

Six Lessons for New Believers



2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Lesson One: Who is Jesus?

A. Jesus is God

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 5:18, "For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."

John 10:30-33, "I and the Father are one." The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."

John 20:28, "Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Col 2:9, "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

Hebrews 1:8, "But of the Son He says, 'Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.'"

B. Through Jesus all things were created!

John 1:3, "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

Col 1:16-17, "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

C. Jesus Never Sinned!

1 Peter 2:22, "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

D. Jesus Has Great Authority

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

John 3:35, “The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.”

1 Peter 3:22 [Jesus] who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Isaiah 9:6, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

E. Jesus loves us!

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

Romans 8:39, “neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

F. Jesus is Coming Back!

Matthew 26:64, "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Matthew 16:27, “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”

Luke 21:27, “At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Discussion Questions

1. How do we know that Jesus is God, from the verses we read?
2. What does it mean that Jesus made everything?
3. Why is it important that Jesus never sinned?
4. What does it mean that Jesus has all authority?
5. Why is it good news that Jesus is coming back?

Lesson Two: What has Jesus done for us?

Christianity is all about who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for us. Many people and many religions talk about what they can do for God or gods (idols), but as Christians we talk about what Jesus has done for us.

Let us look at what Jesus did for us.

A. He came down to earth from heaven to save us.

John 6:51, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

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

Because Jesus loves us, he left the glories of heaven and became a man. Jesus chose to be born in a manger to a humble family. By entering the world in this way, he identified with the poor and the outcast.

Matthew 1:21 "And she [Mary] will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

Luke 2:9-12 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

He did not own his own home and we are told that he made himself nothing.

Luke 9:58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Phil. 2:5 – 8a Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself...

B. Jesus Suffered

- Jesus was spit upon Mark 14:65 “Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.”
- Jesus was mocked Mark 15:20 “And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.”
- He was denied by Peter and betrayed by Judas Mark 14:68 “But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.”
- He was blindfolded and beaten Mark 14:65 “Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.”
- He was scourged Mark 15:15 “Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.”
- A crown of thorns was put on his head Mark 15:17 “They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.”
- He was struck with a reed Mark 15:19 “Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him”
- We are told in Isaiah that Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief Isaiah 53:3 “He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.”

C. Jesus died on a cross

Isaiah 53:6, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Luke 23:33, "When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals -- one on his right, the other on his left."
He died so we could be forgiven.

Rom. 4:25, "He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."

1 Peter 2:24, "and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. Jesus rose from the dead!"

Jesus Christ came into this world to die for our sins. Jesus came to give his life for us (Matt. 20:28).

D. Jesus Rose From the Dead

While Jesus was alive, he had predicted that he would rise from the dead. He challenged his enemies:

"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." He was speaking about his body (John 2:19-22).

We read about the importance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

1 Corinthians 15:1, "Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

Romans 4:25, "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."

What we learn from Jesus' resurrection:

1. It proves that everything he said and promised was true!
2. It shows us that Jesus has power over death.

Like Jesus, one day all of us will be raised up from the dead.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus come down from heaven, and what does this show about His love for us?
2. What kinds of suffering did Jesus go through, and why did He endure this suffering?
3. Why is Jesus' death on the cross important for our forgiveness?
4. What does Jesus' resurrection show us about His power and promises?
5. How does knowing what Jesus did for us change the way we view Him and our lives?

Lesson Three: Salvation

A. Two Criminals

There were two criminals crucified on the right and the left-hand side of Jesus. At first, both criminals insulted Jesus.

Matthew 27:41-44, "Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 'He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing."

After being with Jesus for a short time, one of the robbers totally changed his attitude.

Luke 23:39, "One of the criminals who hung there, hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

What an amazing time to repent and turn to Jesus. This was the last day of his criminal life. As far as we know, this criminal had never followed God. However, he is crucified next to Jesus. At first, he also insulted Jesus. But after spending a very short time with the Lord, he repented, defended Jesus, and asked Jesus to remember him when he entered his eternal kingdom.

This is a great picture of salvation. The criminal knew he was a sinful man and said, “We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve.” The criminal changed his ways, which is the definition of repentance. Then he called upon Jesus to save him. By faith he believed that Jesus could save him when he entered his eternal kingdom. Jesus saw his repentance and faith and said, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The moment the criminal died he went straight to paradise to be with Jesus forever. What a wonderful story. We are not saved because we have served Jesus our whole lives. This man did nothing for God. He had no ability to serve the Lord, for his hands and his feet were nailed to a cross. However, he did do three things. First, he realized he was a sinful person. Second, he repented and turned from his evil ways. And third, he asked Jesus to remember him when he entered into paradise.

This is how people become Christians and spend eternity with Jesus. Another name for paradise is heaven. Following are three steps to becoming a Christian.

B. Realize the Problem

Your problem is the same as every other person on the planet - you are a sinner. We read in Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” God is holy, which means he is sinless. Heaven is also holy. Only through the forgiveness of sin can God accept us and allow us to enter into heaven.

In summary, we all have a problem. The problem is that everyone is separated from holy God because of sin and therefore cannot go to heaven.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

We are all lost because of our sins. The good news is that Jesus came to earth to save all of us who are lost.. “For the Son of Man [Jesus] came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). This is why Jesus died on the cross. It was his sacrifice on the cross that made it possible for people to be forgiven.

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

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

John 15:12-13 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

Titus 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

C. Repent

Acts 3:19, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Ezekiel 18:32 For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

Acts 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

What is Repentance?

Repentance means to turn around and go the other direction. We turn away from our sin and turn to God. We turn from our old way of life and follow Jesus.

Mark 1:15 says, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

D. Have Faith in Jesus Christ

The word faith and the word believe have the same meaning.

We read in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Two examples of faith:

1. We are confident that God exists even though we cannot see him. This is faith.
2. With our physical eyes we cannot see the goodness of God, yet we believe with full assured that he is good. This too is faith.

To believe means that we place our trust in God’s truth. In other words, we are fully convinced that everything God has said is true.

1 Corinthians 15:2-4, “By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Two more Examples of faith:

If we read in the Bible, “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” and we are convinced this is true, then we have faith.

If we are confident that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again on the third day, then we believe the gospel.

The problem that every human being has is that we are separated from God because of our sin. God has a solution for our problem. If we repent and believe in Jesus, God will destroy the problem of sin. Once sin is destroyed, we are no longer separated from God. Jesus has destroyed sin by dying on the cross. Everyone who repents of their sins and believes in Jesus and what he has done for us can now have eternal life with an eternal personal relationship with God.

God desires to have a good relationship with human beings. Because God is love, he sent Jesus to die for our sins. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that anyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) As soon as we believe, we receive eternal life, and one day we will go to paradise with God forever.

We can pray a prayer like this, "Jesus, I believe in you. I admit that I need forgiveness. I want to turn away from my sin and turn to you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I trust in this sacrifice. Thank you that I can now go to heaven."

Once you do this Jesus promises to come into your life.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Now that you have received Jesus into your life, share what you have done with others.

E. Tell Others

You have received the love of God, eternal life, and forgiveness. Now it's time to tell your friends and family. They need to hear that God loves them so much that he sent his only son to die for their sins.

Romans 10:13-14, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Here are 7 things to remember when telling people about Jesus.

1. Pray! Pray for boldness, pray for wisdom on what to share, pray for opportunities, and pray for people to open their hearts to receive.
2. Listen. Spend at least as much time listening as talking.

3. Testimony. Share what happened to you. You have a testimony of what God did in your life. Boldly tell others all the good things God has done for you.
4. Don't Argue. Talk about what Jesus did in your life and what he can do in theirs. Don't get caught up in arguments about political, moral, and ethical issues. Tell people about Jesus' love and how he can save them from their sins.
5. Separation. Share the problem, which is separation from God. Memorize or write down Romans 3:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." and Romans 6:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Share these verses with them.
6. God's Answer. Talk about God's answer to the problem of being separated from God. When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, he paid the penalty for our sins. Share 1 Peter 2:24: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."
7. Pray with them to receive Jesus. If they believe what you are telling them, ask them to pray with you. Tell them they can receive Jesus right now and receive eternal life.

John 1:12, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Romans 10:13, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Here is a sample prayer you can lead others in: "Dear Jesus, I know that I have sinned and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name, amen."

F. Assurance of Salvation

Salvation depends completely on Jesus. As we continually put our trust in him, we will experience the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. It is the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives that gives us the assurance that we are saved. We are never saved because we sin less or do more good things. However, we are assured that Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit when

we grow. As we grow, we will sin less often and do more things that please the Lord.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

God is so good that he made a way for us to be forgiven and be with him in heaven forever. Now that we are Christians it is important to remember that God is the one who makes this happen. It is not our good works that save us; it is God’s grace.

1 John 5:11-12 gives us a strong promise about being saved. It says:
"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Here’s how 1 John 5:11-12 can assure us of our salvation:

1. God Gives Us Eternal Life: The verse tells us that eternal life is a gift from God. We don’t have to earn it; God freely gives it. This lets us know that eternal life is something we can have now if we believe in Jesus.
2. Life Comes Through Jesus: It says that this life is in God’s Son, Jesus. This means that when we believe in Jesus and have a relationship with Him, we have eternal life.
3. Simple and Clear: Verse 12 says, “Whoever has the Son has life.” This means if you have accepted Jesus, you have eternal life. It’s that simple. We can be sure we’re saved by trusting in Jesus.
4. A Certain Promise: The verse shows that having Jesus is what matters. It’s not about how we feel or what we do but about having Jesus in our lives. This makes it clear and gives us confidence.

So, 1 John 5:11-12 helps us know for sure that we have eternal life if we believe in Jesus. It’s a promise we can trust!

Discussion Questions

1. What changed the heart of the criminal on the cross, and how did Jesus respond to his faith?
2. Why is it important to recognize that we are all sinners?
3. What does it mean to repent, and why is it a necessary part of following Jesus?
4. How do we know that we are truly saved?

5. Why should we share the message of Jesus with others, and what are some ways to do it?

Lesson Four: The Grace of God

A. Salvation is a Free Gift

While Jesus was dying on the cross for our sins, remember there were two criminals next to him. One was on his right and the other was on his left. They had done horrible things and deserved to be punished. Early in the day both men insulted Jesus, but later in the day one of them changed. The criminal on his left started to insult Jesus by saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" The criminal on Jesus' right said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" 43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." This story is found in Luke 23:32-43 and Matthew 27:44.

The criminal on Jesus' right is now in heaven. In fact, that very day as Jesus had said, he was in Paradise! What did he do to deserve salvation? Did he go to church? Did he pray every day? Did he evangelize? NO! He could do nothing because he was nailed to a cross. But he did believe in Jesus. So he asked Jesus just to remember him. And Jesus graciously forgave him.

We need to understand that salvation does not come because we do good things! Salvation comes because of what Jesus did by dying on the cross. If we believe that Jesus died for us on the cross and trust in Him, we will be saved.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have ever lasting life” (John 3:16).

Because God loves us, he sent his son into the world. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, he was buried and on the third day he rose from the dead. If we believe this, we will have eternal life. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our sin and there is nothing we can do to add or pay for this salvation.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Grace means that you are given something that is free of cost.

We receive the grace of God through faith. When we truly believe in who Jesus is and what he has done for us, we are forgiven.

God even tells us that salvation is “not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”. This means that even faith is given to us as a gift. He did this because he loves us. Our response needs to be thankfulness!

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B. Not By Works

We do not receive salvation through good works. Going to church, praying, and sharing our faith are good things but they will not save us. We are saved by faith. We can give to the poor, help others, and sing praise songs all day long, but these things will not save us. We are saved because of what Jesus did for us; He died on the cross for our sins.

1 John 5:11-13, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

- We are saved by the grace of God.
- Salvation is a free gift.

Acts 15:11 “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved.”

Acts 4:12 “For there is no deliverance through any other person, nor has any other name on earth been given by which we must be saved,”

Acts 16:31”Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

God is ready and willing to give salvation to anyone who asks with faith.

Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

“And the Spirit and the bride say ‘Come!’
And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’
And let the one who is thirsty come;
let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”
(Revelation 22:17)

Freedom

Because of the salvation God has given you, you have been set free! You are free from sin and free from the power of Satan.

Galatians 5:1, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

Do you feel like there is an evil spirit affecting you that you would like to get rid of? Jesus is able and willing to set you free. If you have sin in your life that you feel addicted to, confess and repent of this sin in a sincere prayer to God. This will release the evil spirits’ authority to remain in your life. As a Christian, you now have the authority to tell the evil spirit/s to leave in Jesus’ name. If you feel an evil spirit affecting you as a result of abuse by someone else, you can loose the hold this demon has over you by forgiving your abuser. Now use the authority you have because your sins are forgiven and the Holy Spirit lives in you. With faith, tell this demon to leave in Jesus’ name.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the criminal on the cross do to receive salvation, and what does this show about God’s grace?
2. Why is salvation called a “free gift” from God?
3. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 teach us about being saved by grace and not by works?

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

4. Why is it important to believe in Jesus for salvation, according to Acts 4:12 and Acts 16:31?

Acts 4:12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Acts 16:31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

5. How can we accept God’s invitation for eternal life, as described in Revelation 3:20 and Revelation 22:17?

Revelation 3:20, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

Lesson Five: Now that I am a Christian, What Should I Do?

LOVE GOD AND OTHERS!

Jesus made it very clear how we are to live as his followers in Mark 12:28-31:

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’”

God wants us to love him and to love others.

If we ask, what do I do now that I am a Christian? The answer is, love God and love your neighbor.

A. How Can We Show Love for God?

1. We obey Him.

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 14:23).

"In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

In order to obey God, we must know what the Bible says and follow it. Listen to the Word of God at church. Read the Bible and obey it. Even with this book you are reading right now, you should listen carefully to each lesson and follow its teachings. This does not mean that everything we do for God will be easy. But if we truly love God, we will gladly do whatever He tells us.

2. We talk to Him.

Praying is talking to God. Tell God your problems. Ask him to help you. Talk to him about everything. Praying is one the best ways we can spend time with God.

"Never stop praying" (I Thess. 5:17).

Jesus taught that everyone should pray and not give up.

"And he spoke a parable to them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

3. We thank Him.

Thank him for everything he has done for you. Thank him for salvation. Thank him for everything he has given you.

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you ..."
1 Thess 5:18.

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving ..." Col 4:2.

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name ..." Heb 13:15.

4. We confess our sins to Him.

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

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

We should try to not sin, but all of us will sin. When we do, we need to confess our sins to God. Tell him your sins and ask him for the strength to not repeat them.

5. We repent of our sins.

Confession is good, but we also need to turn from our sins and not do them again. The word repentance means to turn. We turn away from sin and do not do it any longer.

Jesus said, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32).

Jesus also said, “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

6. We put Him first in our lives.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

With everything we have and with all that we are, we must love God. This means that he has to be first in our lives.

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:37-39).

- Your desires are not first.
- Your parents' wishes are not first.
- Your plans are not first.

God is first.

- What does God desire for my life?

- What does God wish for me to do?
- What is God's plan for my life?

These are the kinds of questions we need to ask. When we have a choice, we choose God's will and not our own.

God must be more important than anything we desire. For example: we may like getting drunk, but God is more important than our sinful desire. We may think sexual immorality is fun, but God has to be first. His will and His desire must control our lives, not the things we want.

It is extremely important to remember that everything God has for us is good. When we do things God's way, we find life, meaning, and joy. Obeying God brings blessings. Obeying God brings peace. Obeying God helps us to have wonderful marriages and wonderful families. It is always better to do things God's way! Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come to bring life and that more abundantly!"

B. How Can We Show Love to One Another?

1. Serve Others

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

2. Forgive One Another

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

3. Encourage and Build Each Other Up

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

4. Pray for Others

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." (Ephesians 6:18)

5. Meet Physical Needs

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" (1 John 3:17)

6. Help Each Other Through Tough Times

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
(Galatians 6:2)

7. Show Patience and Kindness

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.” (1 Corinthians 13:4)

8. Be Generous

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)

C. Self-Deliverance

You can free yourself from spiritual oppression. Through prayer, confession, and actively renouncing demonic influences, every Christian can gain freedom from any spiritual bondage. Here is a simple process.

1. **Acknowledging Spiritual Warfare:** Recognize that believers are in a constant spiritual battle and that demonic forces can influence or oppress but not "possess" a true believer.
2. **Repentance and Confession:** Self-deliverance involves a personal confession of sins or ungodly patterns, as this can open doors to demonic influence. Repentance is a necessary step to breaking any bond to demonic forces.
3. **Renouncing Demonic Influence:** By verbally rejecting any hold that a demon might have, believers can sever ties with the demonic realm.
4. **Declaring Authority in Christ:** The Bible tells us that we have authority over demonic forces, in the name of Jesus. Every believer has the authority to rebuke demons in Jesus' name, asserting Christ's victory over evil.

Do you currently feel like an evil spirit is affecting you? Jesus is willing and able to set you free. If there is any sin in your life that feels like it has a hold on you, take time to confess it and genuinely repent in prayer to God. This act releases any authority that these spirits may have in your life. As a believer, you have the authority to command any evil spirits to leave in Jesus' name.

If you sense a spirit affecting you due to past abuse or pain caused by someone else, you can break its hold through forgiveness. Extend forgiveness toward the person who wronged you, and, with faith, declare your authority in Christ to tell any demonic influence to leave in Jesus' name. The Holy Spirit lives within you, and through Him, you have the strength to claim your freedom.

D. Other Important Practices, Now that I am a Christian

- Read the Bible
- Attend Church
- Share Your Faith (Evangelism)
- Be Baptized:
- Receive Holy Communion

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus said that loving God and loving others fulfills all the commandments?
2. What are some practical ways to show love for God?
3. In what ways can serving, forgiving, and encouraging others help us show love to our neighbors?
4. Which of these actions do you find easiest, and which do you find most challenging, serving, forgiving, or encouraging?
5. How can you show more patience, kindness, and generosity in your relationships?

Lesson Six: Now that I am a Christian, I have a New Identity!

Following are some of the blessings that give us our new identity.

Blessed / Chosen / Holy / Blameless

Ephesians 1:3-4, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love.”

Filled with the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

A Child of God

1 John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

A Members of God's Household

Ephesians 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.

Citizens of Heaven

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Seated in the heavenly places

Ephesians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

God delights and rejoices over you with singing

Zephaniah 3:17. "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

Completely forgiven

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness, for by his wounds you have been healed.

Washed clean

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Part of a chosen race / A royal priesthood / Part of a holy nation

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Free

Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

A temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

Adopted into the family of God

Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

Co-heirs with Jesus Christ / Heirs of God

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

You were sanctified which means to be made a saint

1 Corinthians 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

An ambassador of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

God’s co-laborer

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

A sweet aroma

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

Never alone

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

God’s masterpiece

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Wonderfully made

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

We have his incomparably great power working in us!

Ephesians 1:18-20, ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms

We have a guaranteed victory

I John 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

This is a partial list that shows our identity in Christ. When you go to God in prayer, you can pray with complete confidence. Never say, "Who am I?" as if you were inferior to any other believer in the world. We are not inferior to any believer who has ever lived. We are all fellow partakers of God's promises. Christianity is not about our goodness or performance. We do not earn the power to pray. Freely we receive from God and freely we give. Christianity is about all that Jesus has done to bring us into an eternal loving relationship with him.

When we try to do good things so that God will love us or answer our prayers, we are NOT obeying the truth. 1 John 4:10 says, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." By faith we receive God's love. By faith we believe all the promises of God about our identity - that we are loved and highly favored. We are His beloved children. We minister out of the love we have received. We know we are loved by God and we know that those we pray for are also loved by God. Let's focus on God's goodness and love, not on our inadequacies.

As children of a loving Heavenly Father, we know our identity and can therefore live and minister out of rest. Rest means to stop working to earn God's favor. God accepts us because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We can rest because we know our salvation is securely provided by God's grace. Because of this, we pray from a place of victory. Continually remind yourself of all the promises listed above. Meditate on His goodness. Thank Him for all He has done for you. God wants you to enjoy your relationship with Him. He wants you to rejoice in Him always. The Joy of the Lord is your strength. Praise the Lord and thank Him for all His wonderful works.

Discussion Questions

1. How does knowing that you are "chosen and holy" impact the way you see yourself as a Christian?
2. What does it mean to you to be called a "child of God" and how does this new identity influence your feelings about God?
3. In what ways does understanding that you are "a citizen of heaven" change how you view the world and your purpose in it?
4. Can knowing that you are "a citizen of heaven" provide you with hope and direction? Why?
5. How can the promise that God will "never leave you nor forsake you" give you confidence and strength in difficult situations?