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WELCOME TO SANDALS' FOUNDATIONS CLASSES!

We're excited that you are interested in learning more about the core beliefs of our church. These classes break down the theology behind being real with yourself, God and others. They are a core component of our membership process.

The teaching is online at sandalschurch.com/foundations

To finish the classes, please complete the following:

WATCH THE CLASSES

FILL IN THE BLANKS IN THIS WORKBOOK

COMPLETE THE "REVIEW" AND "REFLECT" SECTIONS AT THE END OF EACH SESSION

MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURE FOR EACH SESSION

Once you complete these classes, you are eligible for our membership class. Please bring your completed workbook to our Connections area on a Sunday to sign up.

We hope that these classes spur you on to a deeper love for God, a greater understanding of the person and work of Jesus and a Spirit-filled life of obedience.

REAL WITH SELF: GOD CREATED

WATCH YOUR LIFE AND DOCTRINE CLOSELY. PERSEVERE IN THEM, BECAUSE IF YOU DO, YOU WILL SAVE BOTH YOURSELF AND YOUR HEARERS.

-1 TIMOTHY 4:16 NIV -

GOD CREATED MAN IN _____ ¹

Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. **(Genesis 1:26-31 ESV)**

HUMAN EXCEPTIONALISM — WE ARE NOT ANIMALS OR EARTH

We are distinct from animals to rule over them
We are to "Fill the earth and subdue it"

WE WERE CREATED _____ (IMAGE OF GOD - REPRESENTATION)

Substantive aspect (who you are)
Functional aspect (what you do)

WE WERE CREATED TO BE _____ (COMMUNITY OF GOD)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
(Genesis 2:18 ESV)

Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **(Genesis 1:26 ESV)**

WE WERE CREATED TO BE _____ (IMAGING GOD - REPRESENT)

We were created to know God and worship God

Knowing God

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
(John 17:3 ESV)

Worshipping God

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." **(Isaiah 43:6b-7 ESV)**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **(Genesis 3:1-5 ESV)**

¹This section leans heavily on Bruce Ware, "Male and Female Complementarity and the Image of God" in *Biblical Foundations for Manhood and Womanhood*, ed. Wayne Grudem (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2002), 71-92 (accessed online: <http://www.cbmw.org/images/onlinebooks/biblicalfoundations.pdf>)

NOTES

MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM²

EQUAL _____

DIFFERENT _____

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. **(Genesis 2:18-25 ESV)**

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATISTICS³

MOTHER + FATHER = 33%

MOTHER + IRREGULAR FATHER = 3%

MOTHER ONLY = 2%

IRREGULAR MOTHER + FATHER = 38%

FATHER ONLY = 44%

²This section draws from the following: Darrin Patrick, Church Planter (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2010), 9-18. John Piper and Wayne Grudem, "An Overview of Central Concerns: Questions and Answers," in Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, eds. John Piper and Wayne Grudem (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991), 56-85; Carolyn McCulley, Radical Womanhood: Feminine Faith in a Feminist World (Chicago, IL: Moody, 2008)

³From Robbie Low, "The Truth about Men and Church", Touchstone Magazine, June 2003, accessed online: <http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=16-05-024-v>

NOTES

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Order and manner of creation

For Adam was formed first, then Eve; **(1 Timothy 2:13 ESV)**

For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. **(1 Corinthians 11:8 ESV)**

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP:

IN MARRIAGE

WHAT IT IS

RESPONSIBILITY NOT DOMINATION

GOD CAME FIRST TO ADAM

But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" **(Genesis 3:9 ESV)**

Dying _____ (Grace) - Attitude

Dying _____ (Services) - Deeds

Going _____ (Example) - Character

Going _____ (Direction) - Purpose

WHAT IT ISN'T

INFERIORITY OR SUPERIORITY

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

(1 Peter 3:7 ESV)

Not authority/headship of all men over all women

...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

(Ephesians 5:21-33 ESV)

"SUBMISSION INDICATES A PERVASIVE HUMILITY AND MUTUAL TRUST THAT ORIENTS THE PARTNERS IN RELATIONSHIP. SUBMISSION IS GOOD AND REQUIRES NOT ONLY THAT ONE PERSON SUBMITS BUT THAT ONE ASSUMES THE LEADERSHIP ROLES"

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. **(1 Corinthians 11:3 ESV)**

Christ is head of the husband

Headship is rooted in the nature of Trinity

NOTES

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP:

IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

WHAT IT IS

MALE LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING

MALE LEADERSHIP IN AUTHORITY

PASTOR/ELDER – OFFICE ONLY FOR MEN

Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

(1 Timothy 2:11-15 ESV)

...the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

(1 Corinthians 14:34-35 ESV)

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

WOMEN HAVE ALL GIFTS AND SHOULD USE THOSE GIFTS TO SERVE THE CHURCH

WOMEN CAN SERVE THE CHURCH IN WAYS THAT MEN CANNOT

WOMEN CAN AND SHOULD LEAD IN THE CHURCH

**AT SANDALS, WE BELIEVE THE OFFICE OF PASTOR/ELDER IS OPEN ONLY TO MEN.
THE POSITION OF DEACON (AT SANDALS WE CALL THIS “MINISTER”)
IS OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.**

NOTES

REVIEW

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD CREATED THE WORLD GOOD. FROM WHICH SCRIPTURES DOES THIS IDEA COME?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?

GOD CREATED US TO BE MALE AND FEMALE. HOW DOES THIS PLAY OUT IN MARRIAGE AND IN THE CHURCH?

REFLECT

WAS ANY OF THE MATERIAL COVERED IN THIS SESSION DIFFICULT TO HEAR? IF SO, WHAT WAS IT? WHAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO HEAR?

DO YOU DISAGREE WITH ANY OF THE VIEWS PRESENTED IN THIS SESSION? IF SO, WHY DO YOU DISAGREE?

WHAT IS ONE POSITIVE THING THAT STUCK OUT TO YOU FROM THIS SESSION? WAS IT SOMETHING NEW OR A REMINDER? TAKE A MOMENT AND ASK GOD HOW HE WOULD HAVE YOU CHANGE SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE AS A RESPONSE TO HIS TRUTH. WRITE A BRIEF REFLECTION ON YOUR TIME WITH HIM.

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION'S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH SELF: SIN DESTROYED

**FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT I ALSO RECEIVED:
THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES,
THAT HE WAS BURIED, THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES...**

- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 ESV -

BUT ONCE WE POSSESS THE CONCEPT OF SHALOM, WE ARE IN POSITION TO SPECIFY OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SIN. GOD IS, AFTER ALL, NOT ARBITRARILY OFFENDED. GOD HATES SIN NOT JUST BECAUSE IT VIOLATES HIS LAW BUT, MORE SUBSTANTIVELY, BECAUSE IT VIOLATES SHALOM, BECAUSE IT BREAKS THE PEACE, BECAUSE IT INTERFERES WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE. (IN FACT, THAT IS WHY GOD HAS LAWS AGAINST A GOOD DEAL OF SIN.) GOD IS ENTHUSIASTICALLY FOR SHALOM AND THEREFORE AGAINST SIN.¹

WHAT IS SIN?²

**MISSING THE MARK – _____ FOR THE WRONG TARGET
IDOLATRY – _____ THE WRONG GOD**

“Worship is the continuous outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of a chosen or choosing god...worship does not stop and start despite our notions to the contrary... when we sin, worship does not stop. It changes directions.”³

Worship is about:⁴

**Who we are
Who or what our god is
How we choose to live**

“An idol is anything more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life or identity. Idols are not bad things, they are good things turned into ultimate things”⁵

**REBELLION – _____ THE WRONG AUTHORITY
LAW-BREAKING – _____ THE WRONG CHOICE**

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. **(Romans 5:14 ESV)**

PERVERSION – _____ WRONG RIGHT

“The better stuff a creature is made of—the cleverer and stronger and freer it is—then the better it will be if it goes right, but also the worse it will be if it goes wrong. A cow cannot be very good or very bad; a dog can be both better and worse; a child better and worse still; an ordinary man, still more so; a man of genius still more so; a superhuman spirit best—or worst—of all.”⁶

OMISSION AND COMMISSION

¹ Cornelius Plantinga Jr., “Sin: Not the way it’s supposed to be” (2010) Retrieved from <http://www.henrycenter.org/programs/christ-on-campus-initiative/>

² Adapted from Millard Erickson, Christian Theology, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 586-ff.

³ Harold Best, Unceasing Worship (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 18-19

⁴ Ibid., 17

⁵ Tim Keller in a video promoting his book Counterfeit Gods accessed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEtdMKjohR8>

⁶ C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, quoted in Plantinga, 12

NOTES

WHAT DID SIN DO?

WE ALL ARE SINNERS BY _____ AND _____

We sin because we are sinners – our sins are not our problem, our sin is the problem

“A sin is any act—any thought, desire, emotion, word or deed—or its particular absence, that displeases God and deserves blame.”

“Sin...is the tendency to commit sins”⁷

Original sin – corrupted _____

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned **(Romans 5:12 ESV)**

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **(Romans 8:20-22 ESV)**

Total depravity – corrupted _____⁸

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **(Ephesians 4:18 ESV)**

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed... **(Romans 6:16-17 ESV)**

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **(Titus 3:3 ESV)**

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? **(Jeremiah 17:9 ESV)**

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **(Titus 1:15 ESV)**

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. **(Romans 8:10 ESV)**

Natural man wants to sin

...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

(Ephesians 2:3 ESV)

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

(Romans 3:9-20 ESV)

⁷ Plantinga, 4

⁸ This list is found in Mark Driscoll, *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2010), 157

NOTES

Sin broke:

Our _____ from who God made us to be

Our relationships with _____

Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. **(1 John 2:9-11 ESV)**

Our relationship with _____

...remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances. **(Ephesians 2:12-14 ESV)**

Our world

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

WE ARE ALL _____ (STATE)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world... **(Ephesians 2:1-2 ESV)**

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. **(Colossians 2:13-15 ESV)**

Incapacity to love, cherish, and obey God

WE ARE ALL _____ (AUTHORITY)

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. **(Romans 6:6-7 ESV)**

WE ARE ALL _____ (JUDGMENT)

See **(Romans 1-3)**

WE ARE ALL _____ (AFFILIATION)

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **(Romans 5:10 ESV)**

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. **(Philippians 3:18-19 ESV)**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **(Romans 8:5-8 ESV)**

NOTES

WE ARE ALL _____ (PUNISHMENT)

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. **(Romans 2:5 ESV)**

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. **(2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 ESV)**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life...” **(John 3:16 ESV)**

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. **(John 3:36 ESV)**

HELL

Eternal

Sin is against God

“...I have kept you from sinning against me.” **(Genesis 20:6 NIV)**

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. **(Psalm 51:4 ESV)**

Infinite evil - infinite punishment: “So that sin against God, being a violation of infinite obligations, must be a crime infinitely heinous, and so deserving infinite punishment.”⁹

“And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ‘where their worm *does not die* and the fire *is not quenched*.’”¹⁰
(Mark 9:47-48 ESV)

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. **(Daniel 12:2 ESV)**

Conscious

Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.
(Matthew 13:40-43 ESV)

**WE ULTIMATELY HAVE ONLY TWO WAYS TO KNOW HOW MUCH GOD HATES SIN — BY
LOOKING AT THE CROSS OF CHRIST AND BY EXAMINING THE DOCTRINE OF HELL. TO
UNDERESTIMATE THE PUNISHMENT OF HELL IS TO UNDERESTIMATE THE MAGNITUDE
OF SIN. THAT, IN TURN, LEADS ONE TO UNDERESTIMATE THE HOLINESS OF GOD AND
THE PRICE OF CHRIST'S DEATH¹¹**

⁹ Jonathan Edwards, “The Justice of God in the Damnation of Sinners” in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Vol. 2 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2004), 669

¹⁰ Emphasis added

¹¹ Chris Morgan, *Jonathan Edwards & Hell* (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2004), 13-14

NOTES

REVIEW

IS SIN NORMAL? WHY OR WHY NOT?

DESCRIBE THE DOCTRINE OF TOTAL DEPRAVITY.

DESCRIBE HOW SIN HAS AFFECTED US AND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

REFLECT

THE DOCTRINE OF HELL IS UNPOPULAR IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE TEACHING PRESENTED ON THIS DOCTRINE?

WHICH OF THE DEFINITIONS OF SIN (UNDER “WHAT IS SIN?”) STOOD OUT TO YOU? WHY DID IT STAND OUT?

WHEN CONSIDERING THE EFFECTS OF SIN ON GOD’S GOOD CREATION, WE DESCRIBED OUR STATE APART FROM CHRIST AS BEAUTIFUL AND BROKEN. DO YOU HAVE A MORE DIFFICULT TIME THINKING OF YOURSELF AS BEAUTIFUL (CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD) OR BROKEN (IRREPARABLY DAMAGED BY SIN APART FROM THE WORK OF JESUS)? WHY?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION’S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH SELF: GOD REDEEMED PART I

**YOU BLIND PHARISEE! FIRST CLEAN THE INSIDE OF THE CUP AND THE PLATE,
THAT THE OUTSIDE ALSO MAY BE CLEAN.**

- MATTHEW 23:26 ESV -

GOD'S _____

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **(Isaiah 9:6 ESV)**

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **(Isaiah 53:4-6 ESV)**

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” **(Genesis 12:1-3 ESV)**

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” **(Galatians 3:8 ESV)**

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty.” **(Exodus 34:6-7 ESV)**

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **(Romans 3:21-26 ESV)**

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. **(Genesis 3:15 ESV)**

GOD'S _____

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, GOD SENT HIS SON

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law... **(Galatians 4:4 ESV)**

...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **(Ephesians 1:9-10 ESV)**

2ND ADAM

Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

(1 Corinthians 15:45-49 ESV)

NOTES

GOOD

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CROSS?

Jesus died in our place for our sins
Substitutionary atonement

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" **(John 1:29 ESV)**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. **(1 Peter 3:18 ESV)**

...yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. **(Galatians 2:16 ESV)**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **(Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)**

PROPITIATION:

PROPITIATION PROPERLY SIGNIFIES THE REMOVAL OF WRATH BY THE OFFERING OF A GIFT.¹

EXPIATION:

A TERM ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMOVAL, CLEANSING, OR FORGIVENESS OF SIN.²

PROPITIATION

Verses that mention propitiation:

(Romans 3:25 ESV)

(Hebrews 2:17 ESV)

(1 John 2:2; 4:10 ESV)

EXPIATION

...as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. **(Psalm 103:12 ESV)**

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **(Colossians 2:13-14 ESV)**

Disarming of sin, Satan, and death

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. **(Colossians 2:15 ESV)**

SIN

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **(Romans 6:6 ESV)**

SATAN

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. **(Hebrews 2:14-15 ESV)**

¹ D. R. W. Wood, & I. H. Marshall, *New Bible Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 975

² P. J. Achtemeier, *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, 1st ed. (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 291

NOTES

DEATH

...and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

(2 Timothy 1:10 ESV)

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **(1 Corinthians 15:26 ESV)**

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **(1 Corinthians 15:54-57 ESV)**

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT WORK IS APPLIED TO ONE'S LIFE?

How is it applied?³

"...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

(Mark 1:15 ESV)

Faith

Repentance

TAKING SIDES: "THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN UNCONVERTED AND A CONVERTED MAN IS NOT THAT THE ONE HAS SINS AND THE OTHER HAS NONE; BUT THAT THE ONE TAKES PART WITH HIS CHERISHED SINS AGAINST A DREADFUL GOD, AND THE OTHER TAKES PART WITH A RECONCILED GOD AGAINST HIS HATED SINS." ⁴

THE GOSPEL PROVIDES

JUSTIFICATION – NEW RIGHTEOUSNESS

Justification – declared righteousness

Imputation – given righteousness

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **(2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)**

³This section adapted from Greg Gilbert, "Response-Faith and Repentance" in *What is the Gospel?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2010), 71-83

⁴William Arnot, *Laws from Heaven for Life on Earth* (London: T. Nelson and Sons 1884), 311 quoted in Gilbert, 82

NOTES

“ONE DAY AS I WAS PASSING INTO THE FIELD, THIS SENTENCE FELL UPON MY SOUL: ‘THY RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IN HEAVEN.’ AND WITH THE EYES OF MY SOUL I SAW JESUS AT THE FATHER’S RIGHT HAND. ‘THERE,’ I SAID, ‘IS MY RIGHTEOUSNESS!’ SO THAT WHEREVER I WAS OR WHATEVER I WAS DOING, GOD COULD NOT SAY TO ME, ‘WHERE IS YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS?’ FOR IT IS ALWAYS RIGHT BEFORE HIM.

I SAW THAT IT IS NOT MY GOOD FRAME OF HEART THAT MADE MY RIGHTEOUSNESS BETTER, NOR YET MY BAD FRAME THAT MADE MY RIGHTEOUSNESS WORSE, FOR MY RIGHTEOUSNESS IS CHRIST. NOW MY CHAINS FELL OFF INDEED. MY TEMPTATIONS FLED AWAY, AND I LIVED SWEETLY AT PEACE WITH GOD.

NOW I COULD LOOK FROM MYSELF TO HIM AND COULD RECKON THAT ALL MY CHARACTER WAS LIKE THE COINS A RICH MAN CARRIES IN HIS POCKET WHEN ALL HIS GOLD IS SAFE IN A TRUNK AT HOME. OH I SAW THAT MY GOLD WAS INDEED IN A TRUNK AT HOME, IN CHRIST MY LORD NOW CHRIST WAS ALL: MY RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION, REDEMPTION.”⁵

REGENERATION – NEW NATURE

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh
(Ezekiel 11:19 ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **(2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)**

ADOPTION – NEW FAMILY

...to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **(Galatians 4:5 ESV)**

...he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will **(Ephesians 1:5 ESV)**

REPENTANCE – NEW ACTION

...and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **(Luke 24:47 ESV)**

...correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth **(2 Timothy 2:25 ESV)**

RANSOM – NEW FREEDOM

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **(Mark 10:45 ESV)**

...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold...
(1 Peter 1:18 ESV)

TRANSFER – NEW CITIZENSHIP

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **(Colossians 1:13-14 ESV)**

⁵ John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, accessed online: <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext96/gacos10h.htm>

NOTES

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. **(Hebrews 11:13-16 ESV)**

TRIUMPH – NEW VICTORY

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **(Romans 8:37 ESV)**

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

(1 John 5:4-5 ESV)

DIRECTION – NEW MISSION

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)**

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation...” **(Mark 16:15 ESV)**

...and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **(Luke 24:47 ESV)**

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” **(John 20:21 ESV)**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **(Acts 1:8 ESV)**

HOLY SPIRIT – NEW POWER

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **(John 16:7-15 ESV)**

RESURRECTION – NEW LIFE

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **(Romans 6:4 ESV)**

NOTES

...knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. **(2 Corinthians 4:14 ESV)**

...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.
(Colossians 2:12 ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **(Colossians 3:1 ESV)**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10 ESV)**

RECONCILIATION – NEW RELATIONSHIP

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
(Romans 5:10 ESV)

...and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **(Ephesians 2:16 ESV)**

...and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. **(Colossians 1:20 ESV)**

HOPE – NEW FUTURE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
(1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." **(Revelation 21:1-8 ESV)**

The gospel restores:

OUR BECOMING WHO GOD MADE US TO BE

regeneration, sanctification and glorification

OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

church - community and mission

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

communion and worship

NOTES

REVIEW

WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS?

HOW IS THE WORK OF JESUS ON THE CROSS APPLIED TO ONE'S LIFE?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT WORK IS APPLIED TO ONE'S LIFE?

REFLECT

DESCRIBE THE MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE WHEN THE WORK OF JESUS ON THE CROSS WAS APPLIED TO YOUR LIFE.

WHICH ASPECT OF THE PROVISION OF THE GOSPEL (SEE “THE GOSPEL PROVIDES” PG. 25-31) IS THE MOST MEANINGFUL TO YOU? WHY?

IN THE PAST WEEK, HOW HAVE YOU TRIED TO EARN YOUR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION’S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH SELF: GOD REDEEMED PART II

THEREFORE, CONFESS YOUR SINS TO ONE ANOTHER AND PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER, THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED. THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAS GREAT POWER AS IT IS WORKING.

- JAMES 5:16 ESV -

NEW LIFE AND NEW IDENTITY

WE WON'T _____ DIFFERENTLY IF WE DON'T REALIZE WE _____ DIFFERENT

GOSPEL INDICATIVES COME BEFORE IMPERATIVES, DOCTRINE BEFORE APPLICATION

CHRISTIAN CREED: "WHO DOES GOD SAY THAT I AM?" – BASIS FOR BEING REAL

The finished work of Jesus constructs our new identity

We help one another live in the reality of who we are

**FOR A LIST OF VERSES THAT DETAIL OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST,
SEE KEN BOA'S "WHO DOES GOD SAY THAT I AM?" PG. 97**

OLD LIFE AND OLD IDENTITY

THE _____ WITH SIN – CHOOSING SIDES PUTS YOU AT WAR WITH SIN

The battle is evidence of new life

EXTERNAL: _____ – OUR CULTURE IS NOT NEUTRAL

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **(John 17:14 ESV)**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **(Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV)**

Satan – active, personal spiritual force

INTERNAL: THE DOCTRINE OF _____ SIN

TYPICAL RESPONSES TO OUR SIN

"FIX" IT – I CAN CLEAN MYSELF UP TO COME BEFORE GOD (DON'T UNDERSTAND GOD)

FRET ABOUT IT – BEAT MYSELF UP (DON'T UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL)

FAKE IT – PRESSURE AT CHURCH (DON'T NEED THE GOSPEL)

FORGET IT – IGNORE SIN (DON'T UNDERSTAND SIN)

NOTES

Contradiction between 1 John 3:6 & 1:8?

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. **(1 John 3:6 ESV)**

Sinning=haven't seen Him or known Him

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **(1 John 1:8 ESV)**

We still have sin

Contradiction? No – it describes our reality

A picture of indwelling sin:

Sin has lost it's _____

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **(Romans 6:6 ESV)**

Sin still can _____ on us

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **(Galatians 5:17 ESV)**

Sin can still _____ against us

Paul's struggle with indwelling sin:

¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. **(Romans 7:15-25 ESV)**

OBSERVATIONS ON ROMANS 7:15-25

PAUL WANTS TO DO GOOD AT HIS CORE: VS. 22

HE FINDS HIMSELF DOING WHAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO DO, WHAT HE HATES: VS. 15, 19

HE DOESN'T DO IT, BUT SIN DOES IT - SIN IS SEPARATE FROM HIM: VS. 20

THIS "SEPARATE" SIN SEEMS LIKE A PART OF HIM: VS. 18

THIS INABILITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT BECAUSE OF SIN IS A LAW THAT HE MUST LIVE BY: VS. 23

THIS CAUSES HIM GRIEF, AND HE CRIES OUT ASKING WHO CAN DELIVER HIM: VS. 24

THE ANSWER: JESUS! VS.25

NOTES

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR BEING REAL WITH YOURSELF:

_____ yourself

“Many men live in the dark to themselves all their days; whatever else they know, they know not themselves. They know their outward estates, how rich they are, and the condition of their bodies as to health and sickness they are careful to examine; but as to their inward man, and their principles as to God and eternity, they know little or nothing of themselves. Indeed, few labour to grow wise in this matter, few study themselves as they ought, are acquainted with the evils of their own hearts as they ought; on which yet the whole course of their obedience, and consequently of their eternal condition, doth depend.”¹

_____ yourself

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. **(2 Timothy 2:22 ESV)**

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. **(1 Corinthians 6:18 ESV)**

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. **(1 Corinthians 10:14 ESV)**

Keep _____

Seek _____

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

(John 15:5-11 ESV)

_____ on sin

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **(Colossians 3:5 ESV)**

...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. **(Ephesians 4:22-24 ESV)**

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

(Colossians 3:9-14 ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **(Galatians 5:22-24 ESV)**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **(Romans 8:13 ESV)**

Preach the gospel

BE REAL WITH OTHERS: CONFESSION

We confess our sins to one another and spur one another on towards holiness and mission

Holiness: we want to be like Jesus

Get the gospel into each other's lives

Mission: we want to obey the commands of Jesus

Get the gospel into the world

¹ John Owen, "Indwelling Sin" in The Works of John Owen, Vol. 6 (Carlisle: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2004), 162

NOTES

REVIEW

WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT OURSELVES IN 1 JOHN 1:8 AND 3:6?

HOW DOES ONE PRACTICE BEING REAL WITH SELF?

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFESSION?

REFLECT

WHAT TYPICAL RESPONSE TO SIN DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH THE MOST? WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS?

WHAT IS ONE PRACTICAL THING YOU CAN DO IN THE UPCOMING WEEK TO PRACTICE BEING REAL WITH YOURSELF?

LOOK OVER “WHO DOES GOD SAY THAT I AM?” PG.97. WHAT ASPECT OF YOUR NEW LIFE IS MOST DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO BELIEVE?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION’S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH GOD: CHARACTER OF GOD

BUT AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT, SINCE IT IS WRITTEN, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.

- 1 PETER 1:15-16 ESV -

NATURE : TRINITY¹

TRINITY: ONE GOD, THREE PERSONS: FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT

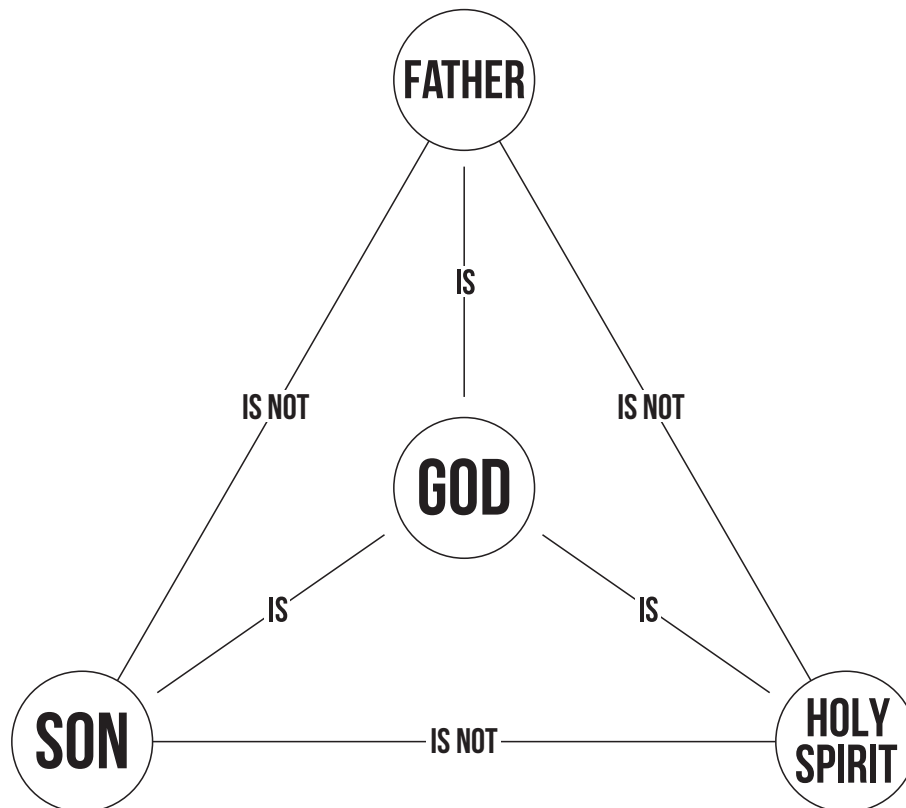
BIBLICAL FOUNDATION (THREE STATEMENTS)

There is _____

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **(Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ESV)**

I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me... **(Isaiah 45:5 ESV)**

God is _____



¹ This section is adapted from Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 226-261

NOTES

Large empty rectangular area for taking notes.

Each person is _____:

The Father is God

The Son is God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **(John 1:1-3 ESV)**

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." **(John 8:58 ESV)**

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' **(Exodus 3:14 ESV)**

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. **(John 5:18 ESV)**

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **(John 20:28 ESV)**

And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. **(Matthew 28:9 ESV)**

The Spirit is God

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... **(Matthew 28:19 ESV)**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **(2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV)**

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God. **(Acts 5:3-4 ESV)**

HERESIES

MODALISM

Definition: God appears in three different modes
Problem: No relationship between the persons in the Trinity

ARIANISM

Definition: Denies the deity of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Problems: Jesus must be God to atone for the sins of the world
Jesus must be God to save us
Jesus must be God to be worshipped

TRITHEISM

Definition: Denies there is one God
Problems: No unity in the universe
Creates a dilemma: Which God do we give our devotion to?

NOTES

IMPLICATIONS

Relationship existed before we did

Unity and diversity of God reflected in human relationships

Relationship between Father and Son reflected in the family

Parents and children

Husband and wife

In the church

One body, many members

Spiritual gifts

Different ethnicities

ATTRIBUTES AND ACTIONS

GREATNESS

Spirituality

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. **(John 4:24 ESV)**

Jesus:

Hypostatic union

Two natures

Fully God

Fully man

Personality

Not an impersonal force

Life (self-existence)

Not created

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **(Psalm 90:2 ESV)**

Always existed

Source of life

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” **(Revelation 4:11)**

For from him and through him and to him are all things, to him be the glory forever. Amen. **(Romans 11:36 ESV)**

...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. **(1 Corinthians 8:6 ESV)**

Infinity

Space (omnipresence)

Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. **(Jeremiah 23:23-24 ESV)**

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. **(Psalm 139:7-10 ESV)**

NOTES

Knowledge (omniscience)

Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge... **(Job 37:16 ESV)**

...for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. **(1 John 3:20 ESV)**

Power (omnipotence)

For nothing will be impossible with God. **(Luke 1:37 ESV)**

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." **(Matthew 19:26 ESV)**

...and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. **(2 Corinthians 6:18 ESV)**

Constancy (immutability)²

Same God today as in the Bible

God's life doesn't change

Time: Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. **(Psalm 93:2 ESV)**

Substance: ...who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

(1 Timothy 6:16 ESV)

God doesn't get better – He is already perfect

God's character doesn't change

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **(James 1:17 ESV)**

God's attributes don't change – not good one day and then evil the next, just and unjust, etc.

God's truth doesn't change

"God still stands behind all the promises, and demands, and statements of purpose, and words of warning, that are there addressed to New Testament believers."³

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. **(Isaiah 40:6-8 ESV)**

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. **(Psalm 119:89 ESV)**

But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever. **(Psalm 119:151-152 ESV)**

God's ways don't change

God still acts towards us in the same way he does in the Bible

² Adapted from J. I. Packer, "God Unchanging" in *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 77-80

³ *Ibid.*, 79

NOTES

God's purposes do not change

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

(Psalm 33:11 ESV)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain...

(Hebrews 6:13-19 ESV)

Goodness

Moral Purity – "moral" - good/evil || right/wrong

Holiness

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" **(Isaiah 6:1-5 ESV)**

Righteousness and Justice

Righteousness – To act in conformity with what is right

Just and Justifier

The sacrifice of Jesus allows God to justify us and remain just
(see Romans 3:21-26 ESV)

Faithfulness

God is able to bring to pass what He has promised

God will bring about what He has promised

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? **(Numbers 23:19 ESV)**

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. **(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV)**

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **(1 Corinthians 1:9 ESV)**

Love

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **(1 John 4:8 ESV)**

NOTES

Large empty rectangular area for taking notes.

Five uses of the love of God in Scripture⁴

Inter-trinitarian love

Providential love

Yearning and salvific love

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **(2 Peter 3:9 ESV)**

[God our Savior] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **(1 Timothy 2:4 ESV)**

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **(Philippians 3:18 ESV)**

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **(Romans 5:10 ESV)**

Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? **(Ezekiel 33:11 ESV)**

Love for his children

Conditional love

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **(John 15:9-10 ESV)**

THE WORD "WORLD" IN JOHN COMMUNICATES BOTH THE BIGNESS AND BADNESS OF IT

How God shows love:

Grace – undeserved favor

Mercy – “tenderhearted, loving compassion for his people”⁵

Persistence – patience

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him... **(2 Peter 3:15 ESV)**

⁴ Adapted from D. A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2000)

⁵ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 322

NOTES

REVIEW

WHAT ARE THE THREE STATEMENTS THAT, WHEN CONSIDERED TOGETHER, GIVE US THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY?

PICK TWO SCRIPTURES THAT TEACH THE DEITY OF JESUS. HOW DO THEY SHOW THAT HE IS GOD?

DOES GOD LOVE EVERYBODY THE SAME? WHY OR WHY NOT?

REFLECT

WHAT WAS ONE ATTRIBUTE OF GOD THAT STOOD OUT TO YOU FROM ALL OF THE ONES LISTED ABOVE? WHY DID IT STAND OUT?

HOW HAS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHO GOD IS CHANGED FROM THIS SESSION?

HOW SHOULD THIS NEW UNDERSTANDING BE LIVED OUT IN YOUR LIFE?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION'S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH GOD: COMMANDS OF GOD

**WHOEVER SAYS HE ABIDES IN HIM OUGHT TO WALK IN THE SAME
WAY IN WHICH HE WALKED.**

- 1 JOHN 2:6 ESV -

REVELATION : _____

GENERAL

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. **(Romans 1:18-23 ESV)**

Incomplete – enough to condemn, not enough to save

SPECIAL – GOD SPEAKS

Our anchor and guide

God speaks/communicates to man

Inspiration

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. **(2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)**

And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **(2 Peter 1:19-21 ESV)**

What does inspiration mean?¹ Verbal plenary inspiration

Verbal – words are inspired by God: God's words

Plenary – all of the Bible

Inspiration – “God-breathed revelation”²

¹ Adapted from Mark Driscoll, “Revelation: God Speaks” in *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2010), 48-49

² *Ibid.*, 48

NOTES

(SPECIAL – GOD SPEAKS CONT.)

Inerrancy³

What is inerrancy? “the Bible is fully truthful in all of its teachings”

ABSOLUTE – COMPLETELY TRUE IN ALL MATTERS INCLUDING SCIENCE AND HISTORY
FULL – COMPLETELY TRUE, BUT ON MATTERS OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY:
THE BIBLE DOES NOT AIM TO PROVIDE DATA
THE BIBLE CONTAINS PHENOMENAL DESCRIPTIONS – HOW THINGS APPEARED TO THE AUTHORS,
INCLUDING GENERAL REFERENCES OR APPROXIMATIONS

Truth⁴

Testimonies: Faith

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **(John 17:17 ESV)**

Timeless Truth – same world, _____

Promises: Hope

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **(Hebrews 10:23 ESV)**

Timeless Truth – God keeps _____

Commands: Love

But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. **(Psalm 119:151 ESV)**

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. **(Psalm 119:35-37 ESV)**

Timeless Truth – unchanging truth about _____

“GOD’S LAW: IT GIVES US A WORKING DEFINITION OF TRUE HUMANITY. IT SHOWS US WHAT WE WERE MADE TO BE, AND TEACHES US HOW TO BE TRULY HUMAN, AND WARNS US AGAINST MORAL SELF-DESTRUCTION”⁵

³ Adapted from Millard Erickson, Christian Theology, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 247-249

⁴ Adapted from J. I. Packer, “Thy Word is Truth” in Knowing God (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 109-ff.

⁵ Packer, 114

NOTES

RIGHT : _____ RELATIONSHIPS OF _____ AND _____

BELIEF AND REPENTANCE – _____ SET APART (POSITION IN CHRIST)

“... and saying the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
(Mark 1:15 ESV)

...testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Acts 20:21 ESV)

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God... **(Hebrews 6:1 ESV)**

FAITH AND WORKS – _____ APART (PRACTICE IN CHRIST)

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.
(James 2:18-26 ESV)

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **(John 15:4-5 ESV)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
(Galatians 5:22-25 ESV)

Faith is evidenced by works. Both must be present, but one produces the other.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **(Philippians 2:12-13 ESV)**

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. **(Colossians 1:29 ESV)**

REAL : _____ FROM HIM: GOD _____ ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM; GOD _____ ALL THINGS TO HIM: GOD _____ OF ALL THINGS

NOTES

REVIEW

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENERAL REVELATION AND SPECIAL REVELATION?

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHARACTER OF GOD AND THE COMMANDS OF GOD?

DEFINE "VERBAL PLENARY INSPIRATION".

REFLECT

DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING YOURSELF AS A CHARACTER IN GOD'S STORY?
WHY OR WHY NOT?

WHAT POSITION DOES THE WORD OF GOD HAVE IN YOUR LIFE: TO WHAT DEGREE
DOES IT SHAPE HOW YOU VIEW YOURSELF, GOD, THE WORLD AROUND YOU AND
YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AN ADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE? IF NOT,
WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND
IT?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION'S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH GOD: COMMUNION WITH GOD

BUT THE HOUR IS COMING, AND IS NOW HERE, WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPERS WILL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH, FOR THE FATHER IS SEEKING SUCH PEOPLE TO WORSHIP HIM.

- JOHN 4:23 ESV -

WORSHIPING THE FATHER

GOD IS SEEKING WORSHIPERS

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. **(John 4:23-24 ESV)**

What is worship?

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. **(Romans 11:36-12:2 ESV)**

Worship = _____ + _____

GLORY

**WHAT CENTERS OUR EXISTENCE
WHAT GIVES US PURPOSE, IDENTITY AND MEANING
WHAT WE SEEK TO SATISFY OURSELVES WITH**

SACRIFICE

CHOOSING ONE THING INSTEAD OF ANOTHER

IDOLS

**MAKING A GOOD THING AN ULTIMATE THING
WORSHIPPING CREATION INSTEAD OF CREATOR**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. **(Romans 1:18-25 ESV)**

NOTES

LOVING THE SON

LOVE IN OBEDIENCE AND OBEDIENCE IN LOVE

We obey secure in the love of God

We obey because we love God

We love because He first loved us

LOVE _____ BY OBEDIENCE

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” **(John 14:15 ESV)**

Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” **(John 14:23 ESV)**

Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. **(1 John 2:4-6 ESV)**

OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER DISPLAYS OUR LOVE FOR GOD

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

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. **(John 13:34-35 ESV)**

By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. **(1 John 3:10 ESV)**

LOVE _____ BY OBEDIENCE

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. **(Romans 5:6-11 ESV)**

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... **(John 1:12 ESV)**

OUR LOVE FOR GOD

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.” **(Matthew 22:37-38 ESV)**

NOTES

LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

EMPOWERING – GIVING _____ AND ENABLING _____

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **(John 6:63 ESV)**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **(Romans 8:13 ESV)**

ILLUMINATION – KNOWING GOD THROUGH _____

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. **(Psalm 119:18 ESV)**

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might...

(Ephesians 1:16-19 ESV)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

(John 16:13 ESV)

SANCTIFICATION – LIVING _____ ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT

“Regeneration makes man’s heart a battlefield, where ‘the flesh’ (the old man) tirelessly disputes the supremacy of ‘the spirit’ (the new man).”¹

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

(Romans 8:5-13 ESV)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. **(Galatians 5:16-25 ESV)**

PRAYER – _____ WITH GOD

The Spirit teaches us to pray

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **(Romans 8:26 ESV)**

¹ J. I. Packer, “The Spirituality of John Owen” in *Among God’s Giants* (Eastbourne, England: Kingsway Publications, 1991), 258

NOTES

THE LORD'S PRAYER BEGINS WITH "OUR FATHER": THIS RECOGNITION ENCOURAGES CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER, STRENGTHENS WEAK FAITH, AND ASSURES US THAT WE APPROACH GOD AS AN OVERFLOWING GIVER RATHER THAN DEMANDING TYRANT.²

DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYER³

**ADORATION
(PRAISE FOR WHO GOD IS)**

**CONFESSION
(RECOGNITION OF SIN
IN ONE'S LIFE)**

**RENEWAL
(RECOGNITION OF THE
NECESSITY OF
DAILY RENEWAL)**

**PETITION
(MAKING REQUESTS
FOR OURSELVES)**

**INTERCESSION
(MAKING REQUESTS
FOR OTHERS)**

**AFFIRMATION
(AGREEING WITH GOD'S
WILL AND SUBMITTING
TO IT)**

**THANKSGIVING
(PRAISE FOR WHAT
GOD HAS DONE)**

**"[PRAYER] MEANS PRAYING ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD,
ON THE BASIS OF PROMISES"⁴**

² Mark Rodgers, "Deliver Us from the Evil One": Martin Luther on Prayer" in Themelios, 34(3), 335-347(Accessed online: <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/publications/34-3/deliver-us-from-the-evil-one-martin-luther-on-prayer>)

³ Adapted from Ken Boa, Face to Face: Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997), vii

⁴ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together (New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1954), 49

NOTES

REVIEW

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

DESCRIBE HOW OUR LOVE FOR GOD IS CONNECTED TO OUR OBEDIENCE OF GOD.

WRITE OUT A DEFINITION OF "SANCTIFICATION."

REFLECT

WHAT ARE SOME IDOLS THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW CAN YOU GO ABOUT DESTROYING THOSE IDOLS?

WHAT FORMS OF PRAYER DO YOU FIND YOURSELF NEGLECTING? HOW CAN YOU GO ABOUT INTEGRATING THEM INTO YOUR PRAYER LIFE?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION'S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH OTHERS: CHURCH DEFINITION

**A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER: JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.
- JOHN 13:34-35 ESV -**

CHURCH IS THE _____ NOT THE _____ UNIVERSAL CHURCH

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **(Matthew 16:18 ESV)**

...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **(Ephesians 3:10 ESV)**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. **(Ephesians 5:25 ESV)**

And [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **(Colossians 1:18 ESV)**

LOCAL CHURCH

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. **(Acts 8:1 ESV)**

Church: a localized community of baptized believers committed to one another and the mission of God who gather regularly with recognizable leadership, practice the two ordinances and function as a team and family.

SANDALS' DEFINITION OF CHURCH

A LOCALIZED COMMUNITY OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS COMMITTED TO ONE ANOTHER AND THE MISSION OF GOD WHO GATHER REGULARLY WITH RECOGNIZABLE LEADERSHIP, PRACTICE THE TWO ORDINANCES AND FUNCTION AS A TEAM AND FAMILY.

NOTES

BIBLICAL IMAGE OF THE CHURCH¹

OF GOD

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Peter 2:9 ESV)

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own... **(1 Corinthians 6:19 ESV)**

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. **(Ephesians 3:6 ESV)**

OF CHRIST

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. **(Ephesians 5:23 ESV)**

STRUCTURE

TWO TYPES OF LEADERS DESCRIBED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Elders: _____ of the church

Deacons: _____ in overseeing and caring for Christians

MEMBERS

WHY WE PAY PASTORS

SCRIPTURAL

Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 9:6-12 ESV)

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." **(1 Timothy 5:17-18 ESV)**

PRACTICAL

Working a full-time job and being a pastor is possible, but not always practical.

Giving pastors a decent wage empowers generosity.

MEMBERSHIP

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "MEMBERSHIP" AT SANDALS?

BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF SANDALS, YOU MAKE A COVENANT TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF WITH SANDALS, COMMIT TO ITS MISSION AND VISION, SUBMIT TO ITS LEADERSHIP AND LOVE ITS MEMBERS.

¹ Taken from Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 1045-1051

NOTES

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for taking notes.

REVIEW

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

WHAT ARE THE TWO TYPES OF LEADERS DESCRIBED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND WHAT DO WE CALL THEM AT SANDALS?

WHY IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

REFLECT

WHAT BIBLICAL IMAGE OF THE CHURCH MOST CAPTIVATED YOU? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS THE CASE?

DO YOU TAKE ISSUE WITH THE IDEA OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?
WHY OR WHY NOT?

COMMITMENT TO A LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD BE A BASIC AND INTEGRAL PART OF ONE'S CHRISTIAN LIFE. WHAT RESISTANCE DO YOU SENSE AS YOU READ THAT STATEMENT? WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT COMES FROM?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION'S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH OTHERS: CHURCH LIFE

**AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE...
- 1 PETER 4:10 ESV -**

CELEBRATION

_____ **WORSHIP – CELEBRATION**

_____ **WORSHIP – COMMUNITY**

WHAT DO WE DO ON SUNDAYS?

Communion

Singing

Preaching

ORDINANCES

Baptism

What baptism is – a public declaration of faith

What baptism is not – a magic act that saves you

Who we baptize – those who believe and have confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior

How we baptize – by immersion

Scriptures:

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **(Acts 2:41 ESV)**

But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **(Acts 8:12 ESV)**

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. **(Acts 10:48 ESV)**

Communion

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
(Luke 22:19 ESV)

Communion is a symbol and event to reflect and focus on the death of Christ

Why we practice communion

Jesus commanded us to

Follow the example of the early church

To remember the sacrifice of Jesus

To commune with God

NOTES

Large empty rectangular area for taking notes.

COMMUNITY

THE _____ OF COMMUNITY: DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

Discipleship – getting the gospel into _____

DISCIPLESHIP AT SANDALS: WORKING WITH ONE ANOTHER SO WE BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS MANIFESTING HIS CHARACTER OBEYING HIS COMMANDS

Mission – getting the gospel into _____

THE _____ OF COMMUNITY

There is no perfect church

People come in with masks

People will feel a pressure for self-righteousness (performance)

THE MOMENT YOU START PRETENDING, GROWTH STOPS.

THE _____ COMMUNITY

Spiritual Christ-centered community: Our community is not based on affinity but on Jesus

Confession

“SIN DEMANDS TO HAVE A MAN BY HIMSELF. IT WITHDRAWS HIM FROM THE COMMUNITY. THE MORE ISOLATED A PERSON IS, THE MORE DESTRUCTIVE WILL BE THE POWER OF SIN OVER HIM AND THE MORE DEEPLY HE BECOMES INVOLVED IN IT, THE MORE DISASTROUS IS HIS ISOLATION. SIN WANTS TO REMAIN UNKNOWN.”¹

Be a good confessor

Be specific

Know your audience

Give context, not excuses

Be a good listener

THE COMMAND OF COMMUNITY: “ONE ANOTHER” VERSES (SEE PAGE 100)

¹ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1954), 112

NOTES

UNITY

UNITY: UNIFIED IN PURPOSE

UNITY: UNIFIED IN BELIEF

IN UNITY: DEVOTING TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE TO FURTHER THE MISSION AND VISION OF SANDALS

Spiritual gifts

Service

Financial support²

“A loving church practices generous giving”³

Giving supports the work of the church

Giving helps you keep money in its place

Tithing:

Old Testament

10% to Levite's ministry

10% to festivals

3.3% for the poor

Additional tithes

Total: over 25%

New Testament

All of our resources belong to God

We give regularly and cheerfully

FOR UNITY

As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. **(Titus 3:10-11 ESV)**

And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. **(1 Corinthians 5:2 ESV)**

For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.” **(1 Corinthians 5:12-13 ESV)**

We discipline after sin is lovingly identified, called out and a person is still blatantly unrepentant.

Long-term hope of church discipline: restoration

² Adapted from Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears, Vintage Church (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008), 208-209;

see also 2 Corinthians 8-9

³ IBID., 208

NOTES

REVIEW

WHAT ARE THE TWO PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY? WRITE OUT A DEFINITION FOR EACH ONE.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

HOW DO YOU CONFESS SIN WELL?

REFLECT

DO YOU FEEL A PRESSURE TO PERFORM OR PRETEND AT CHURCH?
WHY OR WHY NOT?

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS DIFFICULT TO PRACTICE JAMES 5:16?

DO YOU HAVE A NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE IDEA OF FINANCIALLY
SUPPORTING A CHURCH? WHY?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION'S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

REAL WITH OTHERS: CHURCH PURPOSE

HOW THEN WILL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW ARE THEY TO BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD? AND HOW ARE THEY TO HEAR WITHOUT SOMEONE PREACHING? AND HOW ARE THEY TO PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE SENT? AS IT IS WRITTEN, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS!"

- ROMANS 10:14-15 ESV -

GOD'S MISSION

_____ **AND** _____ **AS A BIBLICAL THEME**

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **(Genesis 12:1-3 ESV)**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
(1 Peter 2:9 ESV)

GOD'S PURPOSE: MAKING _____

"For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.
(Isaiah 48:9-11 ESV)

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. **(Psalm 16:11 ESV)**

Fulfillment of Genesis 12 Galatians 3:8

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." **(Galatians 3:8 ESV)**

THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

The kingdom of God = rule, reign and authority of God

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...
(Colossians 1:13 ESV)

"Thy kingdom come"

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **(Luke 4:18-19 ESV)**

And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."
(Luke 7:22-23 ESV)

NOTES

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THE _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

We live in an age with two kingdoms

There are promises yet to be fulfilled

THE INVITATIONS OF THE KINGDOM

Come and _____

He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. **(John 1:39 ESV)**

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. **(Matthew 13:44-46 ESV)**

Come and _____

Self denial vs. denial of self

Self denial = denying yourself things

Denial of self = death

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

(Luke 9:23-27 ESV)

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." **(Luke 9:57-62 ESV)**

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." **(Luke 14:25-33 ESV)**

MISSION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (_____)

MISSION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT (_____)

Jesus' _____

Jesus' _____

Jesus' _____

NOTES

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)**

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."
(Mark 16:15 ESV)

...and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **(Luke 24:47 ESV)**

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." **(John 20:21 ESV)**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **(Acts 1:8 ESV)**

Apostle's (reluctant) _____

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.
(Acts 11:19 ESV)

OUR MISSION

PRESENCE AND _____

"IF PRESENCE WITHOUT PROCLAMATION IS UNINTELLIGIBLE, PROCLAMATION WITHOUT PRESENCE IS UNCONVINCING"¹

Presence

"Only where hands are not too good for deeds of love and mercy in everyday helpfulness can the mouth joyfully and convincingly proclaim the message of God's love and mercy"²

Proclamation

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... **(1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ESV)**

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son... **(Colossians 1:13 ESV)**

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." **(John 3:3 ESV)**

LOCAL AND _____

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **(Acts 1:8 ESV)**

ACROSS CULTURAL LINES

¹ Stuart Murray, Church Planting: Laying Foundations (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001), 44

² Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together (New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1954), 100

NOTES

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REVIEW

WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE?

HOW ARE BLESSING AND PURPOSE TIED TOGETHER IN THE BIBLE?

WHAT ARE THE TWO ASPECTS OF OUR MISSION AS CHRISTIANS? WRITE OUT A DEFINITION FOR EACH ONE.

REFLECT

HOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN JOINING GOD ON MISSION? IF YOU'RE NOT, WHAT IS A STEP YOU CAN TAKE IN THIS NEXT WEEK TO JOIN HIM ON MISSION?

TO WHAT DEGREE DOES YOUR VIEW OF YOUR LIFE AND POSSESSIONS FIT IN WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF JESUS? DESCRIBE.

IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU FIND RESISTANCE SUBMITTING TO JESUS? WHY IS THIS THE CASE? WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN CHANGE IN THE NEXT WEEK?

MEMORY VERSE

WRITE OUT THIS SESSION'S VERSE FROM MEMORY.

APPENDIX

WHO DOES GOD SAY I AM?¹

Here is a list of biblical affirmations about our identity in Jesus Christ that is derived from a few selected passages in the New Testament. This is just a portion of the many truths about who we have become through faith in God's Son, but it is a powerful inventory to review from time to time.

I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. (John 1:12)

I AM A BRANCH OF THE TRUE VINE, AND A CONDUIT OF CHRIST'S LIFE.

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:1, 5)

I AM A FRIEND OF JESUS.

No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

I HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED AND REDEEMED.

being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)

MY OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, AND I AM NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN.

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, that we would no longer be slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6)

I WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED BY GOD.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

I HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Romans 8:2)

AS A CHILD OF GOD, I AM A FELLOW HEIR WITH CHRIST.

and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. (Romans 8:17)

I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY CHRIST.

Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

I HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE A SAINT.

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

IN CHRIST JESUS, I HAVE WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION.

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

MY BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN ME.

Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (Corinthians 3:16)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

¹ Reprinted with permission from Ken Boa, "Who Does God Say I Am?" (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://www.kenboa.org/downloads/pdf/IdentityAffirmations2.pdf>

I AM JOINED TO THE LORD AND AM ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM.

But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

GOD LEADS ME IN THE TRIUMPH AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

THE HARDENING OF MY MIND HAS BEEN REMOVED IN CHRIST.

But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:14)

I AM A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I HAVE BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST.

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

I HAVE BEEN MADE ONE WITH ALL WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

I AM NO LONGER A SLAVE, BUT A CHILD AND AN HEIR.

Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:7)

I HAVE BEEN SET FREE IN CHRIST.

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

I AM CHOSEN, HOLY, AND BLAMELESS BEFORE GOD.

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. (Ephesians 1:4)

I AM REDEEMED AND FORGIVEN BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

I HAVE BEEN PREDESTINED BY GOD TO OBTAIN AN INHERITANCE.

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will. (Ephesians 1:10-11)

I HAVE BEEN SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE.

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Ephesians 1:13)

BECAUSE OF GOD'S MERCY AND LOVE, I HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE WITH CHRIST.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). (Ephesians 2:4-5)

I AM SEATED IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES WITH CHRIST.

and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)

I AM GOD'S WORKMANSHIP CREATED TO PRODUCE GOOD WORKS.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

I HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR TO GOD BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)

I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY AND A PARTAKER OF HIS PROMISE.

the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Ephesians 3:6; 5:30)

I HAVE BOLDNESS AND CONFIDENT ACCESS TO GOD THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.

in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. (Ephesians 3:12)

MY NEW SELF IS RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY.

put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Ephesians 4:24)

I WAS FORMERLY DARKNESS, BUT NOW I AM LIGHT IN THE LORD.

you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8)

I AM A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)

THE PEACE OF GOD GUARDS MY HEART AND MIND.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

GOD SUPPLIES ALL MY NEEDS.

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

I HAVE BEEN MADE COMPLETE IN CHRIST.

in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority. (Colossians 2:10)

I HAVE BEEN RAISED UP WITH CHRIST.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (Colossians 3:1)

MY LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

CHRIST IS MY LIFE, AND I WILL BE REVEALED WITH HIM IN GLORY.

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:4)

I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN OF GOD, AND I AM HOLY AND BELOVED.

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12)

GOD LOVES ME AND HAS CHOSEN ME.

knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you. (1 Thessalonians 1:4)

THE MORE WE EMBRACE THESE TRUTHS FROM SCRIPTURE ABOUT WHO WE HAVE BECOME IN CHRIST, THE MORE STABLE, GRATEFUL, AND FULLY ASSURED WE WILL BE IN THIS WORLD.

“ONE ANOTHER” COMMANDS

LOVE – 1 JOHN 4:11

Romans 12:10 – with brotherly affection
1 Peter 1:22 – from a pure heart
1 Peter 4:8 – earnestly
John 15:12, 17 – as I have loved you
1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7; 2 John 1:5

SHARING LIFE

1 Peter 5:5 – clothe self with humility toward
Ephesians 4:2 – bear in love (with all humility and gentleness, with patience)
Mark 9:50 – be at peace
Romans 15:5 – live in harmony (12:16)
Ephesians 4:32 – be kind
Colossians 3:13 – forgive (Ephesians 4:32)
Ephesians 5:2 – submit

ENCOURAGEMENT

1 Thessalonians 4:18 – encourage (5:11)
2 Corinthians 13:11 – comfort
1 Corinthians 12:25 – have care
1 Peter 4:10 – use gift to serve
Galatians 6:2 – bear burdens
Hebrews 10:25 – encourage (and meet)

ACCOUNTABILITY

Hebrews 10:24 – consider (how to stir up to love and good works)
Romans 15:14 – instruct
James 5:16 – confess sins
Hebrews 3:13 – exhort (that you might not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin)
Colossians 3:16 – teach and admonish in wisdom

SERVICE

1 Thessalonians 5:15 – do good (don't repay evil for evil)
John 13:14 – wash feet
Galatians 5:13 – serve
1 Peter 4:9 – show hospitality
Romans 12:10 – outdo in showing honor
Romans 15:7 – welcome

DO-NOTS


James 4:11 – do not speak evil
James 5:9 – do not grumble
Colossians 3:9 – do not lie
Galatians 5:26 – do not provoke, envy
1 Corinthians 6:7 – do not have lawsuits
2 Corinthians 10:12 – do not compare


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