power. Satan also has tremendous

 Power, but it is not in the same league with God’s.

***Acts 26:18 - ‘to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'***

 ***1 Cor. 5:5 - to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the***

 ***flesh...***

 ***II Th. 2:9 - Even him, whose coming is after the working of***

 ***Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,***

 ***Rev. 12:9 - And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called***

 ***the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: . . .***

 ***Eph. 6:12 - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against***

 ***principalities,*** [demon generals] ***against powers*** [demon officers]***, against the***

 ***rulers of the darkness of this world*** [demon ambassadors]***, against spiritual***

 ***wickedness*** [evil policies] ***in high places.***

 21. Unbelievers and carnal believers operate by Satan’s power. Sometimes we say

 that they are using their own power rather than God’s, but in reality, they are in

 the cosmic compound and have fallen under the influence and power of Satan.

 22. Some of the nicest and most sincere people we meet are slaves to Satan and

 operate completely in his power. They are against grace, against doctrine, and

 against God. Millions of them faithfully attend churches, cathedrals, kingdom

 halls, synagogues, and temples, believe the Devil’s false doctrines, and help

 spread his lies.

 23. We must be on the alert to resist being carried away by the sweetness of these

 people so that we do not water down our sound doctrine or embrace theirs.

**LESSON # 58 (9-2-03)**

1.

#### Sexual Lust

1. America is preoccupied with and saturated with sex. Sex sells. America’s

 marketing machine masterfully exploits this fact. We cannot escape the sexual

 innuendoes that flood our environment by means of newspapers, magazines, junk

 mail, e-mail, movies, videos, T.V., radio, internet, T-shirts, and billboards.

1. Sexual misconduct of the most sordid kind has tainted what once was the most

revered and respected positions, such as the presidency of the United States and high church offices across the land.

1. Venereal disease is rampant, our prisons are bulging with criminals who are sexual predators, and unmarried teenagers continue to get pregnant even though they are well-educated with regards to birth control.
2. The concept of courting or dating is no longer relevant to most young people today.

They “hang out,” meaning that they gather together in various locations for the purpose of deciding who they will “hook up” with or be sexually active with for the night. The great majority of people today totally accept sex between unmarried, consenting adults.

1. Marriage is rapidly becoming an archaic concept of the past. “Living together” or “shacking up” has become the norm. Vocabulary has changed to accommodate this social development. The words “husband” and “wife” are being replaced with “partner,” “significant other,” “your man,” and “your woman.”
2. Degenerate sexual behavior, such as homosexuality and lesbianism, is officially

 accepted and sanctioned by the highest court in the land and celebrated by the

 population at large. It appears that same sex marriage will become part of the

 American culture very shortly.

1. The 1st Amendment protects the right of public expression of pornographers and

 topless dancers but does not protect the public display of the 10 Commandments or

 scripture.

1. Today, teenage virgins are rare, but why shouldn’t they be? Consider what teenagers are

 faced with today:

1. Natural Urges
2. Teenagers are children living in adult bodies, capable of sexual intercourse and babies, but their souls are not.
3. The average teenage boy is one, huge sexual urge with a body built around it.

He may appear normal on the outside while, he does his best to keep his libido

under control, but on the inside, he feels like a time-bomb running out of time.

1. While hormones are beginning to function in girls, they are working overtime in the boys. Both are curious about the opposite sex and eager to experience sex, or as they say, eager to “do it.”
2. Peer Pressure
3. Most of God’s creatures are “herd bound,” but none compare to teenagers. The desire to fit in, to be accepted, and to be popular is an overwhelming force driving most teenage girls, second only to sexual desire in most teenage boys.
4. The thought of being considered a prude, a “nerd,” or “not cool” sends shivers down the spine of nearly every teenager. No one likes to be left out or for other kids to think that he or she is the only one who “has not done it.”.
5. Proper training from parents, including inculcation of Bible doctrine, is the only thing powerful enough to conquer peer pressure in the lives of teenagers.
6. Parents
7. Most parents subscribe to one of the two following ideologies:
* Young people should wait until they are ready before they have sex, and

 then they should practice “safe sex.”

* Sex is a necessary function of life but is not a proper subject for discussion.

Parents awkwardly give the mandatory “birds and the bees” talk, then

ignore the subject until their children are grown and have left the house.

1. Most parents have little communication with their children and none at all when it comes to sex. Their children seek answers to their sexual questions from

 friends, “how to” sex manuals, sex education classes in the schools, sexually explicit magazines, and bathroom graffiti.

1. Parents with teenagers need to know that your kids are talking about sex with someone, and if it is not with you, then what are they learning? If sex is a taboo subject in your home, you need to change that before it is too late!

**LESSON # 59 (9-4-03)**

4) There are a few Christian parents out there doing a good job in the area of

1. instructing their children about sex. They teach the following:
* Sex is a wonderful thing between a husband and a wife. It was designed by God not just for procreation, but also for enjoyment.

***Gen. 2:18 - The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.***

 ***I will make a helper suitable for him."***

 ***Gen. 2:24 - For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and***

 ***be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.***

* It is a healthy, clean recreation in marriage that can be the icing on the cake.

What makes sex special is the commitment shared with your spouse only. It is no longer special when that trust is broken.

* Sex between unmarried, consenting adults is called “**fornication**.” It is accepted by society but it is forbidden by God.

***1 Cor. 6:18 - Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body.***

***1 Cor. 6:13 - . . . The body is not meant for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.***

***Heb .13:4 - Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all fornicators.***

***1Thess. 4:3-5 - It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.***

***Eph.5:3 - But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality,***

***Col. 3:5-6, 1 Cor. 10:6-8*** - God is serious about forbidding fornication.

***1 Cor. 7:2-5 -*** A healthy sex life in marriage can nullify promiscuous urges.

***1 Cor. 5:9-11 -*** We are not to associate with fornicators.

**LESSON # 60 (9-9-03)**

***1 Cor.7:2-5 -*** A healthy sex life in marriage can nullify promiscuous urges.

***1 Cor.5:9-11 -*** We are not to associate with fornicators.

***1 Cor.6:9-10, Gal.5:17-21*** - Fornicators will not “inherit” the kingdom of heaven.

**LESSON # 61 (9-11-03)**

 PARENTS, READ **PROVERBS 5, 6 & 7** TO YOUR CHILDREN !

**LESSON # 62 (9-16-03)**

* **adultery:** Sex between a married person and anyone besides their spouse.

***Deut.22:22 - If a man be found lying with a woman married to a husband, then they will both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so will you put away evil from Israel.***

***Exodus 20:14 - You shall not commit adultery.*** The 7th Commandment.

The penalty for adultery under the Mosaic Law was death by stoning for both the man and the woman, ***Lev. 20:10, Deut. 22:22-24, Prov. 6:29, John 8:4-5.***

Jesus changed the penalty of adultery from death to legitimate grounds for divorce in ***Matt 19:9.***

***Prov. 6:32 - But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks under-standing: he that does it destroys his own soul.*** Principle also in ***Prov.7:6-27.***

Adultery breaks the sacred trust between a husband and a wife, and it is exceed-

 ingly difficult to rebuild that trust. Some husbands can no longer initiate, and

 some wives can no longer respond when adultery has been committed.

 Jesus raised the bar when he spoke to the legalistic Pharisees about adultery:

 ***Matt 5:27-28 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'***

 ***committed adultery with her in his heart.”***

Marriage is compared to the relationship between Christ and the Church ***Eph. 5:***

 ***22-27.***

**LESSON # 63 (9-18-03)**

* **rapE:**  Sex between a minor and an adult or sex that is not consensual**.** The Mosaic Law dealt with inappropriate sexual conduct, ***Ex.22:16-17***, ***Deut. 22:23-29.*** Not that long ago, the crime of rape was punished by death in the United States. Today, few if any rapists are executed. Most serve a few years in prison, then are set free.
* **incest:** Sex between family members. It was strictly forbidden by the Mosaic Law ***Lev.18:6-18, Deut. 27:23.*** The apostle Paul turned one of the Corinthian believers over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh because of incest ***I Cor. 5:1-5.***

Jesus addressed the issue of child abuse in ***Matt. 18:6.***

* **BESTIALITY:** Sex between humans and animals. The Mosaic Law

declared that both the person and the animal were to be executed, ***Ex.***

 ***22:19, Lev. 18:23, Deut. 27:21.***

#### Social Lust

1. When a person has made his or her social life the number one priority, he has a problem

with social lust. It is normal to enjoy the company of others and to be sociable, but some people think that they cannot be happy unless they are involved in some kind of social activity.

1. Social life with God compared to social life with people:
2. God-emphasis must precede people-emphasis, and love for God must take precedence over love for people.
3. This means that God must be your number one priority in life.
4. If God comes first in your life, then so will Bible doctrine.
5. Your relationship with God cannot be priority number one if you have put someone or

 something before Him *(Ex.20:3, Deut.6:5, Psa.42:1, 73:25, Matt.10:37, Phil.3:8, Luke*

 *14:26).*

**LESSON # 64 (9-23-03)**

1. **A right relationship with God results in right relationships with others.** And of course, if you don’t have a great relationship with God, you wont with people either.
2. You respond or react to people based what you hear and what you see. Since God is not visible or audible, you respond or react to Him based on Bible doctrine, nothing else.
3. Through perception of Bible doctrine, the believer grows in grace and increases

 his fellowship with God. Christian fellowship is not the basis of spiritual growth,

so no one grows spiritually or fulfills the plan of God through Christian fellowship.

1. Social life with Christians can be a positive or a negative. It can be a source of help and encouragement for perception of doctrine. But, when believers rely on it like a crutch or it replaces the intake of B.D., it is a deterrent.
2. Christian fellowship and sharing are no substitute for learning the mystery doctrine of

 the Church Age from your right pastor. Many have been deceived by being taught that

 the Christian way of life is the “fellowship of excitement.”

1. Actually, the Christian way of life is fellowship with God accomplished through prayer, filling of the H.S., learning doctrine and applying it.
2. Sin breaks our fellowship with God:

 ***1 Jn. 1:6 - If we say we have fellowship with Him*** [God the Father] ***and yet we***

 ***walk in darkness*** [Cosmic Compound]***, we lie and do not practice doctrine.***

1. On the other hand, the practice of doctrine is fellowship with God. Fellowship

 with Him inevitably leads to love of God at the point of spiritual self-esteem, and

1. thereafter. We are commanded to love God, ***Matt. 22:37.***

3. Those with social lust are unwilling to stop living for themselves or put away their social ambitions in order to make room for the Lord.

***2 Cor.5:15 - And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.***

**LESSON # 65 (9-25-03)**

4. ***1 Cor. 1:9 - God, who has called you into fellowship***[koinonia] ***with his Son Jesus***

 ***Christ our Lord, is faithful.***

 **koinonia** ( - communion, participation, social intercourse, fellowship, sharing in common; from **koinos**, "common", translated "communion" in ***1 Cor.10:16; Philemon 6***, it is most frequently translated "fellowship";

Fellowship with the H.S., ***II Cor. 13:14, Phil. 2:1***; fellowship with the Father, ***\* I John 1:3-7.***

***Psa.1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law*** [B.D.]***of the LORD, and on his law*** [B.D.] ***he meditates day and night.***

***Jer.15:16-17 - When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation.***

***Prov. 13:20 - He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.***

The following verses command us not to fellowship with people who would have a bad influence on us: ***Psa. 26:4-5, \*Prov. 1:8-19, Prov. 4:15-16, Rom. 16:17, 1 Cor. 5:9-11, II Thess. 3:6 & 14, II Tim. 3:5, II John 1:10,***

#### Chemical Lust

1. By chemical lust, we mean drug addiction. The Bible addresses this issue, but many do not realize that the word “sorcery “ refers to drug addiction.

 a) **SORCERY** - PHARMAKEIA (translated sorcery, means the employment

of drugs for any purpose. We get the English word “pharmacy” and “pharmacist” from this Greek word. In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accom- panied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually, was intended to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer. (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

 b) It is found in ***Rev. 9:21*** and ***18:23.*** It is translated “witchcraft” in ***Gal. 5:20***. Pharaoh used

 sorcerers **in*****Ex. 7: 11 & 22***. It is also mentioned in ***Deut.18:10*, *II Chron.33:6*, *Isa.47: 9***

 ***& 12*, Dan. 2:2, and *Mal. 3:5*.**

1. Like the abuse of alcohol, drug abuse causes a person to lose control of his volition, which

 God never approves. Also, it is extremely detrimental to a person’s health.

1. The decision to get involved in any drugs is the worst thing that can happen to a human

being; it is chemical self-destruction. Often, wrong decisions are irreversible and in this case, the believer becomes a vegetable. So be warned against both drug and alcohol abuse; both can destroy you.

1. Illegal drug industry is equal to the total global trade in cars, textiles, and steel - over $400 billion annually. Every aspect of society is affected. Just released last week from the U.S. Government are new stats on substance abuse which is on the rise. And there is a growing concern about the “treatment gap.” Of the 16.6 million people who either depend on or abuse alcohol and illicit drugs, the number of persons needing and not receiving treatment increased from 3.9 million in 2000 to 5.0 million in 2001.
2. Alcohol and drug abuse leads to lies, deception, sexual abuse, venereal disease, rape,

unwanted pregnancy, dropping out of school, shop lifting, burglary, prison, failed health, traffic deaths, and suicide.

**LESSON # 66 (9-30-03)**

#### Monetary Lust

1. It is sad that most people today measure success by the size of ones bank account. However, true success is measured by the amount of character, integrity, and B.D. a person possesses.

2. A true measure of happiness is contentment with whatever one has.

 ***Heb. 13:5 - Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what***

 ***you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."***

 ***Eccl. 5:10 - Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth***

 ***is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.***

 ***1 Tim. 6:6-11 - But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing***

 ***into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing,***

 ***we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a***

 ***trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruc-***

 ***tion. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for***

 ***money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.***

 ***But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith,***

 ***love, endurance and gentleness.***

 John the Baptist told soldiers to be content with their wages ***Luke 3:14.***

3. We are not to worry about money, ***Matt. 6:24-34.***

**LESSON # 67 (10-2-03)**

4. Wisdom is better than money, ***Eccl. 7:11-12***

5. Greed, ***Prov. 10:2; 13:7 &11; 20:14-15; 30:7-9; Jer. 17:10-11; II Peter 2:3***

6. Greedy unscrupulous employers, ***James 5:1-6.***

7. Greedy friends, ***Prov. 1:8-19.***

8. Greedy false prophets ***Isa. 56:9-12.***

9. Greedy national leaders, \****Isa. 1:21-23, Jer. 5:20-31, Ezek. 21:121***

**LESSON # 68 (10-7-03)**

 Greedy national leaders continued, ***Micah 3:9-11.***

10. Greed motivation in the occult, ***Ezek. 13:17-19.***

11. Money will buy many things, but it will not buy salvation, love, security, peace of mind,

true friendship, health, confidence, courage, contentment, character, commitment, or true happiness.

12. Money causes the rich to have faith in wrong objects, ***Mk. 10:25, Lk. 16:19-31.***

13. Trusting in money is folly, ***Prov. 11:4,& 28***.

14. Lust for money destroyed Balaam, ***Jude 11, Rev. 2:14-15***. It corrupted Solomon*,* ***Eccl.***

1. ***5:10-6:2***. Ananias and Sapphira used money to gain approbation from others, ***Acts 5:1-10.***
2. Review the nine points on the MAS of Greed on pages 38-40.

**LESSON # 69 (10-9-03)**

#### Crusader Lust

1. Kindness, such as feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, giving to the poor and

needy, and other acts of charity, done with proper motivation, are not only helpful but mandated by the Word of God, ***Prov.25:21; Ez.18:7‑8, 16‑17; Rom 12:20.***

1. The proper motivation includes freedom from self‑promotion or personal aggrandizement for both believers and unbelievers, and the filling of the Holy Spirit for believers only.
2. Acts of charity are never permanent solutions for the problems of mankind, ***Deut. 15:11; Mt.26:11; Mk. 14:7; Jn. 12:8.*** The old sin nature quickly corrupts good intentions, so the only lasting solution is the personal, spiritual one: believing in Christ for the unbeliever; and, spiritual growth from learning doctrine for the believer.
3. People can get so preoccupied with their service that they neglect Bible doctrine.

 Christian service organizations often have a lot of trouble because many of the people

 involved do not learn Bible doctrine or grow spiritually. Instead, they assume that their

 Christian service is spiritual growth. But the two should not be confused.

1. Arrogance or lust motivation parlays good deeds and Christian service into dead works or

 evil, or both. Arrogance substitutes Christian service for spirituality and its momentum

 in the Christian way of life. It is not the deed or service itself that matters but the status of

the believer performing that deed.

1. Believers get involved in crusader lust by applying temporal solutions to the problems of

 life when spiritual solutions are available. Satan is always trying to deceive believers into

 buying the idea that the solutions to our problems are physical rather than spiritual.

1. Crusader lust is the effort to whitewash the devil’s world with human good solutions.

The two Power Options/ Spiritual Skills, **1)** Filling of the Holy Spirit **2)** Cognition and application of Bible doctrine, must be used for true divine good to be produced.

8. Christian service, like all functions of divine good, is always the result of the filling of the

1. Holy Spirit as well as cognition and inculcation of Bible doctrine.

 ***Col. 3:23‑24 - Whatever you do, accomplish it from the soul as to the Lord and not to***

 ***mankind; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance***

 [escrow blessings]. ***You serve the Lord Christ.***

9. If a believer is not filled with the Holy Spirit, he will have wrong motivation in doing good

deeds. This can easily result in complaining, grumbling, whispering, and disputes.

#####  Phil. 2:13‑14 - For God [Holy Spirit] works in you, both to will and to do His good

#####  pleasure. Do all things without complaining [whining, fault-finding, grumbling, dis-

#####  satisfaction, murmuring, griping, irritation] or strife [disputing, arguing, controversy,

 quarreling].

10. Many people confuse activity that is considered to be good with growing up spiritually.

 Usually those people are sincerely trying to do things that are pleasing to God, but they lack

 the knowledge that service is a result of spiritual growth and not the cause.

1. People with crusader lust often have a competitive attitude.
2. They compete with others in order to become the spiritual king of the mountain.
3. They compete in order to be better than others and to gain the choicest and the most

 blessings from God.

1. Sometimes they compete with others in order to feel better about themselves and to

 feel worthy of God’s blessings.

1. People who do not believe or who are confused about dispensationalism think that they can

 bring about the Millennium by crusading for the greater good. Some even think that we are

 living in the Millennium now.

1. ***James 4:6*** tells us to resist the devil, and many believers take this to mean that they must

attack those things they see as wrong. We resist the devil when we learn and apply

doctrine. But we are never commanded to go on the attack against the devil or anything else.

1. The good intentions in crusader lust can easily be parlayed into evil when they promote

 Satan’s agenda. Examples:

1. Demonstrations and legal action against capital punishment
2. Civil disobedience
3. Homosexual activism
4. Prosecution of parents who use corporal punishment

**LESSON # 70 (10-14-03)**

e) Masonic Lodges

1. Invasive laws such as: Seatbelt laws, Open container laws, Gun control Laws, Blue

 Laws, and laws that restrict the free exercise of religion.

1. Satan has promoted the establishment of organizations that entice ignorant believers to get

 involved in crusaderism.

 A.C.L.U. **A**merican **C**ivil **L**iberties **U**nion (**A**nti **C**hristian **L**iberals **U**nion),

 N.A.A.C.P. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,

 C.F.R Council on Foreign Relations

 K.K.K. Klu Klux Klan

 N.O.W. National Organization for Women,

 N.E.A. National Education Association

 U.N. United Nations

 W.C.C Worldwide Council

**LESSON # 71 (10-16-03)**

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#### Revenge Lust

1. When someone does us wrong or purposely harms us, we are to defer judgment to the

 Supreme Court of Heaven without entertaining malice, hatred, rancor, or revenge.

1. Revenge Motivation: A series of thoughts, decisions, and actions which seek through retaliation to get even or gain satisfaction for past wrongs, real or imagined.
2. When someone asks for forgiveness, we are to forgive them, forget it and move on.

We are to not allow any revenge motivation to get us into bitterness, implacability, vindictiveness, hatred, or any other reaction to get even.

4. The MAS of revenge is never by itself, it always is part of a cluster of MAS such as fear

worry, and anxiety along with anger, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, jealousy, and

 implacability.

1. Vindictiveness: Having a revengeful disposition involving retribution and punishment; comes from the Latin **vindicta** which means “vengeance and punishment.” This mental attitude is what gives motivation to the first negative mandate of Lev.19:18:

***Leviticus 19:18 - Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.***

1. Jealousy is also a part of revenge motivation and revenge tactics. A jealous person is capable of going to extreme lengths to bring down the person they are jealous of.
2. Implacability is refusing to forgive someone who is seeking forgiveness. They are not

 forgiven because the implacable person is not yet through with seeking revenge.

1. One of the worst things a believer can do is to hold a grudge against someone. It poisons

 the soul as bitterness takes hold and voids any chance for happiness. Let go of the

 anger, and let God take care of it.

***Romans 12:19 - Never take your own revenge but leave room for the wrath of God for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord1 Pet. 3:9 - Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. Heb. 10:30 - For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. Proverbs 20:22 - Do not say, “I will repay evil.” Wait for the Lord and He will deliver you. Ecclesiastes 11:10 - Remove vexation [ ka‘as: anger, spite, wrath, bearing a grudge ] from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting. Matt. 18:35 - This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart. Genesis 50:15 - When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph should bear a grudge against us and pay us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!” v. 19 - But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? v. 20 - “And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” Eph. 4:31-32 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Col. 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

**LESSON # 72 (10-21-03)**

1. Forgiveness is the other side of the coin from seeking revenge. We are required by scripture to forgive those who are seeking forgiveness, however this does not mean that we are required to accept those who do not seek forgiveness.

 a) This does not mean that we are allowed to judge them, to hold a grudge, or have animosity and ill will towards them. We are to love them unconditionally.

 b) There are times that we must apply the doctrine of separation.

1. Our relationships with others must always be patterned after God’s relationship with us.

 While God’s forgiveness is undeserved, it certainly is not unconditional*.* The Lord’s

 forgiveness is only offered to those who acknowledge their sin.

***2 Chr. 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name*** [believers]***, shall humble themselves and pray*** [rebound]***, and seek my face*** [learn B.D.]***, and turn from their wicked ways*** [apply B.D.]***; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***

***Colossians 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*** Does the Lord forgive us if we don’t take responsibility for our sins by acknowledging them to Him?

1. Unconditional love does not require or result in unconditional forgiveness. Unconditional love demands that we have no MAS toward those who have offended us, but it does not demand that we forgive those who are not seeking it.
2. Undeserved forgiveness and unconditional forgiveness are two different things. One is commanded and one is not. Unconditional forgiveness is not to be equated with unconditional love.
3. If a person repents of their wrongdoing, it doesn’t make them deserving of our forgiveness, it makes them eligible.
4. On the surface, it might seem noble to forgive unconditionally, but unconditional forgiveness is usually motivated by fear more than by love. Instead of it being a helpful act of love, it actually is a hindrance to those who need to recognize and acknowledge the wrong they have done.
5. Tolerating an ongoing wrong in order to preserve a relationship is like putting a coat of paint on a rusted out car. It won’t last, and you wind up with a bigger problem.
6. Continuing a relationship that has been injured by unacknowledged wrongdoing is a pseudo relationship. There is always an underlying tension that prohibits any true closeness. Sweeping it under the rug is no solution.
7. The first step in repairing a relationship is to face the one who has damaged it by pointing the problem out to them.

***Luke 17:3 - Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against you, rebuke him; and if he repent*** [changes his mind]***, forgive him.***

 ***Lev. 19:17 - Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor***

 ***frankly so you will not share in his guilt.***

 ***Prov. 17:10 - A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred***

 ***lashes a fool.***

 ***Prov. 27:5 - Open rebuke is better than secret love.***

***James 5:19-20 - My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.***

1. Most believers are afraid to confront the offender face to face. They are afraid if they do, it might mean the end of their relationship. What they don’t understand is that the relationship is already over, and the only chance to rekindle it is by rebuking the wrongdoer, thereby giving him a chance to repent and seek forgiveness.

**LESSON # 73 (10-23-03)**

1. Unconditional forgiveness is an affront against justice and a denial of the significance of sin and its cruel effects. It enables sinful behavior to continue because it condones it. There are things that we are not to condone and that we are not to tolerate. Our love should be unconditional, but our forgiveness must be conditional.
2. If the wrongdoer asks for forgiveness, what should we do?

***Luke 17:4 - And if he trespass against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to you, saying, I repent*** [change his mind]***; you shall forgive him.***

1. Once a person has asked for forgiveness and we have given it, there must be no strings attached. We don’t bring it up again or try to hold it over them in any way

***Proverbs 18:19 - A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.***

1. ***Matthew 18:15-17*** gives us a detailed explanation as to how to resolve conflicts between believers.
2. Things that will not help resolve the situation
3. Ignore it. Ignoring a problem allows it to spread like a cancer, eating away at

 the relationship.

1. Attack the person. The mistake is attacking the person instead of the issue.

 Heated arguments and name-calling only exacerbate the situation.

1. Involve the wrong people. We must be careful not to involve people who are

 more interested in spreading gossip than restoring relationships.

 ***Prov. 16:28 - A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close***

 ***friends.***

1. Talk too much. Resolving conflicts requires open ears and a closed mouth. We must

 truly listen to both sides of the issue.

1. Cover it up. "Oh, just forget it." "Let's put it behind us, and move on” These sentiments are fine but only if they are genuine.
2. Neglect timing and tact. Timing is crucial. Usually, common sense will indicate

 best time to attempt a reconciliation. We should have an objective attitude ready to

 take responsibility for any wrong that we have done.

1. Discard it. Relationships are too important to not invest the time and energy it takes to repair them. They are not disposable like so many things are in our “throw-away” society.
2. Love is the most important part of restoring broken relationships:

 ***Eph. 5:1-2 - Therefore be followers of God as dear children. And walk in love, as***

 ***Christ also has loved us.***

1. What love is not:
2. Love is not only feelings. Often in broken relationships, positive emotions are re-

placed by negative ones. These must not be allowed to determine our course.

1. Love is not phony. Forced smiles and fake expressions of kindness do not help.

 Pretending that love is genuine when it isn’t does harm, not good.

1. Love is not man-made. We cannot manufacture the type of love needed to seek

 reconciliation with those who have wronged us, but the H.S. can, ***1 Cor. 6:19.***

1. Love is not retaliatory. Our first inclination is to get even when we are wronged, but we must choose to do what is right towards others no matter what their response is.

d) What love does:

1. Love overrules personal feelings. The fact that our emotions may not be back to

 normal is no excuse to allow ourselves to be nasty, sarcastic, or mean. We are

 required to forgive those who seek forgiveness regardless of what was said or

 done.

1. Love looks in the mirror. Before we try to straighten out the other person, we had

 better make sure that our thinking is right.

 ***Mt. 7:5 - You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then***

 ***you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.***

1. Love makes the first move. It is easy to sit back and wait for the other person to

make the first move to reconcile, but that comes from the MAS of pride and stubbornness. Being the first to reach out takes courage and humility which the H.S. and B.D. supplies.

e) ***Eph. 4:1-3 - As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the***

 ***calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing***

 ***with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through***

 ***the bond of peace.***

1. Often times, people view initiatives toward reconciling as weakness. So in an effort to maintain their dignity, they refuse to take steps to approach estranged friends or to be approached by them. The problem is an absence of humility.
2. The fact that a person may be right in a conflict is not an excuse to “play the victim,”

 seek sympathy from others, or demand that the other person grovel at their feet.

1. Criticism, misunderstanding, and rejection cause pain that we naturally seek to

 avoid. But if personal conflicts are to be resolved, the hurt involved in the

 process must be endured. Christ suffered for us, we should do no less for those

 we love.

f) What if your efforts to repair a relationship are rejected?

1. Remember that God does not hold us responsible for the results, and you shouldn’t

 blame yourself. It takes the effort of two people to make a relationship work. If you

 have done all you can and the other person rejects all of your efforts to reconcile, then he or she is the one that must answer to God.

1. We should be patient, gentle, and courteous to them and keep them in our prayers. We must endeavor to treat them right no matter how they feel or act towards us.
2. The help of a third party is sometimes required. The apostle Paul mediated a dispute between a servant named Onesimus and his master Philemon.

 **LESSON # 74 (10-28-03)**

1. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is true in maintaining relationships:
2. Talk openly and honestly with those you are close to. This strengthens trust and brings people closer together. It also puts an end to silly mind games, pettiness, and competition.
3. We should always have mutual respect for each other. This means that we must not be rude, thoughtless, insensitive, or cruel. We don’t try to be funny at their expense.
4. We should be willing to share each others problems, we should be eager to help in any way we can, and we should not be too proud to accept help when it is offered.

***Gal. 6:2 - Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.***

1. We must not be selfishly concerned only with what we can get from a relationship.

 We should be happy to give all we can without keeping score.

1. We must be patient. It usually takes time for people to make changes in their

 behavior and attitudes, so we should not expect changes to occur overnight.

1. ***Matt. 18:15-17*** gives us the mechanics of restoring relationships, but we must remember that unless our relationship with God is right first, we will have problems forming and maintaining relationships with everyone else.

**LESSON # 75 (10-30-03)**

17. More scriptures on Revenge: ***Matt. 18:15-20, Ezekiel 25:12-17, Obadiah 1:11-14***

1. ***Jeremiah 20: 1-3 & 7-11, Jeremiah 15:15-16***

**LESSON # 76 (11-4-03)**

#### Criminal Lust

1. Criminal activity is the function of the arrogant and angry person. Anger always adds wrong to wrong, sin to sin. Rejection of all the above authorities means you have the potential of becoming a criminal.
2. Criminals often resort to unlawful violence. Definition of violence: an exertion of physical force so as to injure or abuse; injury by distortion, infringement, or by profanation.
3. God hates unlawful violence:

***Prov. 6:17 - “hands that shed innocent blood"***  [Criminality]. ***Prov. 6:18 - “a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil”***  [Criminality].

1. Crime has are no social boundaries. People from every social strata get involved in crime.

The idea that poverty is the cause of it is a fallacy. Criminality is a matter of decision, not environment. All criminality is the product of human volition.

1. Criminals are all alike in one way - what they think. Humility is a mental attitude just as

 criminality is a metal attitude. All criminals think that they should not be responsible,

 answerable, or accountable to any authority in life.

1. Profile of a criminal:
2. He is totally preoccupied with himself, totally subjective, totally arrogant, and therefore, totally irresponsible. He has a colossal ego, considering himself to be superior to all other people and too superior to work at an ordinary job.
3. He either does not understand, or he totally rejects the concepts of freedom, the privacy of others, and the sacredness of life and property.
4. He is insensitive to others and has no sense of obligation to the institutions of

 marriage, family, or government. He uses people and relationships in life to get want

 he wants because he is totally self-absorbed.

1. He is an immature person because he does not take responsibility for his own

 decisions in life. He considers all his problems to be someone else’s fault. He has no

 consideration for the pain and loss that he causes in other people’s lives.

1. All liars are not criminals, but all criminals are liars. For the criminal, lying is a way of life. He is a pathological liar, and he habitually deceives. He lies so often that he comes to believe his lies. He says whatever is necessary to get what he wants. His habitual lying is a demonstration of his total disregard for the truth in any form.
2. The arrogance of rejection of parental authority results in disorientation to authority in life in

 general. Rejection of authority begins in the home and extends to every facet of life.

1. Criminality begins early in life and extends into the teenage years. As a result, criminality

 becomes a way of life.

1. Anger plays a major part in the life of a criminal. Anger is a sin and therefore applies to the

 entire human race, but criminality is characterized by chronic uncontrolled anger. It may

 be outwardly suppressed for a time, but inwardly it boils continually.

1. The criminal uses his anger and lack of control to get his way. Most people are intimidated when another person loses control, and the criminal uses this to his advantage.
2. The criminal has no capacity for life, happiness, or love, so he is easily bored by life, even when things are going his way. Therefore, he is addicted to excitement, and he seeks constant excitement from sex, torture, alcohol, or drugs to get his kicks.
3. Criminal arrogance rejects Bible doctrine which is the only real source of help and hope.

Sometimes, God grinds criminals into dust in order to neutralize their arrogance so that they will be humble enough for truth to penetrate their souls.

**LESSON # 77 (11-6-03)**

13. Christian Criminality

1. Some refuse to admit that a true Christian can be a criminal. The criminal believer, just

like the criminal unbeliever, is anti-authority, anti-establishment, a liar, and a con artist. He can be guilty of theft, rape, and any other crimes that unbelievers commit, including murder.

1. It takes more than rebound for the Christian criminal to recover; he must learn a vast amount of doctrine, and apply it so that he changes his way of thinking. Complete occupation with self must be converted to occupation with Christ. Belief in superiority must be converted into impersonal love toward others.
2. ***Eph. 4:28a* -** ***He who stole up to now, from now on stop stealing . . .*** demonstrates that a believer can recover from a life of crime.

14. Misconceptions about criminals and criminality:

1. The criminal is mentally ill. Wrong! He is anything but sick. He is rational, smart, calculating, and deliberate in his actions.
2. Criminals do not know right from wrong. Wrong! In fact, some know the laws better

 than their lawyers. They believe that whatever they want to do at any given time is

 right for them.

c) Criminals are victims of poverty, broken homes, racism and a society that denies

 them proper opportunities. Wrong! Crime knows no social boundaries.

d) Inferior schools, legalistic churches, lack of parks, clubs, and sport facilities are at

 the root of the crime problem. This is a myth.

 e) Economic hard times cause people to turn to crime. Wrong! Most poor people are

 law-abiding. There is much more crime now than there was during the great depression in the late 1920s.

 f) Criminals frequently claim that they were rejected by their parents. But rarely does

 a criminal say why they were rejected. Usually it is because they were sneaky,

 liars, defiant, thieves, and made life unbearable at home. It was the criminal who

 rejected his parents, not the only way around.

g). Criminal activity is a disease. This is frequently said by people who try to avoid

 taking responsibility for their own action.

1. Human character is easily shaped by external events. Wrong! Criminals are already thinking about committing crimes and have already made their decision to commit a crime before they ever read anything in books, newspapers, or see violent crime on TV.
2. Crime cannot be controlled apart from the use of capital punishment. Capital punishment

 puts teeth in the law. The only thing that deters many criminals from committing crime is

 the fear of death, ***Gen. 9:5-6, Ex. 21:12, Lev. 24:17 & 24, Num. 35:30, Deut. 19:11-13,***

 ***Rom. 13:3-4.***

1. The way we deal with criminals is a travesty. We keep building more and more prisons,

 and yet, are plagued by more crime. Ancient Israel had no prisons and crime was under

 control, ***Num. 35:11-14, Josh. 20:2.***

**LESSON # 78 (11-11-03)**

#### Pleasure Lust

1. “Pleasure” definition – the gratification of the senses or the mind; agreeable sensations or emotions; the excitement, relish or happiness produced by enjoyment or the expectation of good as opposed to pain and dread; a source of delight or joy; frivolous amusement.
2. Like so many things in life, there is nothing wrong or intrinsically evil with pleasure. God designed our bodies so that we can receive and give pleasure. Pleasure becomes a problem only when we allow it to become more important than it should be.
3. We live in a hedonistic society. Hedonism is the idea that pleasure or fun is the sole chief

 purpose in life. Hedonistic calculus is a method of determining the rightness of an action by

 balancing the pleasure and pain that it would produce.

4. Epicurus had a school in Athens, that competed with the schools of Plato and Aristotle. Several

fundamental concepts characterize his philosophy. In ethics, his basic concepts are the identification of good with pleasure and of supreme good and the ultimate end being the absence of pain from the body and the soul. In ancient **polemics**, Epicureanism was employed with a generic meaning as the equivalent of hedonism, the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the only intrinsic good. Popularly, Epicureanism means devotion to pleasure, comfort, and high living, with a certain elegance of style, though these meanings are only generally related to Epicurus' actual teachings.

5. WHAT GOD TAKES PLEASURE IN:

 ***1 Chr. 29:17 - . . . God, has pleasure in uprightness . . .***

 ***Psa. 35:27 - Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.***

 ***Psa. 149:4 - For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.***

 ***Zeph. 3:17 - The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great***

 ***pleasure in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.***

 ***Psa. 147:11 - The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his***

 ***unfailing love.***

 ***Psa. 149:4 - For Jehovah takes pleasure in his people: He will beautify the meek with alvation.***

 ***Eccl. 5:4 - When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure***

 ***in fools; fulfill your vow.***

 ***Ezek. 18:23 - Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign***

 ***LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?***

 ***Ezek. 18:32 - For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone,***

 ***Heb. 10:6 - In whole burnt offerings and (sacrifices) for sin thou hadst no pleasure:***

 ***Heb 10:38 - Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have***

 ***no pleasure in him.***

**LESSON # 79 (11-13-03)**

 WHAT WE SHOULD TAKE PLEASURE IN:

 **Psa. 111:2 - Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.**

***Psa. 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in***

 ***the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD,***

 ***and on His law he meditates day and night.***

***Prov. 24:14 - Know also that wisdom is sweet*** [pleasurable] ***to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.***

***Eccl. 12:1 - Remember your Creator*** [by taking in B.D.] ***in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble*** [old age] ***come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them…"***

MISDIRECTED PLEASURE:

 ***Prov. 18:2 - A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own***

 ***opinions.***

***Prov. 1:22 - How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?***

***Prov. 17:16 - Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?***

***Prov. 21:17 - He that loves pleasure shall be a poor man: He that loves wine and oil shall not be rich.***

***Eccl. 2:1-2 - I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?"***

***1 Tim. 5:6 - But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.***

***James 5:5 - You have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; …***

1. ***Pet. 2:13 - They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.***

**LESSON # 80 (11-18-03)**

**We have studied in detail most of the Mental Attitude Sins and the different types of lusts so that we will be able to recognize them and defeat them by focusing on the doctrine that neutralizes them. Now we will focus on what happens if we fail to deal with them properly.**

THE DOCTRINE OF FRAGMENTATION

A. We will start with the second of the seven imputations in the plan of God which is Spiritual Death.

 1. Spiritual death means:

 a. We are totally separated from God.

 b. We are in a state of total depravity.

1. c. We are totally helpless to do anything about our depravity or our separation from God.

 d. We are born dichotomous, having only a body and soul but no human spirit with

 which to understand spiritual phenomena.

 2. Consequently, the old sin nature becomes the villain in our lives.

 3. The old sin nature has various characteristics.

a. In our area of strength, we are not prone to temptation or sin. This can become the basis for self-righteous arrogance, the source of human good which is dead works.

b. Our area of weakness is the source of all the sins of mankind.

c. The lust patterns with trends toward self-righteous legalism or lascivious

1. lawlessness.
2. The area of strength produces human good works and dead works. The area of weakness produces sinfulness and fragmentation of the life.

 5. All the sins we commit follow one of two trends.

 a. Sins from one's self-righteous, legalistic trend result in moral degeneracy.

 b. Sins from one's lascivious, lawless trend result in immoral degeneracy.

6. People with opposite trends polarize in their fragmentation. Therefore, believers out of

1. fellowship fall into two antithetical categories.

B. The Grenade Analogy:

1. Since every believer continues to possess the old sin nature after salvation, they are walking grenades. The pin of the grenade is the arrogance complex. Within ten seconds of pulling the pin, we fragment our lives by entering the cosmic compound.
2. However, only the volition of the believer can pull the pin of the grenade. Being tempted by the sin nature is not sin; it is only when volition pulls the pin of the grenade that the believer sins. The Rebound technique was designed to recover from this fragmentation.
3. Once a believer uses his volition to pull the pin in the grenade, he has fragmented his own life. Then he loses his focus, succumbs to distractions in life and is overcome by MAS.
4. The pin of the grenade is always related to some form of arrogance. The multifarious manifestations of arrogance include jealousy, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, implacability, self-pity, self-righteousness, self-centeredness, revenge, slander, maligning, gossip, judging, inordinate ambition, and inordinate competition.

 5. The fragmentation of the life moves in the direction of the trends of the sin nature.

1. a. If the trend is toward self-righteous arrogance and legalism, the fragments of the
2. life include being critical and judgmental, committing sins such as slander, gossip,
3. maligning, judging, and Christian activism.
4. b If the trend is toward lasciviousness and lawlessness, the trend is toward alcohol,
5. sexual, and even criminal sins.

**LESSON # 81 (11-20-03)**

6. The trend toward self-righteousness and legalism produces heresies. One example: saying that you cannot commit certain sins and still be a Christian. The believer can commit any sin an unbeliever commits. This trend results in several categories of heretical conclusions.

 **a.)** Salvation by works **b.)** Spirituality by works **c.**) A misunderstanding of

 our Lord's teaching, ***"by their fruits you shall know them." Matt. 7:15-16***

1. From a misinterpretation of this verse, self-righteous Christians conclude that we are not really Christians unless we show the proper manifestations of it.

 8. The trend toward lasciviousness and lawlessness results in anti-nomianism and reaction

 against Bible doctrine because it is associated with self-righteous arrogance.

1. 9. Once the believer pulls the pin of the grenade by getting into arrogance, he has had it.
2. His life blows up right in his own face.

C. Scripture warns against pulling the pin of the grenade.

1. ***Proverbs 11:2 - When arrogance comes, then comes dishonor; but with the humble is wisdom.***
2. ***Proverbs 16:18 - Arrogance precedes destruction, and before a fall there is a lifestyle of arrogance.***
3. ***Proverbs 29:23 - A person's arrogance will bring him low, but a lifestyle of***

 ***humility will attain honor.***" The real issue is not your ability, but your humility.

1. ***Psalm 59:12 – let them be caught in their arrogance."***
2. ***James 4:6 - God gives more [greater] grace. This is why the Scripture says*** [Proverbs 3:34], ***`God makes war against the arrogant*** [believer]**, *but He gives grace to the humble*** [believer].***'***  God makes war on any arrogant believer who is in Satan's army, one of his disciples.

6. ***1 Pet. 5:5-6 - In the same way, comparative novices, be under the authority of the pastors. All of you in the congregation, fasten yourselves to each other with humility*** [grace thinking], ***because ‘God makes war against the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.' Therefore, humble yourselves*** [become grace oriented] ***under the mighty hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time."***

1. You humble yourself under the powerful hand of God by being willing to comply

 and adapt yourself to the imperatives found in the Word of God.

1. Self-promotion is not part of God’s plan. If God doesn't promote you, you're not

 promoted. **You can be successful and yet have a fragmented life.**  The only way

 you can be promoted within the limitations of your capacity is when God promotes you.

 c. God promotes prepared people.

 d. God promotes the humble or the grace oriented individual.