

The Biblical Path to **Mental and Emotional Health**

Following Jesus into Wholeness

Reb Bradley

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Syllabus and Study Guide

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The Biblical Path to Mental and Emotional Health Part 1
THE BIBLICAL PATH TO WHOLENESS

I. WHAT ARE THE TWO KINDS OF WISDOM?

- A. WISDOM
- B. WISDOM

II. HOW DOES GOD VIEW HUMAN WISDOM?

- A.
Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools
*1 Cor 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is **foolishness in God's sight**. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness";*
- B.
*1 Cor 3:20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are **futile**."*
*Psa 94:11 The LORD knows the thoughts of man; he knows that they are **futile**.*
*Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their **thinking became futile** and their foolish hearts were darkened.*
- C.
Job 5:13 He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away.
Jer 8:9 The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?
- D.
*Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through **hollow and deceptive** philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*
- E. Something to from
*2 Cor 1:12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so **not according to worldly wisdom** but according to God's grace.*
- F. Bears
*James 3:12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 **Such "wisdom" does not come down** from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*
- G. Lacks value in
*Col 2:23 Such regulations indeed have **an appearance of wisdom**, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they **lack any value** in restraining sensual indulgence.*

H. Dangerous in matters involving the

1. It becomes an

Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding

2. It leads to

*Prov 16:25 There is a way that **seems right to a man**, but in the end it leads to death.*

I. So dangerous it is worthy of

*1 Cor 1:19 For it is written: "I will **destroy** the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?*

*Isa 29:14 Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise **will perish**, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."*

*Isa 44:25 who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and **turns it into nonsense**,*

III. WHAT IS THE VALUE OF HUMAN WISDOM?

A. Development and maintenance of

B.

C. Possibly significant if based on

Job 32:7 I thought, 'Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.'

D. Analysis and

IV. WHAT IS OUR SOURCE OF WISDOM?

Job 12:13 To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his

V. HOW BRILLIANT IS GOD'S WISDOM COMPARED TO HUMAN WISDOM?

God's wisdom is our

*Isa 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the **heavens are higher than the earth**, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*Job 11:7 "Can you **fathom the mysteries** of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?*

*Isa 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and **his understanding no one can fathom**.*

*Rom 11:33-34 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!** 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"*

Rom 9:20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"

Jer 10:7 Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.

VI. WHAT IS OUR BASIS FOR DETERMINING RELIABLE WISDOM?

2 Tim 3:15-16 and how from infancy you have known **the holy Scriptures**, which are **able to make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness**, 17 so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped** for every good work.

VII. IS THE BIBLE A COMPLETE RESOURCE OR MUST WE ADD HUMAN WISDOM TO IT?

A. It contains everything we need for

1 Cor 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "**Do not go beyond what is written.**" Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.
2 Pet 1:3 His divine power has given us **everything we need for life and godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

B. Jesus showed because he did not teach modern behavioral philosophies

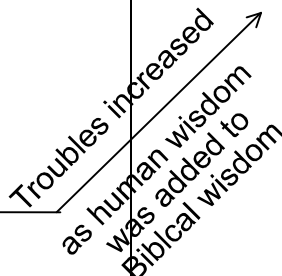
C. The apostle Paul was because he lacked training in modern

D. The historical Church was because it lacked the wisdom of
and those he influenced.

VIII. IS ALL Truth GOD'S TRUTH?

"TRUTH" can only be determined to be true and reliable by measuring it against the

Mental and emotional health for God's faithful followers through the centuries:

1 st --> century AD	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
Early Church							Freud	
RELYING STRICTLY ON THE BIBLE FOR WISDOM FOR LIFE								
Low incidence of divorce -- children obedient -- low suicide rate								

The Biblical Path to Mental and Emotional Health Part 2
GOD'S WISDOM VERSUS HUMAN WISDOM

Questions for consideration

- A. Did Christ leave his people without all that they needed for their spiritual and emotional well-being?
- B. Was the historical church handicapped, because they had only the Bible for the first 1900 years?
- C. Is the 20th century Church advantaged because we have modern psychology to supplement the Bible?
- D. Considering that the historical Church regarded the Bible to be a complete and sufficient resource for wholeness, **who** decided that the Bible was inadequate?

IX. How has the Church been affected by the belief that wholeness can only be gained by supplementing the Bible with psychology?

The Church has turned to the wisdom of _____ and now

X. What is the bad fruit born from the modern trend of relying on human wisdom?

Mat 7:17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

*James 3:12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 **Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.** 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

A. Mental ill-health is

B. People are hampered in repentance because they think there is

Our enemy: the belief that the Truth (*answer to our troubles*) is

C. Simple biblical solutions are no longer _____ by individuals

D. _____ no longer believe they have answers, and feel _____ to counsel

For centuries it was held that the Bible was complete and a sufficient resource for help with all matters affecting people, both mentally and emotionally. It is modern psychologists who have come along and have separated the mind and emotions from the spirit and soul. It is students of those influenced by Freud that have told us the Bible only offers *spiritual* help, and that *emotional* and *mental* help must come from experts trained in human wisdom.

Sadly, the Church has been persuaded by new "experts," so pastors no longer approach the Word as if it held all the answers. They send needy Christians off to these experts for help with problems which are addressed in the Word. As Christ's followers, we already have the help we need. Ignorantly, we wander like Dorothy in Oz, looking for a way back to Kansas, not realizing that the help is as close as our feet.

E. Respect for the Word is

F. Sermons are void of psychology. The Bible becomes a to

G. People are consumed with

2 Tim 3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

H. No one is for themselves -- everyone is a of someone or something else.

XI. WHO WILL NOT FIND GOD'S WISDOM?

A. Those who look either to the or to who draw upon worldly wisdom

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

B. Those who look to those who

Job 28:28 And he said to man, 'The fear of the Lord -- that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.'"
Ps 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

C. Those who by human standards

Prov 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Prov 28:26 He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

1 Cor 8:2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

Isa 5:21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.

Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. (Also Rom 11:25)

Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

XII. HOW CAN WE GAIN WISDOM?

A. OUR lack

Mat 18:4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:15 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:17

B. Make sure you have the

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to 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... 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

John 16:7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

1 Cor 2:9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"- 10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

C. for it

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

D. the

Psa 119:10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you ... 97 Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long ... 165 Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

GOD-BREATHED theopneustos, theh-op'-nyoo-stos; from the breath of God

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The Bible is God-breathed. It flows from God's life and imparts life. It reveals His heart. It therefore, contains brilliant wisdom, too great for us to fathom, and exudes powerful, supernatural influence on those it touches.

E. Get from those who know the

Prov 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Prov 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Prov 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

The Biblical Path to Mental and Emotional Health Part 3
DISCOVERING JESUS' PATH TO WHOLENESS

I. Our basis for looking to the Bible for the path to mental and emotional health

- A. Christ did not leave his people without all that they needed for wholeness.
- B. In calling us to follow him and his teachings, Jesus would not have left anything out that we needed.
- C. God did not handicap His people for 1900 years.
- D. The facts indicate that the 20th century Church is no better off with sophisticated human wisdom.

II. How do we discover the Biblical path to wholeness?

A. _____ showed the path to wholeness

- 1. Since Christ called all people alike to forsake all and follow him, we can know that
- 2. None need to first gain emotional "wholeness" in order to
- 3. Mental and emotional wholeness is a _____ of following Christ -- not a

B. Following _____ brings wholeness

- 1. All that we need for wholeness is contained in

2 Pet 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him . . .

- 2. _____ embodied our knowledge of God

Col 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

John 14:7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." . . . 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? . . . 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

- 3. Christ offered lasting, heavenly _____ to his followers

John 4:13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

*John 15:10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that **your joy may be full**. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

*John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that **in me you may have peace**. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

*John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give you**. I do **not** give to you **as the world gives**. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do **not be afraid**.*

III. How did Jesus respond to needy individuals?

A. He healed their

*Mat 4:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with diverse diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those **which were lunatic**, and those that had the palsy; and **he healed them**. (KJV)*

Lunacy seleniazomai, sel-ay-nee-ad'-zom-ahee; to be moon-struck; crazy

B. He

*Mat 17:15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for **he is a lunatic**, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. . . 18 And Jesus **rebuked the devil**; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*

Mat 8:16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

C. He

Mat 9:2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." 3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" 4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"

Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." 48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

D. He called

John 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

John 8:10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Mat 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

IV. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

A. Christ

B. in Christ

C. your life

D. Christ

E. Christ

F. like Christ

G. Having the

The Biblical Path to Mental and Emotional Health Part 4
BEGINNING THE PATH TO WHOLENESS

I. What is "wholeness" ?

teleios, tel'-i-os; complete or whole, in physical, in mental, and development character; to be of full age, to be mature, to be perfect

katartizo, kat-ar-tid'-zo; to complete thoroughly, to make whole, i.e. to repair, adjust, or restore

A. Wholeness is _____ which is the result of
Phil 3:12; Col 1:28-29; 4:12; Heb 2:9-10; 11:40; 13:20-21; 1 Pet 5:10

*2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God **may be perfect**, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

*Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, **whenever you face trials** of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that **you may be mature and complete**, not lacking anything.*

B. Jesus, as God in human flesh, is _____ of perfect mental and emotional health

Jesus himself was brought to "wholeness" or maturity by the path he walked:

*Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation **perfect through suffering**.*

*Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, **once made perfect**, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him*

C. We are being _____ the image of Jesus.

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Gal 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

2 Cor 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Eph 4:24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

II. What characterizes mental and emotional ill-health?

A.

1. Pride
2. Self-love
3. Self-hate
4. Low "self-esteem"
5. Self-pity
6. Guilt
7. Self-destructive tendencies

B.

1. Anxiety
2. Worry
3. Panic Attacks
4. Agoraphobia
5. Insecurity
6. Bulimia/anorexia
7. Paranoia

C.

1. Anger
2. Hatred
3. Bitterness

D.

1. Sadness
2. Grief
3. Remorse
4. Self absorption

E.

1. Victim -- not responsible for their present behavior
2. Guilt projection
3. Rejection
4. Self-pity

F.

1. Schizophrenia
2. Manic depressive/bipolar
3. Nervous breakdown

SUICIDE -- The ultimate act of *self-love*

Suicide is an extreme act of self-love, because it says, *"I am so committed to my own happiness that I will take my life to gain it."* Suicide is rooted in selfishness, because it is an attempt to satisfy self-serving desires at the expense of the feelings of others.

There are five basic manifestations of self-love which prompt suicide:

1. **Vengeance** -- To hurt those who hurt us
Rom 12:17-20 "I'll show them ..." "They'll be sorry ..." "They'll see ..."
2. **Guilt** -- To relieve our conscience we attempt to atone for our sins
Mat 27:5
3. **Avoiding trials** -- To escape unhappiness death is sought
1 Cor 10:13; 1 Sam 31:4; 2 Sam 17:23; 1 Kgs 16:18; Mat 27:5
4. **Solicit pity** -- We want others to love us or feel sorry for us
"I am such a burden to everyone." *"The world will be better off without me."*
"Maybe they'll miss me if I'm gone."
5. **Religious merit** -- For a noble cause, to gain exaltation in the after-life
ie: WW2 Japanese pilots, Buddhist priest protesters, Muslim truck-bombers
Giving up one's life to achieve religious merit is for personal gain and not to be compared with a substitutionary, sacrificial act, such as the death of Christ. True, selfless sacrifice benefits others and gains nothing for the one dying.

Suicide is an act of self-love

Many are tempted to think that suicide is an act of self-hatred, but Scripture teaches that no one actually hates himself, *"For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church ..."*³³ However, ***each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself ...*** Eph 5:29, 33

When Jesus taught that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mat 22:30), his premise was that everyone loved themselves intensely, and needed to love others with the same intensity. In commanding us to *love* he used the Greek word *agape*, which means *commitment*. He did not teach that we are to have *fond affection* for our neighbors, but that we are to be *committed* to them in the same we are committed to ourselves. In other words, the same time, energy, and importance we give to ourselves, we are to give to our neighbors. Those who feel like they first need to learn to love themselves before they will be able to obey Christ's command are tragically mistaken -- those full of self-hatred or suffering from "low self esteem" are excessively committed to themselves, and are obligated to be as committed to their neighbors. In fact, they are so devoted to themselves that they cannot stop thinking about themselves -- they are on their own mind all day long. Their problem is not too *little* self love, but too *much*!

Regarding suicide, it is true that someone who takes his own life is inadvertently doing harm to himself, and doesn't *appear* to be "nourishing" and "cherishing" his flesh, but as we have exposed, his motives for doing self-harm express excessive self-interest. May all who are tempted with suicide flee from such selfishness!

III. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

- A. Seeing Christ
- B. Believing in Christ
- C. Forsaking your life
- D. Pursuing Christ
- E. Obeying Christ
- F. Suffering with Christ
- G. Having the mind of Christ

IV. What is a counselor's primary job?

- A. Unbelievers -- Lead them to _____, so that they may receive a
and _____ to wholeness.
- B. Believers -- Show them where they _____ and help them

V. What does it mean for an unbeliever to SEE Christ?

- A. Christ is
1 Cor 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- B. _____ Christ
Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
- C. They _____ to what they hear -- Mark 4:3-20
 - 1. vs 15 They see him and _____
 - 2. vs 16-17 They see him and get on the path, but _____ because they did not count the cost
 - 3. vs 18-19 They see him and get on the path, but _____ because they love the world
 - 4. vs 20 They see him and get on the path, and begin _____

The Biblical Path to Mental and Emotional Health Part 5
BEGINNING THE PATH -- SEEING JESUS

I. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

- A. **Seeing Christ**
- B. Believing in Christ
- C. Forsaking your life
- D. Pursuing Christ
- E. Obeying Christ
- F. Suffering with Christ
- G. Having the mind of Christ

II. What is a counselor's primary job in counseling believers?

Show them where they _____ and help them

III. What does it mean for a believer under stress to lose sight of Jesus?

A. We are exactly where _____ us -- distracted from our pure devotion to Christ.

2 Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

B. As soon as we take our eyes off of Christ ...

1. We see the _____ us

Mat 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

2. We see ourselves and rely upon _____ to handle the problem

a. This produces

1 Cor 10:12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

b. This produces

Mat 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

c. We have gotten _____ and God has gotten

Job 42:5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

IV. What are the things which distract us from seeing Christ?

*Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off **everything that hinders** and the **sin that so easily entangles**, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

HINDERS ogkos, ong'-kos; a bulging weight, a burden

ENTANGLES euperistatos, yoo-per-is'-tat-os; that which surrounds and stands around us, i.e. a competitor thwarting a racer in every direction

A. That which *burdens* us -- our cares -- that which

•

Mark 4:18-19 "When trouble or persecution comes because of the word"

Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

1 Pet 5:7 Cast all your cares upon him; for he cares for you.

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Mat 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Gal 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.

•

2 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

B. Sin which entangles us

- -- selfishness, greed, pride, covetousness, lust, anger, fear of man, etc.
2 Pet 2:19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity --for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.
- ambition -- looking to for peace or fulfillment
Mark 4:16-17 "the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things"
- *John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give you.** I do **not** give to you **as the world gives.** Do not let your hearts be troubled and do **not be afraid.***

V. What does it mean for a believer to SEE Jesus?

A. Wholeness does not come because we , but because we

B. Understand Jesus for who he is --

John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- Seeing Jesus is seeing and consequently,

VI. What is the fruit of seeing Jesus?

A. of God

*Gen 32:30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because **I saw God face to face**, and yet my life was spared."*

*Jud 13:22 We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "**We have seen God!**"*

*Acts 5:11 **Great fear seized the whole church** and all who heard about these events.*

B.

*Job 42:5 My ears had heard of you but now **my eyes have seen you.** 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."*

*Is 6:5 Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and **my eyes have seen the King**, the LORD Almighty."*

*Num 12:3 Now Moses was **a very humble man**, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth. . . 8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; **he sees the form of the LORD.** . .*

C. in Jesus -- no longer the

*John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "**Because you have seen me, you have believed;** blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

*Rev 1:17 **When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.** Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.*

D.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Rom 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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.

E. God and others

1 John 4:17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him . . . 19 We love him, because he first loved us.

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

F. and worship

Mat 28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him . . . 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Mrk 5:5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. 6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

VII. How can we see Jesus?

A. Lay aside everything that and the sin that

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus ...

B. Him above all else

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD," ...

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate . . . his own life -- he cannot be my disciple 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

C. Seek Jesus before you seek and then what is true

John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

D. If he to your --

Job 42:5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

WHAT PROBLEM AREAS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COULD BE SOLVED BY SEEING JESUS?

All fears would dissipate:

- Fear to evangelize
- Fear of the future, worry
- Panic
- Insecurity, fear of man

Acts of desperation would diminish:

- Divorce
- Forsaking of marital roles and duties
- Stealing, lying, cheating

All self-involvement would end:

- Pride, Vanity, Self conceit
- Depression
- Panic disorders
- Nervous Breakdowns
- Self esteem; Self image; Self love; Self-identity
- Division

Dominance by passions would lift:

- Sexual immorality
- Lust, lasciviousness
- Materialism
- Lying, Stealing, Cheating

Selfishness would die:

- Helping the needy
- Humble yielding surrender
- Worship
- Alienation from God
- Lack of a fear of God
- Disobedience, Shoddy repentance
- Rebellion
- Self denial, surrender

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF SEEING JESUS?

- Faith
- Hope
- Love
- Joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
- Humility
- Brokenness
- Self denial
- Conviction
- Repentance
- Worship
- Security
- Confidence
- Boldness
- Wisdom
- Much more . . .

BELIEVING IN CHRIST AND FORSAKING YOUR LIFE

I. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

- A. Seeing Christ
- B. **Believing in Christ**
- C. **Forsaking Your Life**
- D. Pursuing Christ
- E. Obeying Christ
- F. Suffering with Christ
- G. Having the mind of Christ

II. When Christians find themselves wandering off Christ's path of wholeness, how do they determine where to get back on?

*Rev 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first love.** 5 **Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.** If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*

A. Mark 4:3-20 May have gotten off the path for the same 2 reasons as the seed sown by the sower

vs 16-17 They cannot handle

vs 18-19 They love

B. Rev 2:5 Start _____ at the _____ of the path – Seeing, believing, and pursuing

III. What does believing Christ not mean?

Jam 2:19 It doesn't just mean to _____ Christ

Jam 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.

IV. Enjoying true faith in Christ -- 3 manifestations of faith

A. James 2:14-26 Faith without _____ is not truly faith. To have trust is to

Jam 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ... 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Mat 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

- That which has gained our trust, we rely upon.
- We pursue and cling to that which we trust in.
- We will not follow one we do not trust.
- If we trust the world will grant more happiness (be more gratifying) we will invest in it.

➤ Rev 2:5 We are to look to _____ and _____ like we did when we first believed

B. James 2:21-22 Genuine faith is proven by _____ and the _____ our lives
James 2:15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ... 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. (Gen 22:12)

*Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, **even his own life**--he cannot be my disciple. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

*Acts 20:24 However, **I consider my life worth nothing to me**, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

*Rev 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; **they did not love their lives** so much as to shrink from death.*

*Phil 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I **consider everything a loss** compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake **I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish**, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

- We _____ originally when we followed Christ.
- When we wander off the path into ill-health, we have _____ our life and

Instead of saying, "Nothing matters, but Jesus. I'll forsake all and follow him," We have been drawn into loving our life again. Our anxiety is often because we want our lives to be better and we fear they won't be.

- Our faith is in the world -- we trust it --
- The essence of mental health is _____ Jesus and _____ him.

1 Pet 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

C. Phil 4:4-8 A heart that genuinely **entrusts** is

*Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** 7 **And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things ... 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything **through him** who gives me strength.*

*John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give you.** I do **not** give to you **as the world gives.** Do not let your hearts be troubled and do **not be afraid.***

Behaviors characteristic of unbelief:

- Worry, dread, fear, desperation
- Agitation, restlessness, irritability
- Self pity, preoccupation with failure, discouragement, depression
- Compulsive, addictive pursuits
- Withdrawal, passive retreat
- Rebellion, disobedience, love of sin
- Unforgiveness, bitterness, hardened heart

➤ At the root of anxiety is a desire for the

➤ Worry is fear that we will not get

"But if I yield my goals to Christ, I may not achieve them."

We will not find Christ's peace if we insist on having

➤ We must not postpone yielding ourselves to Christ until we

1. What will hamper us from enjoying the peace which comes from trusting Christ?

a. We believe God has _____, and so is

b. We will not entrust ourselves to God because we are

2. What will conquer unbelief?

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

3. Christ's peace comes from welcoming

*Mat 26:37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be **sorrowful and troubled** 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is **overwhelmed with sorrow** to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.**"*

*Heb 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

PURSUING CHRIST

I. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

- A. Seeing Christ
- B. Believing in Christ
- C. Forsaking Your Life
- D. **Pursuing Christ**
- E. Obeying Christ
- F. Suffering with Christ
- G. Having the mind of Christ

When we find ourselves lacking emotional and mental wholeness, we must consider that we have wandered from the path and are no longer

II. What does it mean to pursue Christ?

- A. To see, believe, and forsake

- B. To pursue -- not

John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me

- C. To follow -- not

1 Cor 1:20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1 Cor 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness";

☞ We are drawn to worldly wisdom, because it relieves us of guilt and personal responsibility. It makes us victims of someone else, or our pasts.

- D. To desire Christ so intently that in your pursuit of him

Mat 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

*Phil 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I **consider everything a loss** compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake **I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish**, that I may gain Christ*

- E. To look to Christ for -- to be his

*Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and **follow** me.*

III. What does it mean to follow Christ closely?

How did Jesus follow his heavenly Father?

A. -- He spent time with Him daily, looking to Him for what to say and do

*John 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." ... 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; **he can do only what he sees his Father doing**, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For **the Father** loves the Son and **shows him all he does**. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.*
*John 12:49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever **I say is just what the Father has told me to say.**"*

B.

*Mark 1:35 Very early **in the morning**, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and **went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.***
*Luke 6:12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night praying** to God.*

C.

*Mat 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never **read in the Scriptures**: "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone ; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"*
*Mat 22:29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not **know the Scriptures** or the power of God.*
*Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said **in all the Scriptures** concerning himself.*

D.

*John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because **whatever the Father does the Son also does.***
Luke 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

E.

John 5:30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.
*John 14:31 but the world must learn that **I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me ...***
Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

F.

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.
Mat 26:39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

☞ New life's purpose -- living for Christ -- not self

☞ Investing in an eternal kingdom and not a worldly one

OBEYING CHRIST

I. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

- A. Seeing Christ
- B. Believing in Christ
- C. Forsaking Your Life
- D. Pursuing Christ
- E. **Obedying Christ**
- F. Suffering with Christ
- G. Having the mind of Christ

II. Obedience is the manifestation of

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

*Rom 1:5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the **obedience that comes from faith**.*

*2 Cor 9:13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for **the obedience that accompanies your confession** of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.*

*2 John 1:6 And this is love: that we **walk in obedience** to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

*James 2:17 In the same way, **faith** by itself, if it is **not accompanied by action, is dead**.*

*Jn 14:31 but the world must learn that **I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me** ...*

II. What are the elements of obedience to Christ?

A. _____ and _____ his supreme authority and _____ his commands

hupakouo, hoop-ak-oo'-o; to come under and hear (in the manner of a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; to heed or conform to a command or authority

Eph 6:5 Slaves, obey [hupakouo] your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

1 Pet 3:6 like Sarah, who obeyed [hupakouo] Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience [hupakoe] from what he suffered

B. Coming under his authority to

hupotasso, hoop-ot-as'-so; to come under for the sake of order; to submit to, be under submission to; to subordinate; to obey the authority of; to subject oneself to; to recognize, be under, and cooperate with authority

Luke 2:51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient [hupotasso] to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

C. _____ and _____ to his every instruction

tereo, tay-reh'-o; to watch; to guard (from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon

1 John 5:3 This is love for God: to obey [tereo] his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

D. Watching Christ so closely that

is heard and

phulasso, foo-las'-so; watch in isolation; to watch carefully as a sentry, pay strict attention to
Luke 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey [phulasso] it."

E. Believing in Christ with the conviction of a loyal servant who
King

for his

peitho, pi'-tho; be persuaded to trust in (and comply with) a ruler
Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey [peitharcheo] God rather than men!"

OBEDIENCE: To recognize Christ's supreme authority, gladly putting ourselves under it, like a loyal servant to a king who stays as close as possible to him, so that he might hear and carry out every command, as well as anticipate and seek to honor every preference.

IV. What does it mean to **OBEY** Christ?

A. To in obedience

As a daily and constant practice, to stick close, follow intently, striving to hear commands, and obey them. Seeking to carry out his wishes, to know Christ's heart desires.

- OBEDIENCE is not just outward compliance to "commands" but
- OBEDIENCE is not just adherence to laws and rules when you are conscious of them. It is seeking to know the heart and mind of God with the intent of whether He has specifically outlawed a particular practice or not.
- OBEDIENCE means we are so desirous of being in the image of Christ that we chase Him with intensity, and welcome learning more of how to please him.

B. We have gotten off the **path to wholeness** not at the moments we disobey him, but when our **habit** is to
what he wants us to do.

We avoid the Word, convicting sermons, people who convict us by their speech or lives.

We say, *"I feel so guilty, because I fail so much in my life already -- I don't need to hear more of what I'm not doing."*

C. To obey Christ means to

Eph 5:10 and find out what pleases the Lord.

2 Cor 5:9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Col 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

1 Th 4:1 Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

1 Th 2:4 On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

Rom 15:2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

Heb 13:20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

V. What keeps us from walking in obedience to Christ?

A. We lack a _____ but are ruled by our _____ of us

*Mat 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, **be afraid of the One** who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

*Prov 29:25 **Fear of man** will prove to be a snare, but whoever **trusts in the LORD** is kept safe.*

*Acts 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, **living in the fear of the Lord.***

*Acts 5:5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ... 11 **Great fear seized the whole church** and all who heard about these events.*

B. At conversion, we come to Christ like _____ whose _____ have never been

1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

1 Cor 4:21 What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

C. We are unwilling to accept _____ Instead, we _____ ourselves or _____ others for **our** failures.

Gen 3:12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

1 Sam 13:11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash,

Acts 7:56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Prov 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

We are responsible for _____ Others are not _____ for our to them.

D. We are deceived into believing we are _____ and are _____ from obedience

Mat 8:21 Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 22 But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

E. We do not _____ so are full of unbelief

SUFFERING WITH CHRIST

I. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

- A. Seeing Christ
- B. Believing in Christ
- C. Forsaking Your Life
- D. Pursuing Christ
- E. Obeying Christ
- F. **Suffering with Christ**
- G. Having the mind of Christ

II. _____ is promised to all who follow Christ

A. _____ it to his followers

John 15:18-20 *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...*

Mt 10:22 *All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.* Mk 13:13; Lk 21:17

Mt 24:9 *"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations, because of me."*

Luke 21:12 *"But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.*

John 16:2 *They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to.*

Matt 23:34 *Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.*

Mk 13:9 *"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.* Mt 10:17

B. _____ it to the Church

Acts 14:22 *"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."*

2 Tim 3:12 *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted . . .*

Phil 1:29 *For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.*

1 Peter 2:21 *To this [suffering] you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

1 John 3:13 *Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.*

2 Tim 1:8 *So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,*

1 Peter 4:12-13 *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

1 Thes 3:3 *so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. 4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.*

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.*

III. Christ said that those who suffer are

Mt 5:10-11 *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." 10 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."*

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

Philippians 3:10 *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...*

IV. How does suffering bring blessings to us?

The challenges brought by suffering

Rom 8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ...*

Hebrews 2:10 *In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.*

Hebrews 5:8 *Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered*

Romans 5:3-5 *Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

Zech 13:9 *This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"*

1 Peter 1:6-7 *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

James 1:2-4 *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

1 Pet 4:1 *Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.*

Heb 12:7,10,11 *"Endure hardship as discipline; . . . God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness... it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

V. Those who understand the importance of suffering, and want the good it brings, receive it with

James 1:2 *Consider it pure joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds. . .*

1 Pet 1:6 *In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.*

Rom 5:3 *Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings . . .*

Rom 12:12 *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

Acts 5:41 *The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.*

1 Peter 4:12-19 *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

Hebrews 10:32-35 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

Hebrews 12:3,7 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

1 Peter 3:14-16 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear ; do not be frightened." But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

2 Timothy 2:3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

1 Corinthians 4:12-13 We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

2 Cor 6:4-10 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

James 5:10-11 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

VI. When will suffering not bring us to mental and emotional wholeness?

A. We wrongly believe God will _____ from suffering.

1. We then become _____ God

2. We then become _____ God

B. We do not hold the _____ as our highest goal. We have _____ for our lives.

1. We want earthly _____ or _____ more than the image of Christ

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

2. We view trials only as _____ to our plans.

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3. Our peace and joy is

Philippians 4:11-13 I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

A compulsion to have what we want in life guarantees a

The greater our commitment to
misery.

the greater will be our

C. We do not trust God's

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

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 Pet 2:23 When they hurled their insults at him [Jesus], he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

D. We do not trust God's

Romans 8:31, 35-39 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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.

E. We see no _____ in persecution for Jesus' sake

1 Pet 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

1 Pet 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Acts 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ ... and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

F. We do not let it _____ us. God gives grace to the

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But he [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

James 4:6-10 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

1 Pet 4:14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST

I. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

- A. Seeing Christ
- B. Believing in Christ
- C. Forsaking Your Life
- D. Pursuing Christ
- E. Obeying Christ
- F. Suffering with Christ
- G. **Having the mind of Christ**

II. The mind of Christ -- having the

giving us spiritual understanding

1 Cor 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us... 16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

MIND nous, nooche;; the intellect, base of understanding

III. The mind of Christ -- being transformed by a

Eph 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds [nous]; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!.

2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

A. Rom 12:2 To no longer hold and follow

Sharing his

-- Holding his

B. Rom 12:2 To know God's

Thinking His

C. Rom 12:3 To be

Seeing yourself as

D. vs 4-8 To live to

Living to

-- not to

E. vs 9 To evil

sin as He hates it -- Craving as He does

F. vs 9-21 To sincerely and practically others, forgiving and serving them

Feeling God's -- fellow believers and the lost

IV. The mind of Christ -- having Christ's

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

phroneo, fron-eh'-o; the mind: root of thoughts, sentiments, opinions, interests, or affections

Seeing life and others as -- Viewing life from

Phil 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 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 and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

A. vs 2 Pursuing

B. vs 3 Being -- behaving toward others as if they were

C. vs 4 Looking out for the with the same intensity we look out for our

D. vs 6 Not demanding our

E. vs 7 Becoming a to others

F. vs 8 for loved ones and those undeserving

G. vs 1-8 Being preoccupied with -- not just

EXPOSING HUMAN WISDOM WITH TRUTH

I. What is Christ's path to wholeness?

The Premise: God preserved in the Word everything we need for mental and emotional well-being

- A. Seeing Christ
- B. Believing in Christ
- C. Forsaking Your Life
- D. Pursuing Christ
- E. Obeying Christ
- F. Suffering with Christ
- G. Having the mind of Christ

II. Biblical examples of troubled people and God's solutions for them

King Saul

Problem: Insanity; jealousy; paranoia, rage

1 Sam 16:14; 18:8, 12, 15, 29

Useless solution: Music therapy; destroy his oppressor

1 Sam 16:16, 23; 19:1, 11; 20:33

Effective solution: Own personal

1 Sam 13:11; 15:24

Elijah

Problem: Weakened faith; ruled by fear; severe discouragement

Useless solution: Run and hide from problems; avoid oppressors

1 Kings 19:2-4

Effective solution: Regained a vision for

1 Kings 19:13-15

Job

Problem: Depressed over loss of home and family, and physical affliction; felt a victim of injustice

Useless solution: Self pity; dwelt on injustices; preoccupied with betrayal; saw death as his escape

Job 6:30; 7:11, 20; 9:23; 13:19-23; 27:5; 3:11

Effective solution: Eyes off of self;

regain humility; repent of over-exalted self-view (pride)

Job 40:4-5; 42:3-6

King David

Problem: grief, fear, self pity, loneliness

Psa 40:12;

Useless solution: fighting physical battles

Psa 7:6; 31:15; 45:5; 59:1; 71:13

Effective solution:

Ps 42:5-11

Nebuchadnezzar

Problem: pride drove insane

Dan 4:30-33

Useless solution: Ate grass

Dan 4:33

Effective solution:

his mind

Dan 4:34

Jonah

Problem: Unfulfilled expectations

Useless solution: Anger towards God; longed for death as his escape

Jonah 4:1-9

Effective solution: Reminded of God's

Jonah 4:11

Jesus

Problem: Intense distress over going to the cross; sweat drops of blood

Luke 22:42-44

Useless solution: Avoid the cross

Luke 22:42

Effective solution: Stated to God his personal desires; humbly decision

Luke 22:42; Heb 12:3

Woman at the well

Problem: Felt rejected as Samaritan and 5-time divorcee; lived with reputation of "fornicator"

Useless solution: Sarcasm; attack others

John 4:9, 12, 20

Effective solution: Jesus

John 4:10, 13, 18, 21, 23-24, 26

Peter

Problem: Depressed over denying Christ

Luke 22:60-62

Useless solution: Escaping by the distraction of fishing

John 21:3

Effective solution:

of relationship

John 21:15-17

III. An analysis of modern ideas in light of following Jesus

"Boundaries" -- Drawing the line for God and others on what you will tolerate from them
Luke 6:27-36; Mat 5:44-48; Rom 12:14, 17-21; Col 3:13; 1 Cor 13:7

Following Jesus means everyone and horrible offenses

"Tough love" -- Wives taking charge of husbands to force them to repent
1 Pet 3:1-6; Eph 5:22-24, 33; Col 3:18

Following Jesus means letting your husband by your and

"Co-dependency" -- Finding significance and value in helping another stay in sin
Gen 4:9; Gal 6:1-2; Eph 5:22-24

Following Jesus means others and fulfilling our to them

"Dysfunctional behavior" -- Poor interpersonal relationship skills, but no excuse for sin
Mat 12:36-37; 1 Cor 13:4-5

Following Jesus means calling our what it is and accepting for it

"Self love, self esteem" -- Preoccupation with liking or accepting oneself rather than dying to self
Mat 19:19; Eph 5:29; Luke 9:23-24; Mat 16:24-25; Col 3:5

Following Jesus means and living God and others

"Victimization" -- Others are responsible for our responses to their behavior
Gen 3:12-13; Prov 28:13; Luke 6:27-36; Eph 4:32

Following Jesus means for our to others

"Recovery process" -- Repentance postponed until roots of emotional wounds are found and healed
Heb 3:7-8, 13; Luke 9:59-62

Following Jesus means _____ *today*, _____ what they did in the
past

"Healing of memories, inner healing" -- Holding others in our past responsible for our present
Phil 3:13-14; Luke 9:62

Following Jesus means _____ past and

"Alcoholism" -- Drunkards relieved of guilt, because victims of genetic disease; guilt-free identity
1 Cor 5:11; 6:10; Gal 5:21; Rom 13:13

Following Jesus means calling sin _____ and not seeing ourselves as

"Twelve-step programs" -- Biblical-sounding principles which foster self preoccupation
Ps 1:1; 1 Cor 3:19-20; 2 Tim 3:2

Following Jesus means _____ programs from the _____ and
_____ them

"Repressed anger" -- Self expression is more important than self control and consideration for others
Prov 12:16; 14:16; 29:11; Prov 16:32; James 1:19

Following Jesus means _____ others, learning self _____, and speaking with

"Eating Disorders" -- Gluttony without weight gain, motivated by love for self and the fear of man
Prov 21:20; 23:20; Mat 10:28; Prov 29:25

Following Jesus means _____ and

THE HEART OF A FOLLOWER

Matthew 16:24-26

- I. Following Christ means yielding to him our _____ and our _____
- II. Following Christ means coming under his leadership in areas of sin and holiness, but also his _____
- III. Following Christ means accepting his _____ in our lives.

- If he has called you to _____, you are willing to accept it.

1 Pet 2:20-21 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Rom 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.

- If he has called you to a life of _____, you accept it.

1 Cor 4:11 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless.

2 Cor 11:27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

Phil 4:12-13 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Heb 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

- If he has called you to not be _____, you accept it.

Luke 10:16 "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

2 Cor 11:26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.

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

- If he has called you to be hindered from accomplishing _____, you accept it.

James 4:13-15 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

- If he has called you to live under _____, you accept it.

1 Pet 3:1-7 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

2 Tim 1:5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Acts 16:1 He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek.

- If he has called you to dwell in _____, you accept it.

1 Tim 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

- If he has called you to live with those _____, you accept it.

Eph 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- If he has called you to be treated with _____, you accept it.

1 Cor 4:10 We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!

IV. He has not called us to _____ but to _____

Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

V. He has not called us to _____ but to _____

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

VI. He has not called us to _____ but to _____

1 Cor 3:6-8 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

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