

# Heritage Baptist College Salt Lake Bible College

Salt Lake City, UT



## Christian Character III.

by  
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## INTRODUCTION

In this study we will first discuss What am I and What Is a Man - biblically. Then we will go on to the bulk of the study which is a study of the Perfect Man, Jesus Christ. We will study His character, actions, feelings, strengths and weaknesses, and any other things that are taught in the Bible about Him. From those varied facets of the life and thoughts of Christ we will discuss various things, such as: what God expects of us, how and why we may fall short and how to remedy those shortcomings, working toward our goal of being “**conformed to the image of His Son**” which is God’s predetermined goal for our lives as men and Christians.

**Romans 8:29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”**

In addition we will address various other precepts taught in God’s Word concerning the male gender; problems men face and God’s comments concerning those problems and the solutions He has for them. This we will do by looking at various male characters throughout the Bible.

In addition to these forays into the Bible’s teachings we will have periods of questions, answers, and comments by the men of the group. In these general discussions, each man will be given an opportunity to speak to those questions and comments should he choose to do so. Always, of course, we will refer back to the Bible and what it says about that particular topic because it is our final authority.

**NOTE: This is just a suggestion concerning possible interaction through comments from the men in the group. Use the textbook any way that you deem appropriate for your group. Having comments from the men are at your discretion. It is a good way to encourage interaction from the men in the group; however, it may or may not be appropriate for your group and the setting in which the group is meeting. You decide what is appropriate.**

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**Doc Van**

## LESSON ONE WHAT AM I?

### Made in the Image of God:

The first thing that a man needs to know is - **What Am I?**

**Gen 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”**



This simple statement by God tells us exactly what we are as men. We are the physical creation of God, made in His image and likeness, and we are to be in dominion over His Creation.

### I. Direct creation by God

We were created directly by God during the sixth day of Creation. **“Let us make man..” (Gen 1:26)** and inherit our physical, mental, and spiritual makeup from Adam and Eve.

According to **Genesis ch. 1**, God had made a perfect Universe with a perfect biosphere, Earth, on which He placed a garden, Eden, **Gen 2:8**, in which, according to **Gen 1:26**, He placed His highest Creation, Man. Originally it was Adam alone but soon God fashioned a perfect counterpart, woman, to be with the man as an equal partner in the Garden of Eden.

**Gen 2:21-23 “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”**

Fashioned from the side of Adam, she was the feminine to his masculine. The “she” was **“taken out of man.”** God had now divided the masculine and the feminine of His creation, Man, into two beings; each to compliment the other. Then, when joined in marriage, He makes them one being again- in His eyes. (**Gen 2:24; Mt 19:5, 6, 8; I Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31**)



How they were divided in twain in the Garden and joined together again as one in marriage will be discussed in depth in the later chapter on **Man and His Relationships**. However, in this current segment we are concentrating on the masculine - Adam/Man, divided from Eve/Woman, who was directly created by God.

### **DEFINITIONS: for the two parts of the self-reflection questions:**

There are various definitions for the word “*feel*”. For our purposes we want to use the following definition.

“*feel*” or “*feelings*” - “*an emotional state or reaction*” Merriam Webster Dictionary  
 “*emotions*” - “*love, anger, joy, hate, fear*” see longer list below.

### **List of Emotions**

Amazed	Foolish	Overwhelmed
Angry	Frustrated	Peaceful
Annoyed	Furious	Proud
Anxious	Grieving	Relieved
Ashamed	Happy	Resentful
Bitter	Hopeful	Sad
Bored	Hurt	Satisfied
Comfortable	Inadequate	Scared
Confused	Insecure	Self-conscious
Content	Inspired	Shocked
Depressed	Irritated	Silly
Determined	Jealous	Stupid
Disdain	Joy	Suspicious
Disgusted	Lonely	Tense
Eager	Lost	Terrified
Embarrassed	Loving	Trapped
Energetic	Miserable	Uncomfortable
Envious	Motivated	Worried
Excited	Nervous	Worthless

***think*** - We will define ***think*** as:

***to bring your faculties of reason to bear upon the subject***

1. Consider the following question and choose accordingly from the list of feelings on the previous page and put your answer(s) in the “***feel***” line. You may chose more than one feeling but list them in order of strength, from strongest to weakest and add a short comment if need be. Or, alternatively, just list one feeling if you prefer.
2. Then think about the implications of (1) the question and/or (2) think about your feelings about the question and then briefly answer the “***think***” part of the question. You may do either or both of (1) and (2); it is your choice.



**How does that make you feel knowing that you, in Adam, were directly created by God? What do you think about that fact?**

***feel:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***think:*** \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Created in the image and likeness of God:

### Image:

Gen 1:26

**“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”**

*image* - Heb. **צלם** *tseh'-lem*, From an unused root meaning to *shade*; a *phantom*, that is, (figuratively) *illusion, resemblance*; hence a representative *figure*, especially an *idol*: - image, vain shew

This direct creation of God, Man, is the very *image*, the *representative figure*, of God himself. This precluded the possibility of man ever making an idol (an image or a representative figure) to represent our God. God has already done this and that *idol* (the image and representative figure of God) that He has made was Man. No figure of stone or wood nor any materials of the creation, earth, air, wind, fire, as the ancients called the elemental building blocks of creation and later adding water, stone, and metal, could match the flesh, blood, and bone, animate image of God that He has already made of himself- Man. That fact is why God forbids the making of any idol by man, even one meant to represent God himself. **(Ex 20:4; Lev 26:1; Deut 4:28; et al)** Any idol made by man out of the inanimate matter of the creation must be inherently inanimate and, therefore, could only represent a “god” that is inanimate.

Adam, on the other hand, the idol (image) made by God himself, is inherently animate and as a living creature is fully capable of representing the living God. Although Adam's flesh was made from the inanimate elements of the Creation, “... **dust of the ground...**” **Gen 2:8**, the soul, the person carried about within the biological machine, the body of flesh, blood, and bone, was directly infused into Adam by the animating breath of God himself.

**Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

Infused with the animating Spirit of God, with whom Adam was filled by God himself at the creation, man is the exact living image of the living God and he alone is to show God to all of mankind and, incidentally, to the entire Creation of God. Animate, living, sentient, and intelligent, man is the only representation of God allowed in God's Creation.

### Likeness:

Gen 1:26

**“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”**

*likeness* - Heb. **תוֹמַר** *dem-ooth'*, *resemblance*; concretely *model, shape*; adverbially *like*: - fashion, like (-ness, as), manner, similitude.

The addition of this word solidifies the teaching that man is not God but a **similitude** of Him.

**similitude** Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary

1. (n.) The quality of being similar or like; resemblance; likeness; similarity; as, similitude of substance.
2. (n.) The act of likening, or that which likens, one thing to another; fanciful or imaginative comparison; a simile.
3. (n.) That which is like or similar; a representation, semblance, or copy; a facsimile.

This also gives a differentiation between man and the other creatures of God's Creation. Man is made in God's own image; this is said of no other creature.

**“Man was not made in the likeness of any creature that went before him, but in the likeness of his Creator; yet still between God and man there is an infinite distance.”<sup>(2a)</sup>**

**I Corinthians 15:39 “All flesh is not the same flesh: but *there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.*”**

Men are not made of the same flesh as the beasts, fishes, or birds but are a separate creation of God. Not made in the likeness and image of fleshly creatures but in the image and likeness of God himself. Part of that image, the intellect, allows man to deny the lusts of the flesh when he chooses to do so. In Man, intellect can overpower instinct but it takes an act of the will in order for Man to do so.

### **Similarities between Man and Beast:**

It has been often noted that man and beast share many characteristics and biological processes. Many have used this to bolster their presentation of the false theory of evolution.

*Biological similarities:* The functioning of the human body and the functioning of the bodies of mammals are nearly identical. Heart, lungs, brains, liver, kidneys, stomach, etc., are just some of the physical similarities between humans and, especially, the beasts known as “primates” which are, according to the prevailing scientific theories, our closest “cousins,” so to speak. Our physiological similarities are, to say the least, quite striking.

For the purposes of our current study it is not necessary for us to go into lengthy in-depth scientific definitions of primates. Therefore, we will settle for a few simple dictionary ones.



**Short (non-scientific) definitions of a primate <sup>(4a)</sup>**

*any of an order (Primates) of mammals that are characterized especially by advanced development of binocular vision, specialization of the appendages for grasping, and enlargement of the cerebral hemispheres and that include humans, apes, monkeys, and related forms (as lemurs and tarsiers)*  
(Merriam-Webster)

*a member of the most developed and intelligent group of mammals, including humans, monkeys and apes.* (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

*a mammal of the order Primates, which includes the anthropoids and prosimians, characterized by refined development of the hands and feet, a shortened snout, and a large brain.* (American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 4th Ed.)

It is obvious that most definitions, coming from an evolutionary basis and proceeding from a Scientific Worldview, include humans in the order **Primates**. What is the answer to this fact that man shares much in common with certain of the beasts? We will address that question in the following section, beginning with genetic make-up.

**Genetic make-up**

Added to the similarities just addressed, most of which are largely based upon physical characteristics or manifestations of intelligence, are the deeper similarities; the nearly identical genetic makeup of men and beasts and, to a lesser extent, our similarities to plants, fish, and fowl.

**CHECK OUT:**

[http://www.thehumangenome.co.uk/THE HUMAN GENOME/Primer.html](http://www.thehumangenome.co.uk/THE_HUMAN_GENOME/Primer.html) for more information.

The scientific information on the following pages is useful. However, although the statements concerning genetics is true and verifiable, the statement of cause, Evolution, is untrue. The Creation did not create itself, that is both unscientific and illogical. No substance can create itself nor can any object make itself out of self-made substance, there has to be a creator and a maker. We believe that God created the Creation's substance and organized it into objects. He is the prime cause of all that exists, specifically for our current discussion, man and beast, not evolution.

Therefore, we can study the science presented here and learn from it but we must reject its references to evolution. They are, as I said, both unscientific and illogical.

**“The language of the genes has a simple alphabet, not with 26 letters but just four. These are the four different DNA bases...(A,G,C and T for short). The bases are arranged in words of three letters such as CGA or TGG... It is possible to write a meaningful sentence with 25 letters instead of 26, but only just. Life**



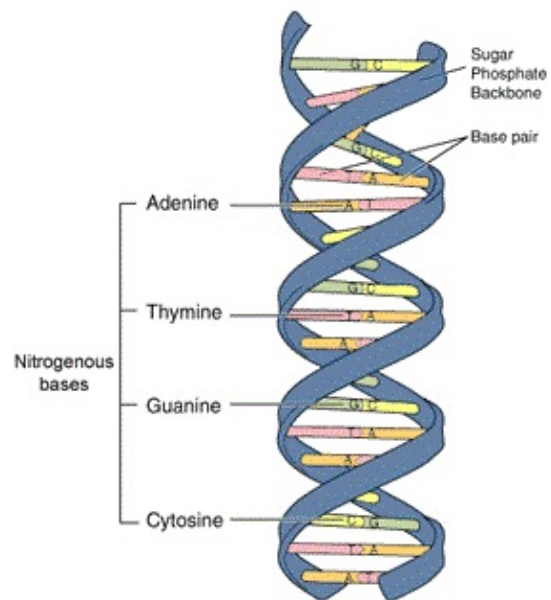
**manages with a mere four.” Steven Jones, Professor of Genetics, University College London, The Language of Genes, Harper Collins, 1993<sup>(6)</sup>**

**“Although we like to think we are special, our genes bring us down to Earth. DNA is what ties the entire living world together. It may well account for the extraordinary diversity among organisms but it also serves to underline their common origins - we all evolved from the same soup of chemicals... By studying non-human genomes, we gain insight into our own.” Monise Durrani, BBC Science<sup>(6)</sup> (emphasis added)**

**“This again reminds us of the unity of life - the fact that genes are not purpose-made for each organism, but rather evolution keeps on re-using its inventions over time.” Sir John Sulston, Director, Sanger Institute, UK<sup>(6)</sup> (Emphasis added - we will address this statement later.)**

**“75% of our genetic make-up is the same as a pumpkin - 57% the same as a cabbage.”<sup>(6)</sup>**

**“Mouse and man share 99% genetic similarity - including the genes to make a tail.”<sup>(6)</sup>**



**“Puffer fish and Zebra fish are so genetically similar to human beings that their genomes are being deciphered as ‘model’ organisms for research”<sup>(6)</sup>**

**“Genetic similarity between humans and chimpanzees is between 96% and 99.4%”<sup>(6)</sup>**

**“Every person on Earth shares 99.9% of the same genetic code; only 0.1% of our genetic makeup differs.”<sup>(6)</sup>**

**“The most famous breakthrough in modern science was the discovery of the structure of DNA – the genetic material of all organisms in nature.”** Faber Book of Science, Ed John Carey, 2005<sup>(6)</sup>

### **The answer to our question**

Now we can give thanks to science for the answer to the conundrum posed in the previous section, **“that man shares much in common with certain of the beasts?”**

God, not evolution, chose to make the Universe the way He wanted and the earth to support a certain kind of biological life. And that certain kind of biological life was what He created and placed in the earth environment to function in perfect harmony with that portion of His Creation. Some of that biological life was plant, some animal, some fish, some fowl, some insect, etc., and then Man, all of these “biological machines” made to fulfill a specific purpose in His Creation and all of these perfectly suited biologically to live in the earthly environment that He had created.

Since all of these had to live in this very specific environment, then all had to function, biologically, in a particular way. The best way to do this was to have them all constructed from the same basic building blocks of organic life. Voilla, genetics with its four DNA bases. As was stated above by Monise Durrani, **“(DNA) serves to underline their common origins - we all evolved from the same soup of chemicals...”** But if one chooses to view this from a Biblical Worldview instead of a Scientific Worldview, the “**common origins**” was not that **“we all evolved from the same soup of chemicals”** but that we all had the common origin of **“direct Creation by God.”** And DNA shows that commonality of the origin of all biological life on earth.

And science also answers how that commonality works and shows the reason for it. Rather than the Scientific Worldview statement, **“This again reminds us of the unity of life - the fact that genes are not purpose-made for each organism, but rather evolution keeps on re-using its inventions over time.”** we can paraphrase that statement to make it accurate, **“This again reminds us of the unity of life - the fact that genes are not purpose-made for each organism, but rather God keeps on re-using His inventions over time.”**

It is obvious that science shows us the reason for the biological commonality of all life on the Earth that God created as well as showing us the ingenuity of God. Why **“reinvent the wheel”** every time He made a new creature; instead, He made the first of each kind of plant, animal, fish, insect, and fowl using the same pool of building blocks that He had created, genes, and then implanted in each the mechanism for accurate propagation of their kind guided by the building blocks He used for each individual kind. Then, using those same basic building blocks, He created Man. All of these biological machines perfectly fitted for the biosphere He had created to house them, Earth, and all of them built from a perfect basic plan using perfect building blocks for construction and the perpetuation of their kind with a common, self-correcting material, DNA. **DNA – the genetic material of all organisms in nature.”** Faber Book of Science, Ed John Carey, 2005<sup>(6)</sup>

Since, biologically, we are kin to all other biological units of God's Creation, then our image and likeness to God must be other than biological. Which makes sense because God is a Spirit. This point, that we are made in the image and likeness of God, is directly germane to the issue at hand, **"What am I?"**

**Matthew Henry**

**"We have here the second part of the sixth day's work, the creation of man, which we are, in a special manner, concerned to take notice of, that we may know ourselves."**<sup>(2b)</sup>

(Emphasis added.)

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Ro 8:1** *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

Since we are made in the image of God and not in the image of the animals with whom we only have a physical similarity, do we owe allegiance to our animal similarities and should we live and project an animal image to the world? Should we live like animals or should we live godly and project a holy image to the world of a Holy God; in who's image we are made?



**How does that make you feel knowing that you are made in the image and likeness of God and represent Him to the world? What do you think about that fact?**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(You may refer to the list of "feelings" on page 2.)

## LESSON THREE WHAT IS A MAN?

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### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE and TWO: Made In His Image

**Gen 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”**



This simple statement by God tells us exactly what we are as men. We are the physical creation of God, made in His image and likeness, and we are to be in dominion over His Creation. We are to represent Him in the world and show His image to the world by living godly lives. And that's what we should have been as “lost” men! But we didn't. We chose to live in the flesh.

Now, as saved men, born again, we are commanded by God to live as “new men” as “new creations” in Christ. He has given us a second chance to choose to do right.

#### **II Corinthians 5:14-17**

- :14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:**
- :15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**
- :16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.**
- :17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

**We are commanded to make the right choice this time.**

**Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

**Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:**

**But we have to make the choice to “put on the new man.”**

**The second thing that a man needs to know is - WHAT IS A MAN?**

What is a man? Is he a macho hero that rides and shoots, with muscles like Shwarzenegger and a deep masculine voice resonating with power and authority? Or is he something totally different? To answer this question we will examine the issue from several different directions; but, finally we must, as in all things, go to the Word of God to get a definitive answer.

**I. A Man Is Not Defined By What He Does!**

Some of the most masculine men I have ever met turned out to be homosexual. When I worked as a musician I was booked to entertain in a homosexual bar in Canada. While working there I found that "Nellies," effeminate homosexuals, were few; while most of the homosexuals there were as masculine as any straight person I have ever met.

We often define a man by what he does, how he acts. However, when we do so we get things in the reverse order.

**Three things to consider:**

- 1. A Man Is Not Defined By What He Does**
- 2. What A Man Does Is (or should be) Defined By What He Is**
- 3. What A Man Does Defines Our Perception Of Him As A Man**

As I said earlier, I have met many homosexuals that were as masculine as any straight person I have ever met. Therefore, masculinity is not what makes someone a man.

**A. God decides what a man is.**

- 1. In the flesh, what a man is is determined by his development in the womb and is manifested at his birth.**

When in the womb certain things happen naturally to the unborn child. A combination of several hundred genetic, hormonal, and amino acid factors differentiate between a male and a female child in the womb. Also included are various external factors, such as malnutrition, and disease or hormonal dysfunction in the mother. By the time of birth these various factors culminate in the birth of either a male or female baby.

- 2. God designed these natural processes to differentiate between the sexes.**

God put these natural processes into order to bring about the birth of a male or female, a man or a woman. In the garden of Eden He initiated the differentiation of mankind into the two sexes, male and female, and instituted the natural processes of procreation to continue that differentiation.

***Differentiation stated:***

**Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

***Differentiation effected (how He did it):***

**Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

**Genesis 2:21** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

**Genesis 2:22** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

**Genesis 2:23** And Adam said, *This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

***Continuation of differentiation by natural propagation:***

**Gen 1:28** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply...**

God differentiated between man and woman and then gave them orders to continue that differentiation by natural processes that He set in order.

**B. Problems with natural propagation and growth in human-kind.**

**1. Corrupted natural propagation.**

Because of sin and the Fall, the natural processes that once operated perfectly have been corrupted.

**Rom 8:22** **For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**

The entire creation is corrupted, including the natural processes that allow it to function. And the natural function of human propagation to produce men and women is part of the natural processes that are corrupted.

**Hermaphrodites** - babies born with male and female genitalia.

("Hermaphrodite" is really a misnomer. Intersex is the proper term. However, we will continue to use the historically common term when referring to them in this study.)

Estimates range from 1 in 1500 to 1 in 150,000 births and various reasons are given. However, we know that the problem is we live in a fallen creation and things no longer work the way God designed them to work, at both genetic and physiological levels. All because of

the existence of sin in the Creation; orchestrated and brought to it by the Devil and willfully adopted and propagated by mankind.

## **2. Corrupted natural growth.**

Corrupted growth caused by corrupted natural processes can result in gender issues as the person progresses from birth, through puberty, to adulthood. This is the same corruption addressed in the previous section. A corrupted creation, corrupting the natural growth process, caused by sin that corrupted the Creation in the first place.

## **3. Corruption caused by societal influence.**

Today's push to normalize sexual deviancy is exacerbating the problem. The practice of abnormal sexual practices can cause hormonal changes in the perpetrator.

**“It is important to note that hormone levels themselves can be changed by behavior. For example, winning an athletic event has been shown to increase testosterone levels in males (Booth et al., 1989).”<sup>(6)</sup>**

This is just one example of how behaviour can affect sexual development. There are others. Therefore, when society promotes deviant sexual behaviour the result is negative physical changes in the processes that were originally designed to help the person mature in a normal sexual way. These negative reinforcements can result in physical reinforcement of abnormal physical changes in the person.

## **4. All corruption, both physically and societally, has man as the source.**

The corruption through ungodly acceptance of deviant behaviour by society is an affront to both nature and the God who set those natural processes in order. And since it is mankind's sin that caused the corruption of the natural processes in the first place, then it is mankind that is the sole cause of sexual dysfunction.

## **Addressing the “three things to consider”**

### **1. A Man Is Not Defined By What He Does**

Being a man is defined by God; not by the actions of the person.

### **2. What A Man Does Is (or should be) Defined By What He Is**

The way we act is, or should be, defined by what we are. Unfortunately, deviant behaviour is becoming accepted by society, which is causing the problem to worsen. Therefore, I had to add “should be” to the statement.

### **3. What A Man Does Defines Our Perception Of Him As A Man**

This is simple logic and observation. We all know or have known effeminate men. When it is seen in children and young boys, they are often called a “momma's boy” or a “wimp” or some other derogatory term; and causes us to wonder about their maleness.



Because of the perverse direction of societal acceptance today, I have had to add the following section.

### **Homosexuality:**

If a boy's effeminate behaviour persists into adulthood, then we begin to wonder if they are a homosexual. And the term "homosexual" is not, as society would have us to believe, what they "are" but what they "do." There is no physical difference between them and a "straight" person. The only difference is they are involved in the particular sinful sexual practice of homosexuality; which is no different than fornication, adultery, molestation or rape. All of these are sinful sexual practices. No one of those sins is any worse than any of the others. In God's eyes, Sin is sin!

**Jasmes 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law,  
And yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.**

The particular sin of homosexualit is addressed by God in Romans and other places; and it is shown to be the result of idolatry and lustful hearts. He also shows that it is not only a sin of rebellion against Him but it is even against the natural processes that He set in order.

**Romans 1:21-27 "(21) Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (:22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, (:23) and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. (*Idolatry*) (:24) Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: (:25) who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. (:26) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: (:27) and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."**

And they and the society that accepts them are both given over to a reprobate mind.

**Romans 1:28-32 "And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (:29) being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, (:30) backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,**

**(:31) without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful (:32) who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."**

**Transgender and transsexual** fall into the same category of sexual sin. The first carried to a lesser degree and that latter to the extreme.

Therefore, any man, made a man solely by God, that does not show his gender by his actions and goes the final step of practicing homosexuality, is under the curse of God. Which, according to **Romans 1:28-32**, is being given over to a reprobate mind. And the ones who accept that perverted sexuality are as sinful and reprobate as they are and are under the same curse of.

## **SUMMARY:**

### **1. A Man Is Not Defined By What He Does**

Being a man is defined by God; not by the actions of the person.

### **2. What A Man Does Is (or should be) Defined By What He Is**

The way we act is, or should be, defined by what we are. Unfortunately, deviant behaviour is becoming accepted by society, which is causing the problem to worsen. Therefore, I had to add "should be" to the statement.

### **3. What A Man Does Defines Our Perception Of Him As A Man**

This is simple logic and observation.

Therefore, to be in God's favor, a man needs to act like what God made him. And I am not referring to some Hollywood macho image, I am referring to God's definition of a man as given in the Bible.

(We will further define the characteristics of a biblical "man" in future lessons.)



**How does that make you feel knowing that you are a man, solely because God made you that way? What do you think about that fact? (You may also address any of the 3 points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW:**

**Lessons One to Three showed that we are a Direct Creation of God and that we are Made in His Image and, therefore, should show a godly image to the world. And we are a man because God made us that way.**

The word "image" is also translated as "idol." God created man (human-kind) in His image, as an idol to represent God to the Creation, including all of that Creation known as human-kind. That is why He prohibits any false idols created by man because they are not the idol that He chose to represent Himself and can never truly give a representation of Him. Any idol (image) created by man can only be dead stone, metal, or wood; or, in the animistic religions, the idol worshiped is a dumb animal, bird, or insect, that is a slave to its instincts. On the other hand, the image that God created and approves of, man, is a living, wilful, intelligent being; i.e., the image of God Himself and the only image that can truly represent a living, wilful, intelligent God. And when we were conceived we were male, a man, because God made us that way.

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**LESSON FOUR**

We will now begin a study of the Character of a Man. To do this we have to start with God's Perfect Man, Jesus Christ.

**The Need for Character:**

**"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."**

(Martin Luther King - "I Have a Dream" speech delivered on Aug. 28, 1963 to 250,000 people)

**People only know your reputation; but only you and God know your true character.**

**Oxford dictionary:**

*character- 1. The mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.*

**Collins English Dictionary:**

*character- 1. countable noun,*

*The character of a person or place consists of all the qualities they have that make them distinct from other people or places.*

**Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary:**

*character- the particular combination of things about a person or place, esp. things you cannot see, that make that person or place different from others*

**Question:** What made Jesus different from other people?

**Answer:** He chose to have all of the qualities that others have only in limited number.

Jesus was fully human. Therefore, every character quality that he had was human and every human has access to the same qualities as Jesus. Jesus chose to have positive character qualities and every human being has the ability to choose to have them also. They are all inherent in the essence of every human being and every human being can choose to develop them or not develop them.

**Parental teaching and inherent conscience:** Every parent has the responsibility of developing positive qualities in their children. Some do but many do not. However, this is not an excuse for a human being to not have those qualities because God has given a thing called conscience to every human being to guide them away from the negative qualities and direct them toward the positive ones. Each human ultimately must choose for him or her self to develop either the negative or the positive by choosing whether to listen to or ignore their conscience. A parent not teaching their children may be a reason why someone does not develop positive character traits through childhood but it is not an excuse for not developing them as one grows to adulthood.

**Learning:** Another reason no person has an excuse for not having positive character traits is because God has given us the ability to learn. For a person to be raised in a home without proper parental teaching or to choose to ignore their conscience may temporarily result in a lack of character but everyone learns as they grow. As we do, we observe positive character in people and experience a gut feeling that what those people have is something positive. We then can either strive to get what they have or, conversely, turn away and continue on as we had before. However, if we do turn away, then we have no excuse for not striving to develop positive character traits because we have seen a better way and willfully refused it.

In this lesson we will continue with the **Learning** part of the process for developing good, manly, biblical character.

## THE CHARACTER OF JESUS

The character traits of Jesus, as a man, are many. Below is a partial list of the more usual ones.

### 10 Character Traits of Jesus To Emulate

(From an article at [www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com](http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com))

#### 1) Compassionate

Jesus never looked away from people; He always looked upon them and had compassion (Matthew 9:36). Whenever people were around him, Jesus understood what their real needs were and sought to address them. For some, physical healing was necessary, for others the root issue was spiritual. In all cases though, Jesus took the time to actually notice that people were hurting—and His compassion drove Him to help them.

**2) Servant**

Without a doubt, Jesus was the ultimate servant. Although He was praised as a great teacher and even had a decent following, He made sure to teach them to be servants by actually doing it himself. In Mark 10:45, Jesus even tells everyone: “the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve” Despite having the authority to get anything He wanted, have people praise and pamper him, He did the exact opposite by lowering himself and serving others.

**3) Loving**

Obviously, Jesus had a love for others. If He didn't, He wouldn't be compassionate nor a servant. Jesus claimed that there is no greater love than to die for one of your friends—and He did just that. If anyone doubts His love, all they have to do is look upon the cross and see the agony that He bore for their sakes. He experienced that horrible death so that all can be saved. That, very clearly, is true love at its finest.

**4) Forgiving**

One of the most startling things said in Scripture is found in Luke 23:34, when Jesus is on the cross and proclaims: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Even while bleeding and experiencing pain, Jesus had His heart set on forgiveness—even forgiving those who put Him there in the first place! This is definitely contrary to the everyday mantra of looking out for number one and obtaining personal justice. Jesus was by no means concerned for His own life; all He wanted was to provide a way for forgiveness.

**5) Committed**

Jesus had no lack of commitment whatsoever. Wherever He was, or whoever He was with, He was fully in the moment and fully committed to His goals. Despite praying fervently in the garden of Gethsemane to avoid having to bear the cross and all that physical torture, He knew it was the only way to pay for everyone's sins, so He stayed completely committed to His goal. There were certainly many obstacles during His ministry, but He stayed on track and finished strong.

**6) Prayerful**

No matter how busy His ministry got, He found time to be alone and pray. Whether it is in the garden of Gethsemane, across a river, or on a mountaintop, Jesus disappeared for a while in order to pray to the Lord. People always tried to find Him, and He never turned them away, but He also made sure to make time spent with His heavenly Father a priority.

**7) Gentleness**

There were certainly times where Jesus used stern words, but He knew when gentleness was appropriate. Children seemed to love coming to him, and He made sure the disciples knew not to hinder them when they did so. When speaking with His disciples, mother, or other ladies, He could be very kindhearted and gentle. But, when He was giving someone a rebuke or making a point in an argument, He knew when turning up the heat was necessary and only did so strategically.

## 8) Patience

Throughout the gospels, Jesus clearly gets portrayed as a very patient man. After all, He was surrounded by disciples who constantly doubted him, Pharisees and Sadducees who continually attacked Him, and large crowds who wouldn't leave Him alone. Despite all of that, He kept His composure and responded appropriately to every individual.

## 9) Self-Control

Before His ministry was launched, Jesus spent time being tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. Although He was offered food, power, and many other things, Jesus controlled His desires and submitted them all to the will of the Father. Yes, He had desires for food and such, but He had a greater desire to obey the Lord and accomplish what He set out to do.

## 10) Humble

Jesus had every opportunity and right to demand praise and accolades for His miracles and teachings, but He never did! Even when the crowds sought to make Him king, He rushed away from their grasp. He did not want to become a sideshow performance that people could enjoy. Rather, He wanted to seek and save the lost and offer forgiveness for sinful people. Yes, He could have traveled around in order to show off His powers in other towns, but He chose not to.

Final Thoughts: The world doesn't need more role models, it needs more of Jesus—the ultimate role model. People will not find a better person to emulate positive character traits from than Jesus Christ himself.

Guest Post By Michael Krauszer

There are other character traits possessed by Jesus; but the ones listed above will give us plenty to consider for several months to come.

## I. Compassion

**"Jesus never looked away from people; He always looked upon them and had compassion (Matthew 9:36). Whenever people were around him, Jesus understood what their real needs were and sought to address them. For some, physical healing was necessary, for others the root issue was spiritual. In all cases though, Jesus took the time to actually notice that people were hurting—and His compassion drove Him to help them." (Michael Krauszer)**

**Mat 9:36 "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."**

**compassion** - εσπλαγχνισθη, (*splangk-nidz'-thay*) *to have the bowels yearn, that is, (figuratively) feel sympathy, to pity: - have (be moved with) compassion*

In “**A Short History of Philosophy**,” which examines the philosophies and religions of the world, compassion is recognized as a central virtue of Christianity as well as in several other religions. Most notably the Northern Buddhists. They, like the Christians, hold it central to their beliefs and to a lesser degree so do the practitioners of Confucianism. On the other hand, Hinduism's various sects do not consider compassion to be necessary because of reincarnation which is predicated upon the belief that a person's current state was dictated by their actions in one or more previous lives. This teaching, summed up in the idea of **karma**, leads the believers to deny that compassion is righteous because it is for the good of the downtrodden and suffering one to leave them that way. By leaving them to suffer the Hindu believer is sure they are actually helping them because only through their sufferings can they learn the lesson(s) they need to advance in the next life after their next reincarnation. If they suffer and learn, they will advance upward. If the suffering is alleviated by someone showing compassion on them, then they will have to suffer again, maybe even worse, in their next reincarnation. According to the law of **karma**, for a person to show compassion on them and give them help, which is generally prompted by feelings of compassion, is, therefore, not actually helping the person; it is harming them and preventing them from spiritual growth toward Nirvana, or, as some call it, enlightenment.

**Two roads:** We Christians have but two roads to travel. The road of compassion, which prompts us to proffer help to the suffering, or the road of disinterest to the suffering of others.

The primary virtue of Christianity, and Christ, is the character trait of Compassion. As the epitome of manhood, we need to learn from Christ to develop and use Compassion as one of the foundational blocks of our manhood as we seek to emulate His manhood.

### **Two Spheres of Compassion:**

1. Physical
2. Spiritual

To show compassion as Jesus did we must show it in both of those areas, physical and spiritual.

**1. Compassion toward physical needs:** Compassion toward a person with physical need was always shown by Jesus. This is verified in two ways:

- A. Physical healing of sickness and infirmities.

**Matthew 9:35 “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”**

Also see the healing of the blind, the palsied, the woman's issue of blood, and other healings in **Matthew chapter 9**. Also the large number of other healings in a multitude of references. Even to the raising of the dead, in the story of Lazarus in **John chapter Eleven**.

**B. Physical needs of the body.**

**The feeding of the five thousand told in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.**

We are told in James chapter two that we are to meet the physical needs of those who lack. This is as much a physical proof of our compassion as works are the physical proof of our Faith.

**James 2:15-16 “If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”**

What good are words without action in compassion and in faith? Both are shown to be **alive**, i.e., shown that they do exist and are properly functioning, by our actions.

**2. Compassion toward Spiritual needs:**

**A. Jesus always met the spiritual needs of those He met.**

**Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”**

**B. We are commanded to do the same. Meet the spiritual needs of everyone in the world.**

**Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”** (Also see the Great Commission in Matthew.)

**II Corinthians 5:18-20 “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”**



It was the last command He gave before ascending to Heaven.

**Acts 1:8-9 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”**

C. God commends the righteous man and names compassion as one of his virtues. He goes further and pronounces a blessing on them and a promise of peace because their heart is fixed upon God and trust in Him. As God helps him, the righteous and compassionate man, then he, to show his compassion, in turn helps others. **Read Psalm 112**

## **TWO WARNINGS:**

1. Do not think, as many do, that Compassion is effeminate or a show of weakness. Christ was neither effeminate nor weak. He was the epitome of strength and manhood but His compassion was an integral, you might even say the foundational, trait of His character.
2. Anything carried to an extreme becomes destructive. God tells us that even His compassion, and His long-suffering, has limits.

**Genesis 6:1 “... My spirit shall not always strive with man...”**

When people practice sin, not just get into it from time to time, but practice it continually, then the compassion of God comes to an end. God's judgment then comes into play. In the story of Noah in Genesis chapter six, the world was given over to sin, and the judgment of God was The Flood. This was God's judgment on mankind; but it was also His show of mercy and compassion in saving the race through Noah and his family.

Christ also had an end of his compassion. Most noticeably when He was faced with the religiosity of the Pharisees and the Saducees; the religious leaders of the day who were leading the people into false practices of Judaism. He pronounced judgment upon them. However, at the same time He showed compassion on them. He knew that they had to be confronted with their sin so that they would have a chance of repenting and getting right with God. He knew they would not but He gave them their one last chance anyway, through confrontation. Because of their refusal of it, this turned out to be His final show of compassion on them. As it is for many people whom He will not enable to continue in their sin.

Therefore, we have to be aware that compassion carried to an extreme can become enabling. There is an old saying, **“Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”** We have to be careful that our compassion is shown in the right way. The actions brought about by our compassion need to be like Christ's. He showed His compassion by doing something positive in the person's life. Not an enabling momentary filling of their needs that would encourage them to continue in their negative

behavior, but a filling of their needs that would encourage them to pursue positive behavior. We need to do the same. You do not feed a lazy man who will not work. But you do feed a hungry man who cannot work. Then you try, out of compassion, to help the needy but impotent one find a way to work and meet their own needs.

Refusing to feed the lazy is also showing them compassion. It is showing them that they need to develop positive behavior and take care of themselves and regain some of their honor and self-respect. Then you show them compassion by showing them how to do that. That is the driving motive behind the Rescue Mission that offers a full-time recovery program to help men back into productive society and give them back their self-respect and help them to become a godly man, one pleasing to God. That is why we are involved at the Rescue Mission; because that program is a showing of godly compassion toward the down and out.

### **Summary:**

Yes, we are to show compassion. It is the primary character trait of a man as it was of Jesus. We also must, as God does, not allow compassion to be perverted into enabling. True compassion knows its limits. It is to be shown toward everyone, both physically and spiritually, because to do otherwise is to fall short of true biblical manhood. But it must be shown differently to different people. To some it is meeting their needs, but in a way that will help them up. To others it is with-holding temporary help that would only enable them to continue in negative behavior; and then showing them more compassion by offering to help them learn to develop positive behavior.

Compassion is of God and is a foundational character trait of true manhood. And it is always shown by our actions.

### **Remember from Lesson Three:**

### **What A Man Does Defines Our Perception Of Him As A Man**

We are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have compassion on others and show it to them by trying to help meet their physical and spiritual needs.



**How does that make you feel knowing that compassion is expected of you and that it is one prime indicator of your Christianity and your manhood? What do you think about that fact? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON FIVE

### The Character of a Man - 2) Servant

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#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE and TWO: Made In His Image

**Gen 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ...”**



This simple statement by God tells us exactly what we are as men. We are the physical creation of God, made in His image and likeness, and we are to be in dominion over His Creation. We are to represent Him in the world and show His image to the world by living godly lives. And that's what we should have been as “lost” men! But we didn't. We chose to live in the flesh. But now, as saved men, born again, we are commanded by God to live as “new men” as “new creations” in Christ. He has given us a second chance to choose to do right.

**Lessons One and Two showed that we are a Direct Creation of God and that we are Made in His Image and, therefore, should show a godly image to the world.**

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#### REVIEW of LESSONS THREE and FOUR:

##### Review of Lesson Three:

##### **Three things to consider:**

##### **1. A Man Is Not Defined By What He Does**

Being a man is defined by God; not by the actions of the person.

##### **2. What A Man Does Is (or should be) Defined By What He Is**

The way we act is, or should be, defined by what we are. Unfortunately, deviant behaviour is becoming accepted by society, which is causing the problem to worsen. Therefore, I had to add “should be” to the statement.

##### **3. What A Man Does Defines Our Perception Of Him As A Man**

This is simple logic and observation. We all know or have known effeminate men. When it is seen in children and young boys, they are often called a “momma's boy” or a “wimp” or some other derogatory term; and causes us to wonder about their maleness.

If a boy's effeminate behavior persists into adulthood, then we begin to wonder if they are a homosexual. And the term “homosexual” is not, as society would have us to believe, what

they “are” but what they “do.” There is no physical difference between them and a “straight” person. The only difference is they are involved in the particular sinful sexual practice of homosexuality; which is no different than fornication, adultery, molestation or rape. All of these are sinful sexual practices. No one of those sins is any worse than any of the others. In God’s eyes, Sin is sin!

Therefore, to be in God’s favor, a man needs to act like what God made him, a man. And I am not referring to some Hollywood macho image, I am referring to God’s definition of a man as given in the Bible.

**Review of Lesson Four:**

In Lesson Four we began the study of the Character of a Man; based upon the character of God’s Perfect Man, Jesus Christ.

**We began with the first of the 10 Character Traits of Jesus To Emulate**

(From an article at [www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com](http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com))

**Compassion:**

Jesus never looked away from people; He always looked upon them and had compassion (Matthew 9:36). Whenever people were around him, Jesus understood what their real needs were and sought to address them.

**Two Spheres of Compassion:**

1. Physical
2. Spiritual

For some, physical healing was necessary, or the meeting of their needs such as food. For others the root issue was spiritual. In all cases though, Jesus took the time to actually notice that people were hurting, that they were in need, and His compassion drove Him to help them.

**Two Warnings:**

1. Compassion is not effeminate nor is it a show of weakness. Christ was neither effeminate nor weak. He was the epitome of strength and manhood but His compassion was an integral, you might even say the foundational, trait of His character.
2. Anything carried to an extreme becomes destructive. God tells us that even His compassion, and His long-suffering, has limits. We must never allow our Compassion to be perverted into enabling.

We are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have compassion on others and show it to them by trying to help meet their physical and spiritual needs.

## **LESSON FIVE**

### **The Character of a Man**

#### **1) Compassion 2) Servant**

The primary character trait of Jesus was Compassion. Now we will study the second essential trait of Jesus' character- Servant.

**“Without a doubt, Jesus was the ultimate servant. Although He was praised as a great teacher and even had a decent following, He made sure to teach them to be servants by actually doing it himself. Despite having the authority to get anything He wanted, have people praise and pamper him, He did the exact opposite by lowering himself and serving others.”**  
**(Michael Krauszer)**

Christ came to serve, not to be served.

**Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”**

In the character of a true man, such as Christ, after Compassion comes the character trait of Servitude. This makes sense because true compassion will lead automatically into action; filling the needs, both physical and spiritual, of those on whom we have compassion.

**You will know if you have a servant spirit  
when people start treating you like a servant.**

Christ served others while He was here on earth. And they crucified him for it. How did He react? He served Judas exactly the same way He served the other Apostles. He taught all of them the same godly truths. He fed them all the same physical food. He washed their feet. And yet Judas betrayed Him and all of the others fled; including John who followed but stayed at a distance. After serving them all equally, after Judas betrayed Him and the others fled, and Peter even denied Him 3 times, He still served them- by dying for them and asking the Father to forgive them. *(We will study the character trait of Forgiveness in a future lesson.)*

**Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**

How do we react when others, whom we serve, betray us, turn their back on us, take advantage of us? Do we forgive them? Or do we seek vengeance.

**Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**

**Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.**

**Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place**

**unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.**

**Rom 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.**

**Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

### **Forgiving and Condoning:**

Forgiving and condoning are not the same thing. Forgiving is *not exacting due retribution for the wrongful acts of others*. Taking the hurt and not striking back. Condoning is *deeming the wrongful acts of others as not wrong at all*; i.e., to deem it to be acceptable behavior.

Christ forgave those who crucified Him, and asked the Father to do the same thing, but He did not condone their actions. He deemed their actions as deserving of punishment, but then He took their wrongs upon Himself and paid the price for them- death.

Therefore, if servitude is truly part of our character we will forgive those who take advantage of us and accept the price of their wrongdoing as our own. We will not try to “get even with them.” We will let it pass and continue being a servant to others. We must not let that bad experience sour us concerning our being a servant.

Let us not ever accept the sarcastic saying that has been around for hundreds of years:

**“No good deed ever goes unpunished!”**

We cannot let that sentiment take root in us and destroy that trait of our character known as “servant.”

### **Two areas of servitude:**

As it was concerning the character trait of Compassion, so it is concerning the trait of Servant. Both must operate in the two areas of human existence:

- 1. Physical**
- 2. Spiritual**

Christ was a servant in both of these areas. Physically, He fed them, washed their feet, and even paid their taxes when they could not do it. (**Matthew 17:24-27**) Then in the Spiritual area, He taught them godly precepts, gave them the Gospel (**John 14:6**), and met their spiritual needs, including Salvation through Himself.

To truly have a man's character we must show Compassion and then serve others. Which is the natural outworking of compassion- meeting their needs, both physically and spiritually. If we neglect either of those areas, physical or spiritual, then we do not have the character that God expects of every man. If they need physical help, be a servant and help them. If they need spiritual help, then serve them by giving them the Gospel so they can be saved and then bring them to Church where they can learn and grow spiritually through learning the Word of God.

We are made in God's image and are required to project that image to the world. And that image can only be seen by others through our expressions of Christlike character shown

outwardly to them from us. And they will judge our character by our actions and by our speech. Do we act like Christ in these areas and do we speak like Christ when talking to others? Do we try to serve them both physically and spiritually? And if an injustice is discussed concerning someone taking advantage of a helping hand, do we talk with the character of Christ “... forgive them...” or do we speak words of “get even with them” or “No good deed ever goes unpunished!”

## **You are the best Christian someone knows.**

The lost will judge your God, your Saviour, your Church, and everyone in your Church, by **you** personally!

Your character, your compassion, your servant nature and how you react when people treat you like a servant or even take advantage of you, will be their measure of the character of your God, of your Saviour, and of your Church and everyone in it. All of them, God and people, will be judged by your actions and your speech. Your character will be the measure of the character of your God and your group by the people who know you. Especially the lost ones.

### **Warning:**

Once again I caution you to not enable offenders. Forgive but do not condone. If someone takes advantage of your servant nature forgive them and help them again. But if they repeat the offense do not enable them by allowing such behavior to continue. Warn them, gently and lovingly, and try to help them out of such behavior. But if they then continue taking advantage, then your continuing to help them has become enabling. They will begin to think that you condone their behavior and they will not only continue taking advantage of you, they will also do the same to others. Serve them by trying to help them out of such destructive habits.

Christ was the perfect Compassionate Servant. The same is expected of us. To be a man is to have, or develop, the same character as Christ. But being a Compassionate Servant does not come easy or naturally to us. It must be discovered, developed, nurtured, and fed until it grows to become second nature to us. A part of our very essence; not just an outward pretense.



**How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to be a servant- physically and spiritually and teaches us that it is an essential part of true Christian character? What do you think about that fact? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

**feel:** \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

**think:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **LESSON SIX**

### **The Character of a Man**

#### **1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving**

#### **REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through FIVE:**

##### **ONE and TWO: Made In His Image**

**Gen 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ...”**

**Lessons One and Two:** We learned that we are a Direct Creation of God and that we are Made in His Image and, therefore, should show a godly image to the world.



#### **REVIEW of LESSONS THREE and FOUR:**

##### **Lesson Three:**

###### **Three things to consider:**

###### **1. A Man Is Not Defined By What He Does**

Being a man is defined by God; not by the actions of the person.

###### **2. What A Man Does Is (or should be) Defined By What He Is**

The way we act is, or should be, defined by what we are. Unfortunately, deviant behaviour is becoming accepted by society, which is causing the problem to worsen. Therefore, I had to add “should be” to the statement.

###### **3. What A Man Does Defines Our Perception Of Him As A Man**

This is simple logic and observation.

In Lesson Three we learned that to be in God's favor, a man needs to act like what God made him, a man. And I am not referring to some Hollywood macho image, I am referring to God's definition of a man as given in the Bible.

**Lesson Four:** In Lesson Four we began the study of the Character of a Man; based upon the character of God's Perfect Man, Jesus Christ. And the first character trait was Compassion.

##### **Compassion:**

###### **Two Spheres of Compassion:**

1. Physical
2. Spiritual

True biblical compassion must address both of those areas or it is not Christ-like compassion.

##### **Two Warnings:**

1. Compassion is not effeminate nor is it a show of weakness. Christ was neither effeminate



nor weak. He was the epitome of strength and manhood but His compassion was an integral, you might even say the foundational, trait of His character.

2. Anything carried to an extreme becomes destructive. God tells us that even His compassion, and His long-suffering, has limits. We must never allow our Compassion to be perverted into enabling.

### **Summary of Lessons One through Five:**

We are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have compassion on others and show it to them by being a servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual.

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## **LESSON SIX**

### **The Character of a Man**

#### **1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving**

The primary character trait of Jesus was Compassion; which led to His second character trait, Servant, which is a showing of true Compassion and a natural progression from it. Now we will study the third essential trait of Jesus' character- Love.

**“Obviously, Jesus had a love for others. If He didn’t, He wouldn’t be compassionate nor a servant. Jesus claimed that there is no greater love than to die for one of your friends—and He did just that. If anyone doubts His love, all they have to do is look upon the cross and see the agony that He bore for their sakes. He experienced that horrible death so that all can be saved. That, very clearly, is true love at its finest.” (Michael Krauszer)**

### **Love Is An Action Word**

Godly love always precipitates an action; i.e., it prompts us to show it to the object of our love.

#### **1. Love is a feeling (an emotion) that others can only perceive by our actions.**

An emotion, such as love, is an internal thing. Therefore, it is something that others cannot see. They can only see our actions, which, of course, are external.

#### **2. Christ not only loved, He showed that love to us; in life and in death.**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

**John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**

**:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.**

**:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

**:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

**:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

**Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”**

**Godly love is a giving love.**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave ...**

True, godly, love is a giving love.

We will use the example of love in marriage because marriage is such an integral part of human existence. The family has been the basic building block of civilization from antiquity. When any civilization has had a divorce rate over 50% it has fallen. And lack of love is the single most important factor leading to divorce.

In 2015, 75% of Americans claim to be Christian. Down from 80% in 2008 and down from 90% in the 1950s. (Gallup) And yet with three-quarters of the population still claiming to be Christians, the divorce rate is around 50%. Surveys have shown that the practice of religious faith is one of the most important factors for a successful marriage.

The following list is a comparison of those claiming to be Christian to those claiming no religious affiliation. *(Positive numbers are more likely to divorce; negative numbers are less likely.)*

Protestant – Nominal 20	Catholic -18	Jewish 39
Protestant - Conservative -10	Catholic (nominal) -5	Jewish (nominal) 53
Protestant- Active Conservative -35	Catholic – Active -31	Jewish – Active -9

It is obvious that those who are active in their religion divorce at a much less rate than those who claim to be a Christian but are not active. Why? The answer is, discipleship!

Those who are active in their religion, or, as the Bible calls it, “the faith,” going to Church, reading their Bible, praying, etc., are learning to practice their religion, not just claim it. They are not just “saved” they are disciples. Which is defined as “a learner/scholar.” And since love, godly love, is a character trait, and character is something that needs to be developed, then deeper discipleship means deeper development of character. The key principle is- practice.

As the character trait of love is used it grows. And the showing of it to others increases as it grows. More growth of character then more love and more expression of it outwardly, which results in more growth, which results in more expression of it, which results in more growth - - - etc. The summary is, the more you show your love the more it grows and the deeper and more godly, the more Christlike, your character becomes. And in the case of marriage, the more you practice your religion the more you will show your love to your mate, and the less likely you are to divorce. *(We will discuss marriage in a later lesson.)*

Godly love is a giving love.

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave ...**

**Giving out of godly love always gives the best not the least:**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son**

God gave the best, not the least. To have true godly character we have to have a love that only God can give us. And we are expected to show that love by giving the best, as He did.

**There should be no limit to the extent of our love:**

**John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

**We are commanded to show love to the lost, but especially to fellow Christians:**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave ...**

**John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

We are to love the lost as God loved them. **(John 3:16)** But we are to have, and show, a special love for other Christians. **(John 15:12)** For our character to grow we must develop our character trait of love to match that of Christ. We must love the lost, yes, but Christ commanded that we love one another as He loved us.

**We are to love our Church the same way we love our wives:**

**Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; :26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, :27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

We are to love our wives without reservation; and even to the death. And we are to love our Church the same way. The curse of many who call themselves Christians is the "Junk for Jesus" syndrome. They don't tithe, they don't give to missions, and when they give some type of article to the Church, often it is castoff junk.

**We are to love our enemies:**

**Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; :45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. :46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? :47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? :48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

We are to love them. And then God reminds us that love is an action word; i.e., it is something that we are to show to others.

We are to:

1. bless them
2. do good to them
3. pray for them

And what better way to “bless them” and “do good to them” and “pray for them” than to give them the Gospel and pray they accept Christ and get saved; and thereby gain a brother.

To love them as God tells us to do is an indication of our moral and mental character.

**:48 “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”**

**“perfect”** τέλειος - *teleios* - *complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); completeness:*

And that moral character, in the case of love for our enemies as it is in all matters of character, is to be to the exact same extent as that of God Himself.

**“... perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”**

**“even as”** ὡςπερ - *hoce'-per; just as, that is, exactly like: - (even, like) as.*

God expects our character to be exactly like His own. Including in our love shown to our enemies as well as to everyone else.

### How do we do this?

We have to train ourselves to forgive those who transgress against us as well as those who consider themselves our enemy? One way to start is:

### “Actions precede feelings.”

If we start to “bless them” and “do good to them” and “pray for them” then our hard feelings against them will start to fade and make way for God's love to show through us to them. And as for the people we naturally love, those who are not “our enemies,” we need to start showing it to them.



**How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to love exactly, and to the same extent, that He did; and teaches us that such love is an essential part of true Christian character? What do you think about that fact? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON SEVEN

### The Character of a Man

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE and TWO:

#### ONE and TWO: Made In His Image

**Gen 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ...”**

**Lessons One and Two:** We learned that we are a Direct Creation of God and that we are Made in His Image and, therefore, should show a godly image to the world.



#### REVIEW of LESSONS through SIX:

We are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. And we are to do this out of Love- love is an action word.

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## LESSON SEVEN

### The Character of a Man

#### 1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving 4) Forgiving

**“One of the most startling things said in Scripture is found in Luke 23:34, when Jesus is on the cross and proclaims: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Even while bleeding and experiencing pain, Jesus had His heart set on forgiveness—even forgiving those who put Him there in the first place! This is definitely contrary to the everyday mantra of looking out for number one and obtaining personal justice. Jesus was by no means concerned for His own life; all He wanted was to provide a way for forgiveness.” (Michael Krauszer)**

#### Christ's Forgiveness:

He forgave those who murdered Him! I say “murder” because he was found innocent but they executed Him anyway. To execute a man who has been found innocent is nothing other than premeditated murder.

**Luke 23:34 “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”**

#### Grace versus Law:

Under the Law it was Justice, not grace.

**Forgiveness Under Law:**

**Matthew 5:38** “Ye have heard that it hath been said,  
An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:”

**Exodus 21:24** “Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot”,  
**21:25** “Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”

**Deuteronomy 19:21** “And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life,  
eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”

For the lesser offenses, “eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot” it is intimated in Numbers 35:31, that the forfeiture might be redeemed with money; but it is provided that *no ransom shall be taken for the life of a murderer.*

**Numbers 35:31** “Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a  
murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death.”

Christ, as a man and an Israelite under the Law of Moses, could have rightly demanded the sentence of death for all of those murdering Him. And, as God incarnate, He could have rightly carried out the sentence of death upon those who murdered Him, and have done so instantly upon His own death. This would have been right and just under The Law. And, even further, the life of the murderer would have been **demanded** and **required** under The Law- without pity.

**Deuteronomy 19:21** “And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life...”

Under the Law, payment was **demanded** for all hurtful offenses. No mercy, no forgiveness, payment had to be made in kind, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, etc., or by appropriate monetary recompense paid to the person who was harmed. But in the case of the greatest offense that can be perpetrated against a human being, purposely and with premeditation, taking their life away (murder) the only payment accepted was life for life- the execution of the murderer- taking his/her life in payment for the life of their victim. As I said, no mercy, no forgiveness. Only recompense.

**Forgiveness Under Grace:**

**Luke 23:34** “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

Under Grace, Jesus forgave their offense and asked forgiveness for them from the Father instead of rightfully demanding the just punishment for their sin- death. However, He knew just punishment had to take place; but He himself suffered that just punishment for them by allowing himself to be crucified rather than having them executed. Thereby making divine forgiveness possible for them and for all of sinful humanity. And this offer manifests itself as Grace.

**Grace:** is defined as unmerited favour. Grace is offered but is predicated upon the fact that the Law was fulfilled- the blood payment was made by Christ and on Christ.

## Exception

There is, however, one place, even under Grace, where forgiveness is not forthcoming. In fact, forgiveness is not possible.

**Matthew 12:31** “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. (:32) And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

**Blasphemy/blaspheme:** βλασφημία *blas-fay-me'-ah*, to speak irreverently or to speak evil against; to utter obscenities to or about, railing (slander or reproach), vituperation (bitter and abusive language)

**“speaketh against the Holy Ghost”**

**“speaketh”** a word, including the thought, spoken or in writing **“against”** down or in the negative, **“the Holy Ghost”**

When you **know** it is the Holy Ghost working, trying to get you or someone else under conviction so they can be saved or edified or to empower them, and you reject Him outright or deny verbally that it is Him, many times for self-serving purposes, or utter obscenities to or about Him (if you are a lost person), then you are doomed. Yes, a Christian can do this also but cannot lose his Salvation over it; however, he will suffer the negative consequences in this world and in the next. (A surety of chastisement here in this life and a loss of rewards in the world to come- with no forgiveness available.)

## Christ's Forgiveness Knows No Bounds:

His forgiveness extended even to those who murdered Him. Not only did He forgive the lesser offenses that they committed against Him but He even forgave this supreme offense, the taking of His life even though He was found innocent.

**John 19:4-6** “Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. (:5) Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And *Pilate* saith unto them, Behold the man! (:6) When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify *him*: for I find no fault in him.”

In the face of (humanly speaking) the most extreme of injustices, Christ forgave to the extreme.

**But He Was God In the Flesh!**

I have heard this used as an excuse time after time from those who do not want to emulate Christ. Those who do not want to follow Him in ALL things. They say **“He was God, He can do that.”** (“That” meaning whatever it is that they do not want to do.) **“I’m only human, I can’t do that.”**

The falsehood in those arguments is two-fold:

1. Christ was God incarnate but He was also completely human. Many people try to make Him too much God and not enough human; while others try to make Him too much human and not enough God. Both are wrong. He was 100% God and 100% human. Therefore, to say **“I’m only human”** is to put oneself on a completely equal footing with Christ’s humanity. That means that what He did as a human being is exactly what we can do as a human being. He **decided** to forgive them. And He decided to do so- to the utmost.

He decided to act in the Spirit of love instead of in the flesh. It was an act of mental decision.

**2. “Yeah, but He was God and had the mind of God!”**

His humanity was not divided. Everything of His body, soul, and spirit, was human. However, if a person believes to the contrary, that Christ’s mind was the mind of God and not that of man, that still does not excuse any Christian from following Him in everything, including His act of complete forgiveness by a conscious decision of His mind.

**I Corinthians 2:16 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord,  
that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.**

We have the mind of Christ and because we do, we can choose what we will do, how we will react, whether we will operate in the Spirit or in the Flesh, in any and every situation. And this includes in the area of forgiveness. It is completely up to us whether we will forgive or not, no matter what someone does to us. We can make no excuse, we have absolute freedom of choice and the power to choose whether we will forgive or not. God has given us free will as well as the power to choose right from wrong.

**We have absolute freedom of choice in our actions.**

**- but -**

**We have zero choice in the consequences.**

**The Consequences of Not Forgiving:**

If we choose not to forgive, there are negative consequences to us.

**Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”**

**“as” in that manner**

In whatever manner we forgive, God will forgive us likewise. If we are lost, then we will



suffer consequences here as well as judgment and Hell and the Lake of Fire in the next life. If we are Believers, we also must suffer the consequences of our actions. We are not talking about loss of Salvation. The Bible teaches we cannot lose that. However, we can suffer the consequences of our unforgiveness by having to suffer the consequences of our actions in this world; and in the next life suffer the consequences of lost rewards and/or position. All of this brought about because of a withholding of God's forgiveness of our trespasses against Him; mirroring our failure to forgive those who trespass against us.

### **The Extent of Our Forgiveness:**

#### **1. In repetition of offense by other Christians.**

**Matthew 18:21-22** "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? (:22) Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

**Luke 17:3-4** "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. (:4) And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."

Many Church splits, divisions, and lack of growth can be directly traced to a failure of God's People to follow this precept.

#### **2. In severity of offense by Saved or Lost.**

Forgive as Jesus did- even to the death.

#### **3. Toward our enemies.**

**Romans 12:19-20** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (:20) Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

### **The result of our forgiveness:**

1. The blessings of God are upon us and forgiveness from Him is assured.
2. We are at peace with others and in return we reap the peace of God in our lives.  
(Even if others are not at peace with us, still, we are at peace with them.)

**John 14:23-27** "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (:24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. (:25) These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you."

**(:26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (:27) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

If we keep God's Word and practice it, including forgiveness, then we are promised the "peace" of God in our lives.

**Warning:** Let us not let forgiveness become condoning. Remember the scripture in Luke?

**Luke 17:3-4 "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.**

**Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."**

Loving rebuke from the Word of God and forgiveness are steps of restoration.

**Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."**

If we exhibit the character of Christ and sow forgiveness, we shall reap forgiveness and be another step closer to the peace of God in our lives. And to develop this character trait of forgiveness is to be one step closer to being a man- biblically.



**How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to forgive exactly, and to the same extent, that He did; and teaches us that such forgiveness is an essential part of true Christian character? What do you think about that fact? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

***feel:*** \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

***think:*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON EIGHT

### The Character of a Man

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through SEVEN:

We are made in God's image and we are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. And we are to do this out of Love. Love is an action word; and many times love must entail forgiveness.




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## LESSON EIGHT

### The Character of a Man

#### 1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving 4) Forgiving 5) Committed

**“Jesus had no lack of commitment whatsoever. Wherever He was, or whoever He was with, He was fully in the moment and fully committed to His goals. Despite praying fervently in the garden of Gethsemane to avoid having to bear the cross and all that physical torture, He knew it was the only way to pay for everyone's sins, so He stayed completely committed to His goal. There were certainly many obstacles during His ministry, but He stayed on track and finished strong.” (Michael Krauszer)**

#### Christ's Commitment to His Father In Heaven

**John 8:29 “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”**

Christ was committed to doing the will of His Father, in all things at all times. Even when in agony in the garden the night before His sham trial and crucifixion He remained committed to doing the will of His Father.

**Luke 22:41-42 “And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”**

#### Christ's Commitment to His Family

##### 1. His Commitment To His Earthly family:

Up to the moment of His death He remained committed to, and took care of, His earthly family. The only one left that He was responsible for, His mother Mary, He placed in the care of the Apostle John.

**John 19:26-27** “When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! (:27) Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*. ”

## **2. His Commitment To His Spiritual Family, the Family of God**

He acknowledged that the saved were His Spiritual family and He remained committed to them as family.

**Mat 12:46** While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. (:47) Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. (:48) But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? (:49) And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! (:50) For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

## **3. To His Church family**

His commitment to His Church family was also to the death.

**Acts 20:28** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

# **Christ's Commitment to the Salvation of Mankind**

## **1. Commitment Stated:**

**Mt 1:21** “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS:** for he shall save his people from their sins.”

**Luke 19:10** “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. ”

**John 6:37-38** “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (:38) For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (:39) And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. (:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

## **2. Commitment Fulfilled:**

By His Crucifixion He fulfilled His commitment to offer Salvation to all mankind.

**Heb 9:22b "... without shedding of blood is no remission."**

**Heb 9:14-15 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (:15) And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."**

**I John 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."**

And at His fulfillment of the payment required for the sins of the whole world, He remained not only committed but forgiving as well, to the death.

**Luke 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."**

**:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."**

### **Our Commitment:**

We are to be as committed as Christ in all of our relationships, to God, family, our Church and all mankind.

And the ground-rules for our commitment are to be the same as Christ's, (1) for the rest of our lives, (2) and if necessary, to the death.

### **1. Our Commitment To God, Our Heavenly Father**

This commitment begins when we receive His grace and become His child through Salvation which is given to us in Christ. **(John 3:16)**

He is our Heavenly Father:

**1Jn 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. (:2) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."**

Because He is our Heavenly Father, we should be committed to Him as much as Christ was committed to Him- in all ways, at all times, for the rest of our lives, and, if called upon, we should be committed to Him even to the death!

At the very least we should be committed to live for Him if not to die for Him.

**James 2:18 "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."**

We should be committed to living our lives in a way that shows our faith in God to be true and not a lie. To show it to be a living faith and not a dead faith. To show we truly are **“the sons of God.”**

**James 2:20 “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”**

**I John 1:6 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”**

**I John 2:4 “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”**

The way we live our lives shows the truth of our commitment to God!

## **2. Our Commitment To Our Earthly Family.**

**I Timothy 5:8 “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”**

**Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”**

We should be committed to our earthly family in life and even to the death. And again, the way we live our lives shows the truth of our commitment to our earthly family! **“... provide ... for our own...”** Commitment in action!

## **3. Our Commitment To Our Heavenly Family and our Church Family.**

Committed in love one to another. To love all Christians, which is the Family of God, as well as our brothers and sisters in our Church Family.

**1Jn 3:11 “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”**

Even to the death.

**1John 3:16 “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”**

This commitment to love the brethren is shown by our actions.

**1John 3:17-18 “1Jn 3:17 “But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (:18) My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”**

Once again commitment must be shown for it to be true!

**Commitment to our Church Family.**

Special care and commitment in our Church Family is not only commanded but it is necessary because we suffer and rejoice together! God wrote the following passage not generically to the Family of God, all the Saved, but He wrote it specifically to the Local Church at Corinth. Therefore, it is for every Local Church Family.

**I Corinthians 12:25-27** “That there should be no schism in the body (*the Local Church at Corinth*); but that the members should have the same care one for another. (:26) And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. (:27) “Now ye (*that Local Church*) are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

#### 4. Our Commitment To Mankind

We are to love all people, including our enemies, and committed to two things: treating them right and trying to lead them to Christ.

**Luke 6:27** “But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you”

**James 2:8** “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:”

**Galatians 6:10** “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

**Mark 16:15** “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

#### SUMMARY:

Commitment is required of a man. Commitment to God and the Family of God, to our Earthly Family and to our Church Family, and to all Mankind. Total commitment is required for us to truly have the character of Christ. Only then will we have a godly man's character as God defines it. And this character is to be shown by us in both life and to the death. We are to show our commitment in the way we live our lives in relation to both God and man.



**How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to be committed exactly, and to the same extent, that Christ did; and teaches us that such commitment is an essential part of true Christian character? What do you think about that fact? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON NINE

### The Character of a Man

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through EIGHT:

We are made in God's image and we are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. We are to do this out of love. Because love is an action word, many times love must entail forgiveness. And we cannot completely fulfill these things, or any others that God expects of us, without commitment.




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## LESSON NINE

### The Character of a Man

- 1) Compassion   2) Servant   3) Loving
- 4) Forgiving   5) Committed   6) Prayerful

**“No matter how busy His ministry got, He found time to be alone and pray. Whether it is in the garden of Gethsemane, across a river, or on a mountaintop, Jesus disappeared for a while in order to pray to the Lord. People always tried to find Him, and He never turned them away, but He also made sure to make time spent with His heavenly Father a priority.” (Michael Krauszer)**

#### The Two Types Of Prayer Defined

**prayer - a request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or some other deity**

Christ's prayer, of course, was always to the only true God, His Father, Jehovah. Various people in the bible prayed, sometimes to the true God and sometimes to false gods. In this study we will address only prayer to the true God, Jehovah, The Father.

**supplication - to request earnestly and/or humbly**

The two terms, prayer and supplication, are used interchangeably in the bible. The reason for this is because supplication is a type of prayer. Therefore, interchangeable use is quite acceptable. However, the definitions given above show us that there are differences in the purpose for which prayer is being offered. Because of those differences in purpose, God sometimes led the translators to use specifically the word *supplication* in a particular place to reinforce the idea that the one praying is asking for something in that particular passage of scripture rather than giving thanks.

To clarify this distinction we will dissect the Lord's Model Prayer. We will also add a third element to prayer which is not mentioned in the definitions above- praise and acknowledgment of God for who He is and personal subservience to His will.



In the book of Luke, chapter 11, we are told that one of Jesus's disciples asked him to teach them to pray. We will show the difference between prayer and supplication, and also show the third element mentioned above, in His response to their request. We will use the best known account of the Lord's Prayer, which is found in chapter six of Matthew.

### **First Portion of the Model Prayer**

**Matthew 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (:10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."**

In this first portion of the Model Prayer we see that Jesus is acknowledging the Father for who He is, the holy and all powerful sovereign King of both heaven and earth. In addition Jesus is expressing subservience to the Father's will- **"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done..."** A good word to sum up this first section would be- praise.

### **Second Portion of the Model Prayer**

**Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread. (:12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (:13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:"**

In this second portion of the Model Prayer Christ is giving us a perfect example of supplication, that is, asking for something. In this case it is asking for several necessary things: (1) daily sustenance, (2) forgiveness in the same measure as we show forgiveness to others, (3) guidance in our lives to deliver us from evil.

### **Third Portion of the Model Prayer**

**Mathew 6:14 "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."**

In this last portion we are returned to praise and acknowledgment of the Father for who He is- the Eternal, Omnipotent, Sovereign of heaven and earth as was stated in the First Portion of the Model Prayer.

Knowing that God is these things we can have assurance that God is able to answer any prayer we may offer to Him. In addition we are acknowledging that we want His will done in our lives. We are willingly placing ourselves in subservience to Him and His will. This we do because we know that His will is to give us and do for us what is best for us and that He is able to do so in both heaven and earth. We have confidence in the God of glory in all things and, here in this prayer, we first acknowledge that fact and praise Him, and then present our petitions to Him, and then again we praise Him as the true Eternal, Omnipotent, Sovereign of the universe in whom is all glory. This is the teaching of the Model Prayer.

Too many Christians pray only with a **"gimme, gimme"** mentality. Leaving out praise and acknowledgment of God for who He is, they only come to Him in the attitude of those who command the genie in the bottle of the stories of the Arabian Nights. They act as if He

should appear and grant their wishes whensoever they call Him and then they put Him back in the bottle of their minds to be forgotten until the next time they need something of Him. This ought not to be so! Yes, there are times when a short prayer is offered because we should always be in an attitude of prayer and time and circumstance may prevent lengthy and in-depth prayer; but that should not be the only kind of prayer we offer to God. There needs to be times of serious, ardent prayer. Times when we get alone with God in our “prayer closet,” which can be anywhere and anytime we can get alone with Him for one on one communion, and offer heartfelt praise to Him, including acknowledgment of who and what He is, and then after that petition Him for our needs. And at the end of that time we need to remember Him and praise Him as the all-powerful Sovereign to whom pertains all glory. This type of prayer is pleasing to God and in accord with the model prayer that the Lord Jesus gave to us. This type of prayer is prayer of confidence, assurance, subservience, and acknowledgment of the God of glory who is able and willing to answer our petitions.

### **Our Emulation of Christ's Prayerfulness**

Does the bible command that we be prayerful? The following scriptures teach that it does.

**We are to always pray and keep at it:**

**Luke 18:1 “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”**

The parable to follow is of the widow woman who came with a petition for justice to the Judge of a city. The judge granted her petition because of her importunity, that is, she kept after it and would not stop. She did not faint; she was persistent in her petitioning of the Judge. We should be the same in prayer, persistent, not fainting, not stopping, coming constantly to God with our petitions. But remember the Model Prayer, we need to come properly and ardently in our persistent prayer.

**We are to always be in an attitude of prayer:**

**I Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”**

But don't forget to give thanks for answered prayer and everything else God gives.

**I Thessalonians 5:18 “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”**

And this means “**in every thing**” not just in the good. Because everything God allows is best for us at that particular time.

**Nothing in your life happens but what God allows it or brings it. And it is ALWAYS the best thing for you at that particular time in your life!**

God's answer to your prayer, and He always answers, may not be what you want but it is always the best answer for you. That is why we need to go into prayer with a subservient attitude such as is taught in the Model Prayer.

**Sometimes prayer alone isn't enough to defeat certain adversaries:**

Sometimes we fight against those who are of the devil's legions. When we do, we need to add one more facet to our prayers. We need to set the body aside and enter into ardent prayer!

**Mark 9:29 "And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."**

Fasting sets aside the flesh, denies the physical, and allows us to enter into the spiritual realm unhindered by the physical realm. In these cases prayer alone is not sufficient, fasting is needed with it. It takes us deeper into prayer where more ardent prayer can be offered to God.

**Prayer coupled with godly living will cause even the Devil to flee:**

**James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."**

But godly living must be part of our submission to God.

**James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."**

And again we are back to the Lord's Model Prayer. Subservience to God's will in all things. An attitude of submission in prayer coupled with clean hands and ardent prayer will make even the Devil to flee.

Brother Clint Wilkins used to always say, "**No prayer, no power**" and that is absolutely true. If we feel powerless in our lives it is probably from a lack of prayer. Not just "**gimme, gimme**" genie in a bottle prayer but ardent importunate prayer with praise and acknowledgment of God, petitions delivered, and praise and submission to God in both mind and body as God teaches us in Matthew and James. If we pray as Christ prayed we will not only have power with God but we will be one step closer to developing the character of a truly godly man.



**How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to be prayerful exactly the same way and to the same extent that Christ was; and teaches us that prayerfulness is an essential part of a true Christian man's character? What do you think about that? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TEN

### The Character of a Man

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through NINE:

We are made in God's image and we are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. We are to do this out of love. Because love is an action word, many times love must entail forgiveness. And we cannot completely fulfill these things, or any others that God expects of us, without commitment and prayer.




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## LESSON TEN

### The Character of a Man

- 1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving 4) Forgiving  
5) Committed 6) Prayerful 7) Gentleness

**“There were certainly times where Jesus used stern words, but He knew when gentleness was appropriate. Children seemed to love coming to him, and He made sure the disciples knew not to hinder them when they did so. When speaking with His disciples, mother, or other ladies, He could be very kindhearted and gentle. But, when He was giving someone a rebuke or making a point in an argument, He knew when turning up the heat was necessary and only did so strategically.” (Michael Krauszer)**

**Gentleness and its companion, Meekness, defined:**

Secular definitions,

**gentle - *without harshness adj. soft, tender, meek***

**meek - *seemly and forbearing - yet strong enough to resist aggression***

**adj. *humble, quiet, gentle, and submissive***

Biblical definitions,

**gentle - *affable, that is, mild, kind; also meek, tame, peaceable, not wild or turbulent***

**meek - *mild of temper; soft; gentle; not easily provoked or irritated; yielding; given to forbearance under injuries***

#### Christ's Meek Gentleness Expressed

**Matthew 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (:29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (:30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

### **Toward Children**

His gentleness toward children can easily be seen in the way He treated them and spoke of them in the scriptures in **Matthew chs. 10, 18, and 19.**

**Matthew 10:42** “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

**Matthew 18:5** “And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.” (:6) But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

**Matthew 18:10** “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”

**Matthew 18:14** “Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.”

**Matthew 19:13** “Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. (:14) But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (:15) And he laid his hands on them ...”

### **Toward Abased Sinners - Even an Adulteress**

When the adulterous woman's accusers all left in shame, Jesus spoke gently unto her.

**John 8:10** “When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? (:11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”

Instead of harshly proclaiming she be put to death, as her accusers wanted, He was gentle toward her and proclaimed forgiveness instead. However, even though He forgave her sin, He did not condone her sin. He told her to “... go, and sin no more.” When we show gentleness and forgive someone in the face of offenses it is exhibiting Christlike gentleness but it is not condoning; rather, it is showing gentleness and mercy and a depth of character so lacking in today's unforgiving world.

Judgement for sin is always harsh, and rightly so. As is the payment for it; as harsh as Calvary and Hell. But forgiveness is always an expression of gentleness.

### **Toward Other Women**

**Luke 10:38** “Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

**(:39) And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. (:40) But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. (:41) And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: (:42) But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."**

No harsh rebuke of Martha or of Mary, who according to custom should have been helping her sister serve. Instead, He dealt gently with both. Even His rebuke of Martha was gentle in both tone and word.

### **Toward All Men**

While rebuking His longtime disciple Philip, it was only a gentle rebuke.

**John 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"**

And He spoke and showed gentle forgiveness toward all human kind. He could have rightly spoken and showed condemnation upon all of sinful humanity. Instead, He showed gentleness and spoke of the way of forgiveness.

**John 3:17 "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."**

Christ was gentle and forgiving toward all; but He did not condone sin. When harsh rebuke was necessary, as to the Scribes, the Pharisees, to all who willfully refused Him and His offer of forgiveness, to all who refused the wooing of the Holy Spirit, to all who were religious and self-righteous but rejected God and His Messiah, to these he gave harsh rebuke. With all others He dealt gently, even when rebuking them. This is the gentleness of Christ.

### **Gentleness Demanded of Us**

**I Thessalonians 2:7 "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: (:8) So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."**

**II Timothy 2:24 "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (:25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;" (:26) And that they may recover themselves out**

**of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”**

**James 3:13 “Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. (:14) But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. (:15) This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. (:16) For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. (:17) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”**

**Titus 3:2 “To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.”**

God demands that the same gentleness be shown by us as was shown by Christ. He demands it to the same extent; and if we are to develop a Christlike character we must cultivate Christlike gentleness within ourselves. For it to be perfectly pleasing to God, it cannot be an affectation or something that we consciously practice. It must be a trait that is part of who we are at all levels. Yes, we have to consciously practice it in order to develop it but that practice needs to become less and less a conscious effort and more and more an automatic reaction when dealing with all persons, male or female, friend or foe.

Harshness is not forbidden, of course, Christ showed harshness and so may we. But it needs to be shown only as He did. Only toward those who are willful in their rejection of God and His Messiah and His convicting Holy Spirit. And that harshness needs to be shown through giving of Scriptures of rebuke. That is the way that Christ showed harsh rebuke; therefore, that is the only way we should also show it. Other than within that narrow context for showing scripturally harsh rebuke, we should always show gentleness in dealing with people.

Most are duped or ignorant of God and His Word. Would you be harsh with a child who had been duped into believing a lie? Would you be harsh with a child who was untrained, unlearned, and, therefore, ignorant of any matter, including ignorance of the Word of God? Of course not! You would gently attempt to train them in the right way. To give them true information to offset the falsehoods they had been taught by those who duped them. You would gently try to teach them the truth of God's Word to offset their ignorance of it. The lost fall into one or both of those categories. They are duped by the Devil and the humanistic education with which society has trained them. They are ignorant of the Word of God because the world has set God's Word aside in their minds as myth or wishful thinking and, therefore, something to be ignored or even ridiculed. Even worse, many in current society, especially those of the last two generations have not trained their children in the ways and Word of God and far too many have even brought rebuke upon the term Christian and God's Word by claiming to believe it but have denied it in the way they live. Their children therefore reject God and His Word as ineffective at best or a lie at worst because of what they have observed in their parents who are living lives contrary to what they claim to believe. What they see their

parents do, and what others who claim to be Christians do, has more of an impact than what they hear from them. If their parents are denying the faith by their actions, then the children grow up to believe that faith in God is futile at best and foolish at the worst. And His Word is ineffectual and, for all practical purposes, useless.

## **Your walk walks and your talk talks but your walk talks louder than your talk talks!**

Because of this inconsistency on the part of their parents, they reject both God and His Word and, thus, they are ignorant of its teachings. Because they are left defenseless without the Word of God to protect them, to teach them the right way to go and to teach them how to discern between right and wrong, good and evil, they are easily duped by the Devil and those who propagate his lies and deceptions. To those who fall within either or both of those categories, duped and/or ignorant, we are to gently guide them, not harshly rebuke them. Harsh rebuke is for those doing the duping and those who proclaim Christ, to those who claim to know God and His Word and then willfully break His commandments and live ungodly lives. Harshness to those willfully duping others and to those willful in their breaking the commandments of the God they claim to know; but gentleness to all the rest of mankind- who are the duped and the ignorant.



**How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to be gentle exactly the same way and to the same extent that Christ was; and that He teaches us that gentleness is an essential part of a true Christian man's character? What do you think about that? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## LESSON ELEVEN

### The Character of a Man

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through TEN:

We are made in God's image and we are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. We are to do this out of love. Because love is an action word, many times love must entail forgiveness. And we cannot completely fulfill these things, or any others that God expects of us, without commitment and prayer, and gentleness. Shown appropriately, of course.




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## LESSON ELEVEN

### The Character of a Man

- 1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving 4) Forgiving**  
**5) Committed 6) Prayerful 7) Gentleness 8) Patience**

**“Patience - Throughout the gospels, Jesus clearly gets portrayed as a very patient man. After all, He was surrounded by disciples who constantly doubted him, Pharisees and Sadducees who continually attacked Him, and large crowds who wouldn’t leave Him alone. Despite all of that, He kept His composure and responded appropriately to every individual.” (Michael Krauszer)**

#### **Patience defined:**

Secular definition,

***the capacity to tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without becoming angry or upset.***

Biblical definition,

ὑπομονή hupomone

*1) steadfastness, constancy, endurance*

*1a) in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings*

*1b) patiently, and steadfastly*

*2) a patient, steadfast waiting for*

*3) a patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance*

**Rom 15:5 “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be  
likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:”**

## I. Patience Is A Trait Of God, Not Of Men.

### **“Now the God of patience...” (Rom 15:5)**

As human beings we are naturally impatient. It is part of our nature. Even when we were babies our impatience was easily observable. When we wanted something we wanted that “want” to be instantly fulfilled. When we wanted mommy or daddy we would not wait for a time that would be convenient for them, in fact, we did not even consider that possibility, we wanted them to attend to us **instantly**. If they did not do so, we would cry; and if that did not work we would scream our little heads off. And if that didn't work we would lie to our parents to get our way. “What do you mean, lie. How can a baby lie?” Simple, a baby soon learns that a screaming cry of pain will bring at least mommy running pell-mell to see what is hurting them. So, because of impatience, if we could not get attention by crying or screaming then we would give out with a screaming cry of excruciating pain and that brought immediate attention. Even though we really were not in pain. Which mommy would only find out after she had picked up her “little darling.”

Our inborn impatience can lead us to many other things. Lying is just one of them; another is causing ourselves physical and emotional pain. Insisting on immediate attention to our wants, as a baby we will thrash around uncontrollably, crying and screaming. Jumping, twisting, arms and legs pumping up and down, flailing about, arching our back and jerking our head about with neck spasms, rolling spasmodically back and forth and thrashing about and crashing into anything close to us with our arms and legs, head and body, hands and face, we express our uncontrollable impatience with screams at decibel levels that exceed the pain threshold of all within hearing distance and with unimaginable insistence. And, many times, we wind up with cuts, bruises, bloody noses or black eyes, and all because we were so impatient that we went into hysterical convulsions because no one would come when we wanted them to do so. Not only can we cause ourselves physical pain by our childish impatience but we inevitably cause ourselves emotional pain when our out of control impatience causes us to cross the emotional border into stress and even, many times, hysteria. And all because of that inborn human trait of **impatience**.

## II. To Be Granted Patience You Must Ask God.

### **Rom 15:5 “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you...”**

Because patience is not a natural trait of man, then like anything else you want to receive from God, patience must be asked for. However, there is one warning. Patience does not come easy. God will grant it but you must develop it for it to become part of your character. And there is a price to pay.

**Rom 5:3-4 “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope:”**

**A. The cost of patience.**

1. Tribulation is the cost of patience. It is easy to have patience when everything is going the way you want it to go. In fact, when things are going your way you don't even need patience. But the problem is that things are not going to always go the way you want them to go. Sooner or later problems will come, or, as the Bible calls problems, **tribulation**. And if you want to have the godly trait of patience as part of your character, then you must be willing to pay the cost; and, even welcome it.
2. Without tribulation you cannot have patience.

**Rom 5:3-4 "tribulation worketh patience"**

There is no way around it. The only way to develop patience is to go through tribulation. Tribulation is the seed that must be planted for the crop of patience to grow. We don't have to seek out tribulation; it will always come to us and plant itself in our lives. How we handle the tribulation dictates how the seed will grow. If we resent it, if we rail against it, even if we simply endure it, then it will sprout and grow into resentment, anger, and a tendency to blame God for its negative effects on us. On the other hand, if we accept it, even embrace it and approach it and use it properly, then it will inevitably sprout up as patience and grow stronger and stronger until it becomes an integral part of our character. Yes, we work within tribulation to resolve it, we do whatever is necessary to rectify it, if it can be rectified, but above all we must learn from it. And that which is to be gained in the learning process is the character trait that God tells us is a necessary part of our character, if we are to be like Christ and have all of the traits of His character, patience.

**B. The physical result of patience.****Rom 5:4 "and patience, experience; and experience, hope:"**

The result of patience learned through tribulation is the tangible encouragement of **experience**. This is the physical benefit. We have the experience of physical triumph over tribulation.

We are, after all, physical beings as well as spiritual ones. The promise of God to us, the saved, is that we will have an abundant life. (**John 10:10**) The context of that verse in John chapter 10 is that of the shepherd taking care of the sheep; meeting all of their needs. Because this story is an analogy of the sheep and then applied to the people of God, the provision has to be meeting all of our needs, both physical as well as spiritual.

Therefore, for the purposes of our study, we can see that God is in **Romans 5:3-4**, as He promised through the mouth of Jesus in **John ch. 10**, addressing both our physical side as well as our spiritual side. Meeting our needs in both realms in the

pursuit and obtaining of patience. The obtaining of experience, the result of patience in tribulation, gives us physically tangible substance to help meet our physical need of something to hold on to, something to look to, which we as physical beings need to help us develop spiritually while still in these physical bodies. As always, God is meeting us where we are to teach us and lead us to where He wants us. Here, once again, He meets us in the physical realm so as to take us into the spiritual realm, which is where He always wants us to be.

### C. The spiritual benefit of patience.

The spiritual benefit of patience is **hope**.

#### **Rom 5:4 "... and experience, hope:"**

Hope is sometimes shaken by circumstances; physical circumstances. When God waits to answer prayers we sometimes, as human beings, begin to doubt; to lose hope. We, as Believers, know in our minds that His timing is always best; but, as human beings, when we see no tangible evidence that He will actually answer we may begin to lose hope. Especially if circumstances against us are many, large, and particularly militantly antagonistic. We start to look at the **largeness** of the circumstances and the antagonism evident in them and we find it hard to continue in the spirit when the physical seems so predominant, and maybe even overwhelming.

How does God help us overcome our loss of hope? Or, even better, how does He prepare us in advance so that we maintain hope through these times and never have to overcome the loss of it? He has given us this passage of scripture in Romans to show us how to do so. He tells us that we are to look to past experience of overcoming tribulation and this will give us hope for future victories.

### D. How we are to view tribulation.

#### **Romans 5:3 "we glory in tribulations also"**

In order to develop patience we must view tribulation, the seed of patience, in the proper way. If we fail to do so then the godly seed will sprout up, not as a good plant but as a weed. As I said earlier, **"If we resent it, if we rail against it, even if we simply endure it, then it will sprout and grow into resentment, anger, and a tendency to blame God for its negative effects on us."** To prevent this from happening we need to view, and treat, tribulation the way that God tells us to do in this verse, **"... but we glory in tribulations also..."**

We need to learn to NOT resent tribulation, but rather **glory** in it.

**glory** - καυχωμεθα, *cow-co-metha*, to glory, boast, exult, rejoice

**exult** - *to be on cloud nine, show or feel a lively or triumphant joy*

Rather than be resentful when tribulation comes, we should be joyful. We should feel “*a lively or triumphant joy*”. We should welcome it as a physical tool that is the way to spiritual progress. Specifically, progress in our development of the sought after character goal of **patience**. The first step in the formula for development of the character trait we are to seek; but more than that. It is a progression that includes two physical parts but promises two spiritual ones as well.

**tribulation worketh patience**

**patience gives us experience**

**experience genders hope**

**tribulation and experience** are the two physical parts of the equation

**patience and hope** are the two spiritual parts of the equation

And if we handle the two physical parts correctly then we will inevitably reap the two spiritual parts. But that is **only** if we handle the physical things correctly.

1. **Tribulation:** We must **glory** in tribulations when they come. Look at them as unpleasant things that will lead to godly results and rejoice that God is allowing them to happen to help us grow spiritually beyond what we could do without the tribulation. Without it we are stunted. With it we can grow.
2. **Experience:** Remember the times that we have experienced victory over tribulation in the past. Remember how God has rescued us from past tribulation and use that as a source of strength and encouragement- encouragement that He has done it before and He will do it again. No matter what the outcome, be assured that whatever may happen our lives it will always be the best for us because in the life of a child of God:

**Everything that happens to us is**

**brought by God or allowed by Him**

**and it always the BEST thing at that particular point in our lives!**

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

That particular scripture does not say that all things are good, it says that they all work **together** for good. It also does not say that that promise is for all people, it is only for those **that love God, to them who are the called**. It also does not say that the end result is according to our purpose but is **according to his purpose**. Therefore, the purpose of God is worked out in **all** things in our lives, good or bad, enjoyable or unenjoyable, and we are to look to the end purpose, which is God working out what He deems to be **good** in our lives **according to His purpose**.

Therefore, we need to develop the ability to treat all tribulation with a view to the

future result, hope, and do so with a joyous attitude knowing that God brought it or He allowed it and that it is the best thing for us at that point in our lives. Look to the immediate result, patience, which is what we are after in this section of our study, knowing that God is working a work in us to make us more like Christ- which is His ultimate purpose for us all. And that is what we also need to look toward with joy.

**Romans 8:28 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...”**

God has chosen that we be more Christlike in all things. We look to Christ as Saviour, to meet our need of Salvation. But we also look to Him as an example, to guide us in our thoughts, actions, purpose, and ultimate destiny in the physical as well as the spiritual realms. In our thoughts, we are to have “**the mind of Christ**” (I Cor 2:16) which God has enabled us to have but it is up to us to use it. In our actions He is our example to follow “**For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you**” so that we will be servants as He was- but we have to choose to follow His example. In our purpose we are to bring glory to God as He did,

**Ephesians 3:21 “Unto him (God) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”**

And, finally, we look to Him, Christ, as our ultimate destiny, both physically and spiritually. And we are to do so in the way we live our lives as well as in our thoughts and determination.

**Romans 8:28 “... to be conformed to the image of his Son...”**

Developing the character of Christ helps us toward conformation to His image as God predestinated us to be. But we have to be willing to be conformed because God will not force us. Our current study is to conform us to Christ's character in the matter of patience.

**Romans 5:3-4 “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope:”**



**How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to be patient exactly the same way and to the same extent that Christ was; and that He teaches us that patience is an essential part of a true Christian man's character? What do you think about that? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON TWELVE

### The Character of a Man

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through ELEVEN:

We are made in God's image and we are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. We are to do this out of love. Because love is an action word, many times love must entail forgiveness. And we cannot completely fulfill these things, or any others that God expects of us, without commitment and prayer, and gentleness, shown appropriately, of course, and patience.




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## LESSON TWELVE

### The Character of a Man

- 1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving 4) Forgiving  
5) Committed 6) Prayerful 7) Gentleness 8) Patience  
9) Self-control

**“Self-Control - Before His ministry was launched, Jesus spent time being tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. Although He was offered food, power, and many other things, Jesus controlled His desires and submitted them all to the will of the Father. Yes, He had desires for food and such, but He had a greater desire to obey the Lord and accomplish what He set out to do.” (Michael Krauszer)**

#### Self-control defined:

Secular definition,

*the ability to control one's emotions or behavior in difficult situations.*

Biblical definition of self-control applied to the flesh

εἰργκατεύομαι, egkrateuomai, (KJV - “temperate”) to be self-controlled, continent

1a) to exhibit self-government, conduct one's self temperately

1b) in a figure drawn from athletes, who in preparing themselves for the games abstained from unwholesome food, wine, and sexual indulgence

“continent” - κράτος krat'-os, vigor [“great”], (literally or figuratively):

*dominion, might [-ily], power, strength.*

**“incontinent”** ἀκράτης, akratays, powerless, without self-control

**I. Corinthians 9:25** “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”

**I. Corinthians 9:27** “But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

υποπιαζω, hupopeadzo, (KJV - “keep under”)

Strong's **literal definition:** *to hit under the eye (buffet or disable an antagonist as a pugilist), that is, (figuratively) to tease or annoy (into compliance), subdue (one's passions) keep under*

**Thayer's Greek Definition:** *to beat black and blue, to smite so as to cause bruises and livid spots - like a boxer one buffets his body, handle it roughly, discipline by hardships*

## I. Consequences:

Positive consequences.

To gain an “**incorruptible**” crown. (**I Cor 9:25**)

(A reward in Heaven that cannot corrupt or fade.)

## II. How long are we to practice self-control?

For a lifetime. From our youth right on into our old age.

### A. As young men.

**I. Corinthians 9:24-25** “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate...”

This reference is concerning athletic striving to win the event and the reward of it. Therefore, it is logically referring to a younger person. Old men do not compete in athletic events, they do not run against young competitors; i.e., athletes are young men not old men. The application to our study is that we are to be self-controlled (temperate) as young men.

### B. Our self-control is to continue right on into our old age.

**Titus 2:2** That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.



### III. In what are we to be temperate (practice self-control)?

In all things.

#### I. Corinthians 9:25 “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.”

“**Temperate in all things**” means just that, we are to be self-controlled in every area of our lives- speech, actions, desires (including sexual desires), what we eat, what we drink, what we see, what we hear, where we go, what we allow in our thinking as well as what we allow in our actions, how we work on our jobs, how we maintain our testimony, how we behave both in and out of Church, how we lead our family, how we treat our family and how we treat those not of our family, both the saved and the lost, how we treat our enemies, we are to maintain self-control in all of these areas and in every other area of our lives that we can think of.

### IV. Who is to practice temperance (that is, to be self-controlled)?

Every Christian; both those in the pew and those in the pulpit.

**Titus 1:7 “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;”**

**Titus 1:8 “But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;**

From the leaders to the laymen, all Christians are to maintain self-control at all times and in every way.

### V. Toward whom are we to practice self-control?

Jesus practiced self-control toward EVERYONE. Even toward those that spit upon Him, tortured Him, and even crucified Him! Instead of calling down destruction, as He could easily have done, he forgave them with nearly His last breath.

**Luke 23:33-34 “And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. (:34) Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...”**

As Christians we are to emulate that exact same self-control in our lives and toward all people; both friend and enemy.

**VI. As human beings we are naturally takers and, as such, we have to learn self-control.**

Self-control is something we must learn and the learning must start when we are children so that we can be temperate as young men. Then it is to be practiced, nurtured, and matured throughout our entire life so that we can be temperate (self-controlled) as old men.

And, finally, we have to practice it and nurture it so that it will mature to the point that we can practice it toward both friend and foe alike.

**NOTE:** You have probably already seen the conjoined twins connection between this character trait, self-control, and many of the previous ones that we have studied. The most closely connected of these is obviously the one we studied immediately before this current one. And that was the character trait of “**patience**.” Without which we will never be able to develop our character in the area of self-control.



**1. How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to be self-controlled (temperate) exactly the same way and to the same extent that Christ was; and that He teaches us that that kind of self-control is an essential part of a true Christian man's character? 2. What do you think about that? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON THIRTEEN

### The Character of a Man

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through TWELVE:

We are made in God's image and we are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. We are to do this out of love. Because love is an action word, many times love must entail forgiveness. And we cannot completely fulfill these things, or any others that God expects of us, without commitment and prayer, and gentleness, shown appropriately of course, patience, and self-control.




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## LESSON THIRTEEN

### The Character of a Man

- 1) Compassion 2) Servant 3) Loving 4) Forgiving  
5) Committed 6) Prayerful 7) Gentleness 8) Patience  
9) Self-control 10) Humble

**“Humble - Jesus had every opportunity and right to demand praise and accolades for His miracles and teachings, but He never did! Even when the crowds sought to make Him king, He rushed away from their grasp. He did not want to become a sideshow performance that people could enjoy. Rather, He wanted to seek and save the lost and offer forgiveness for sinful people. Yes, He could have traveled around in order to show off His powers in other towns, but He chose not to.” (Michael Krauszer)**

#### Humble defined:

Secular definition,

**humble**, *having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance, of low rank, of modest pretensions, as a verb lower in dignity or importance*

**humility**, *a humble view of one's own importance*

Biblical definition of Humble

ταπεινῶω, tap-ayn-oh-oh, KJV “humble”

ταπεινωθησεται, tap-ayn-oh-thay-seh-tai, KJV “humbleth”

*to make low, bring low, metaphorically to bring into a humble condition, reduce to meaner circumstances*

*1b1) to assign a lower rank or place to*

*1b2) to abase*

*1b3) to be ranked below others who are honoured or rewarded*

*1b4) to humble or abase myself by humble living*

*1c) to lower, depress*

*1c1) of one's soul, bring down one's pride*

*1c2) to have a modest opinion of one's self*

*1c3) to behave in an unassuming manner*

*1c4) devoid of all haughtiness*

**Luke 14:8** “When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; (:9) And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. (:10) But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. (:11) For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

**Matthew 18:4** “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

**Colossians 3:12** “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ”

## **I. We are commanded to have humbleness of mind. (Colossians 3:12)**

This means that we are not only commanded to act humble but we are commanded to think in a humble manner. We are to have a modest opinion of ourselves when we think of ourselves. Not prideful but humble. And if we do have humbleness of mind then that will automatically show forth as humbleness in our actions, as we carry out whatever ministry or ministries God has for us. We will not have to tell others that we are humble, they will know it by the way we act and speak. This is taught to us in the story/instructions that Jesus gave in **Luke 14:8**.

## **II. Consequences**

**A. Positive consequences of being humble.**

**1. To have an exalted/greater place in Heaven. (Mt 18:4)**

2. To have honor and be commended of God.

**Proverbs 16:19** “Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

**Proverbs 29:23** “A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

3. It is an essential part of getting our prayers answered (especially for our country).

**II Chronicles 7:14** “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

4. Humbleness is a sign of wisdom and proper fear of God. Speaking as wisdom, God tells us:

**Proverbs 8:13** “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

A humble person is wise and show that they do fear God and hate evil. Here specifically it is the evil of “**pride, and arrogancy ... and the froward mouth.**”

**B. Negative consequences for not being humble.**

**Luke 18:14** “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

**Proverbs 16:18** “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

1. God will humble us if we become prideful and refuse to humble ourselves. For us to have true humility, which is, both acting humble and thinking humble, is not a request from God it is a commandment from Him. If we become prideful and then become stiff-necked and refuse to work on our prideful condition in order to return ourselves to a humble condition and, thereby, force His hand, **He will** humble us! **(Luke 18:14)**

2. And this warning is to everyone, right up to and including Kings and Queens and Pharaohs.

**Jeremiah 13:18** “Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.”

**Exodus 10:3** “And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.”

3. God is no respecter of persons:

**Act 10:34 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”**

Therefore, high or low, powerful or weak, king or queen or Pharaoh, master or slave, leader, boss, follower, worker, pastor or layman, rich or poor, every Christian is commanded to be humble and if they will not be that, if they insist on being prideful, a boaster, a berater of the “lowly”, then God will humble them because they refuse to humble themselves.

### **III. The Extent of Our Humility Must Be the Same as Christ's**

Christ humbled Himself even to death and humiliation on the cross.

**Philippians 2:8 “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”**

If we have true humility, Christ-like humility, we will maintain it not only through every situation in life as Christ did, but even through torture and to the death.

### **IV. Being and Thinking Humble Is An Ongoing Battle**

In our society today the sin of pride is not only accepted, it is glorified. The “self-esteem” movement has glorified “self” to be the number one thing in a person's life. To think “**I have a right to ... I am number one ... I am the greatest in the world**” and “**it is not my fault it is someone else's fault**” is taught in school and “self first” is glorified by society. Humbling of one's self and admitting our faults and our short-comings and looking to God for strength and guidance instead of “self” has been bred out of the American psyche; mostly by movies and TV. Because of this, to remain humble one must work at it day by day and be on guard every day all day to offset what society teaches and promotes. As God's children, if we do not do so for ourselves, then God will do it for us.

**Luke 18:14 “... for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”**

### **V. A Final Word of Caution: Success can be an enemy of humbleness- if we let it!**



**1. How does that make you feel knowing that God expects you to be humble exactly the same way and to the same extent that Christ was; and that He teaches us that that kind of humbleness, in action and also in thought, is an essential part of a true Christian man's character?**

**2. What do you think about that? (You may also address any of the sub-points above, if you choose to do so.)**

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON FOURTEEN

### Self-examination

#### REVIEW of LESSONS ONE through THIRTEEN:

We are made in God's image and we are a man because God made us that way. Now, to be an encouragement to others and to be in obedience to God, we need to act like a man and have Compassion on others and show it to them by being a Servant; i.e., trying to help meet their needs, both physical and spiritual. We are to do this out of love. Because love is an action word, many times love must entail forgiveness. And we cannot completely fulfill these things, or any others that God expects of us, without commitment and prayer, and gentleness, shown appropriately of course, patience, and self-control. And to top off the 10 most important character traits, we must be humble.




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## LESSON FOURTEEN

### Self-Examination

**James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”**

We have studied the first 10 character traits of Jesus directly from the Word of God; with which we have explained and verified them. Before we go on to study more of His character we need to take a time of self-examination concerning the first 10 traits.

**II Corinthians 13:5a “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; Prove your own selves...”**

It is so important that we examine ourselves that we are not even to take the Lord's Supper without carrying out a self-examination first.

**1Co 11:28-31 “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. (:29) For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. (:30) For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.”**

If we will not examine our selves, then the Lord will do it for us.

**(:31) “For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”**

We need to be willing, and ready, to ask the Lord to judge us in all matters, including our character.

#### Psalm 26

**(:1) “Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. (:2) Examine me, O**

**LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. (:3) For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. (:4) I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. (:5) I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. (:6) I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: (:7) That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. (:8) LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. (:9) Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: (:10) In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. (:11) But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. (:12) My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD."**

We need to examine ourselves in all things, including and perhaps most importantly, in our character. Do we manifest God to those around us? Do we present Christ through our lives in a way that we can serve Him and praise Him and bless Him **"in the congregations"**, meaning in the congregations of God's people, the Saved? And, also, are we a godly witness to the lost and tell them of God's **"wondrous works"** with a **"voice of thanksgiving"**; and do so with both our "lip and our life"? That is, both talk and live in such a way that the people can see our godly character and know, from our witness as we **"publish"** the **"wondrous works"** of God, that our character is molded by God Himself as we yield to Him and follow His Word.

### **LET US EXAMINE OURSELVES**

We will now pray and ask for the leading of the Holy Spirit. Then we will take a few minutes and go through the following list and mark ourselves on a scale of 1 to 5; with one being an absolute **"no"** and 5 being an absolute **"yes"**. We will consider just this last week in the examination of ourselves. If need for a particular character trait did not come up this last week, then mark **"n/a"** for "not applicable". (*Remember, your emotional and/or mental state or reaction is to be included in your self-examination of your character.*) After we finish the self-examination we will briefly discuss our answers.

**For our next meeting:** During the two weeks until our next meeting we will keep track of our character and discuss the results of that two week self-examination at the next meeting.

**The instructions and the self-examination of your character during this last week begins on the next page.**

**Next meeting's self-examination list for that two week period will be at the end of this week's lesson and we will discuss the results at the beginning of our next meeting.**



**Ask your self before God: “Did I show/not show the following character traits this last week when it was required that I do so?”** *(Your emotional and mental state and/or reaction is involved in your self-examination of your character.)*

### **How to score yourself:**

**If the trait did not come up during the last week, circle “n/a”**

**circle “1” for “absolutely no”, circle “3” for “sort of”**

**circle “5” for “absolutely yes”**

*(If you are wavering between 1, 3, or 5 and the number above or below it, then circle whichever number above or below it that is applicable according to the following examples.)*

**Example One:** You did show some compassion when needed but a little less than “3” which is “sort of”. You wouldn’t circle “1” because that is “**absolutely not**” but you are really disappointed in your response so you can’t circle “3”. Therefore, you would circle “2”.

**Example Two:** You faced a situation where you needed to show godly love toward someone. However, you hesitated for some reason. Maybe the person was someone steeped in sin; maybe a homosexual or an adulterer or an enemy who had personally committed a trespass against you. For whatever reason, you hesitated and had to deliberate on whether to show godly love toward them. *(Remember, your emotional and mental state or reaction is involved in your self-examination.)* In the end, though, you did show godly love toward them.

In your assessment concerning your showing of love toward the person you cannot mark a “5” because that is “**absolutely yes**” but you hesitated. On the other hand, you cannot mark a “3” which is “**sort of**” because you did show godly love toward them after your hesitation. Not half-heartedly but proper, godly love, when you finally showed it toward them. Therefore, you would mark a “4”, which is a median between those two. By marking a “4” you are indicating that you are disappointed that you hesitated and by that disappointment you are acknowledging that you want to work on that character trait until it becomes an integral part of your godly character. Which it is obviously not as indicated by your hesitation. But you are definitely working on it and do want it to be part a of you in obedience to God and your desire to be more like Christ.

### **List of Character Traits concerning which you are to carry out your self-examination:**

#### **1) Compassionate**

Jesus never looked away from people; He always looked upon them and had compassion (Matthew 9:36). Whenever people were around him, Jesus understood what their real needs were and sought to address them. For some, physical healing was necessary, for others the root issue was spiritual. In all cases though, Jesus took the time to actually notice that people were hurting—and His compassion drove Him to help them.

#### **My self-examination score for this character trait for the last week:**

*(Remember, your emotional and mental state or reaction is involved in your self-examination.)*

**n/a**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**2) Servant**

Without a doubt, Jesus was the ultimate servant. Although He was praised as a great teacher and even had a decent following, He made sure to teach them to be servants by actually doing it himself. In Mark 10:45, Jesus even tells everyone: “the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve” Despite having the authority to get anything He wanted, have people praise and pamper him, He did the exact opposite by lowering himself and serving others.

**My self-examination score for this character trait for the last week:**

*(Remember, your emotional and mental state or reaction is involved in your self-examination.)*

n/a	1	2	3	4	5
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**3) Loving**

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*(Remember, your emotional and mental state or reaction is involved in your self-examination.)*

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One of the most startling things said in Scripture is found in Luke 23:34, when Jesus is on the cross and proclaims: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Even while bleeding and experiencing pain, Jesus had His heart set on forgiveness—even forgiving those who put Him there in the first place! This is definitely contrary to the everyday mantra of looking out for number one and obtaining personal justice. Jesus was by no means concerned for His own life; all He wanted was to provide a way for forgiveness.

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No matter how busy His ministry got, He found time to be alone and pray. Whether it is in the garden of Gethsemane, across a river, or on a mountaintop, Jesus disappeared for a while in order to pray to the Lord. People always tried to find Him, and He never turned them away, but He also made sure to make time spent with His heavenly Father a priority.

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There were certainly times where Jesus used stern words, but He knew when gentleness was appropriate. Children seemed to love coming to him, and He made sure the disciples knew not to hinder them when they did so. When speaking with His disciples, mother, or other ladies, He could be very kindhearted and gentle. But, when He was giving someone a rebuke or making a point in an argument, He knew when turning up the heat was necessary and only did so strategically.

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**8) Patience**

Throughout the gospels, Jesus clearly gets portrayed as a very patient man. After all, He was surrounded by disciples who constantly doubted him, Pharisees and Sadducees who continually attacked Him, and large crowds who wouldn't leave Him alone. Despite all of that, He kept His composure and responded appropriately to every individual.

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**9) Self-Control**

Before His ministry was launched, Jesus spent time being tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. Although He was offered food, power, and many other things, Jesus controlled His desires and submitted them all to the will of the Father. Yes, He had desires for food and such, but He had a greater desire to obey the Lord and accomplish what He set out to do.

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## 10) Humble

Jesus had every opportunity and right to demand praise and accolades for His miracles and teachings, but He never did! Even when the crowds sought to make Him king, He rushed away from their grasp. He did not want to become a sideshow performance that people could enjoy. Rather, He wanted to seek and save the lost and offer forgiveness for sinful people. Yes, He could have traveled around in order to show off His powers in other towns, but He chose not to.

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*(Remember, your emotional and mental state or reaction is involved in your self-examination.)*

n/a	1	2	3	4	5
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**We will now discuss the results of our character self-examination.**



**1. How do the results of your self-examination make you feel?**

**2. What do you think about the results?**

You may address any of your character trait self-examination results but please start with the one with which you had the most trouble.

*feel:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(For a list of feelings/emotions see page 2 of this study.)

*think:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON FIFTEEN

### Self-Examination (Part Two)

**James 1:22** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

**Ask your self before God:** “Did I show/not show the following character traits this last 2 weeks when it was required that I do so?” *(Your emotional and mental state and/or reaction is involved in your self-examination of your character.)*

**Process:** (1) During the two week period, whenever one of the 10 traits is required, mark the box for that day with “Y” for “Yes, I physically and emotionally/mentally expressed that trait properly” or “N” for “No, I did not physically and emotionally/mentally express that trait properly”. *(Your emotional and mental state and/or reaction is involved in your self-examination of your character.)* (2) at the end of the 2 week period, make an overall assessment of the daily marks and circle the appropriate answer on the 1-5 list.

**How to score yourself on the 1-5 overall assessment list for each trait:**

If the trait did not come up during the 2 weeks, circle “n/a”

circle “1” for “absolutely no”, circle “3” for “sort of”

circle “5” for “absolutely yes”

*(If you are wavering between 1, 3, or 5 and the number above or below it, then circle whichever number above or below it that is applicable according to the following examples.)*

**Example One:** You did show some compassion when needed but a little less than “3” which is “sort of”. You wouldn’t circle “1” because that is “absolutely not” but you are really disappointed in your response so you can’t circle “3”. Therefore, you would circle “2”.

**Example Two:** You faced a situation where you needed to show godly love toward someone. However, you hesitated for some reason. Maybe the person was someone steeped in sin; maybe a homosexual or an adulterer or an enemy who had personally committed a trespass against you. For whatever reason, you hesitated and had to deliberate on whether to show godly love toward them. *(Remember, your emotional and mental state or reaction is involved in your self-examination.)* In the end, though, you did show godly love toward them.

In your assessment concerning your showing of love toward the person you cannot mark a “5” because that is “absolutely yes” but you hesitated. On the other hand, you cannot mark a “3” which is “sort of” because you did show godly love toward them after your hesitation. Not half-heartedly but proper, godly love, when you finally showed it toward them. Therefore, you would mark a “4”, which is a median between those two. By marking a “4” you are indicating that you are disappointed that you hesitated and by that disappointment you are acknowledging that you want to work on that character trait until it becomes an integral part of your godly character. Which it is obviously not as indicated by your hesitation. But you are definitely working on it and do want it to be part a of you in obedience to God and your desire to be more like Christ.

Don’t be afraid to discuss your results. We, as the men of Bible Baptist Church, are to hold one another up in prayer before God and help bear one another’s burden. We all have struggles in life, and that includes struggles in certain portions of our character. If we know where your

struggles are we can better encourage you and lift you up to the Lord in prayer.

The things that we discuss in the Men's Group must never be the topics of gossip. We are to encourage one another and lift one another up, not tear one another down. And that definitely includes not tearing one another down in the eyes of others by gossiping about one another to anyone.

**Galatians 6:1-2 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (:2) Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."**

**List of Character Traits concerning which you are to carry out your self-examination during the two week period:**

### 1) Compassionate

Jesus never looked away from people; He always looked upon them and had compassion (Matthew 9:36). Whenever people were around him, Jesus understood what their real needs were and sought to address them. For some, physical healing was necessary, for others the root issue was spiritual. In all cases though, Jesus took the time to actually notice that people were hurting—and His compassion drove Him to help them.

**My self-examination score for this character trait for the last 2 weeks:**

*(Remember, your emotional and mental state or reaction is involved in your self-examination.)*

**Mark Y or N for each day that the character trait was required.**

Sun	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	Fr

**Overall assessment for the 2 week period for this Character Trait:**

n/a                      1                      2                      3                      4                      5

### 2) Servant

Without a doubt, Jesus was the ultimate servant. Although He was praised as a great teacher and even had a decent following, He made sure to teach them to be servants by actually doing it himself. In Mark 10:45, Jesus even tells everyone: "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve" Despite having the authority to get anything He wanted, have people praise and pamper him, He did the exact opposite by lowering himself and serving others.

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### 3) Loving

Obviously, Jesus had a love for others. If He didn't, He wouldn't be compassionate nor a servant. Jesus claimed that there is no greater love than to die for one of your friends—and He did just that. If anyone doubts His love, all they have to do is look upon the cross and see the agony that He bore for their sakes. He experienced that horrible death so that all can be saved. That, very clearly, is true love at its finest.

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