



ABIDE

LESSON THREE: RECONCILIATION

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Proverbs 20:7 reminds us that, *"The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them."* Many families wrestle with generational sin. What sin may afflict one family could be different for another. Some families have dealt with alcoholism, addiction, divorce, abandonment, relationship issues, depression, anxiety, physical illness, or any gamut of challenges we face. The reason we suffer from many of these issues that are listed, and more is because of what happened at the very beginning in the Garden of Eden - when sin entered the perfect world that God created.

Scripture assures us that when we accept Jesus, we become a new creation. Paul demonstrates this truth when he penned the words found in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, and the new is here!"* Until we accept Jesus and repent and confess our sins we remain His enemies.

Jesus lovingly offers you a second chance. Will you take His offer?

Titus 2:1-5 tells us, *"You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."*

Paul gives us a great deal of information in the verses above that we can use as a litmus test to determine if we are living a Christ-centered life. First and foremost, when we share the gospel with another, are we providing sound doctrine that is based on the words in the Bible using a trustworthy translation or are we allowing our personal opinions to influence our testimony? Do we live our life showing care and honor to the temple where the Holy Spirit resides, our body? Do we gossip about or to others? Are we living a life that is worthy of respect that exhibits self-control, sound faith, love, and endurance? Do we encourage each other, love our spouses and children, and live our lives for the audience of One - God's?

You may think that this is just too hard. You may be considering, "Yeah, sure, but you don't know what I've done before I came to Christ." The good news? God is a God of second chances. All those sins you committed have been washed away by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus. Psalm 103:12 instructs us that, *"He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."* That indeed is good news!

So, what is stopping you from taking the God of the universe up on His offer for a clean second chance? What do you think you have to lose? Are you ready to have a life that includes Jesus and the forgiveness that only He alone can provide? Are you ready to kick to the curb a life that is full of opinions that you now realize are false because they have not been filtered through Scripture? Do you desire to live your life that shows you to be the son or daughter of the King of kings, a life of respect, self-control, faith, dignity, encouragement, and love? Are you ready to see yourself the way God sees you, worthy and loved?

YOUR TURN: Pray before rereading Titus 2:1-5 and ask the Lord to reveal to you His purpose for you in this lesson.

- o What areas of your life do you feel you are stronger in when compared to Paul's 'litmus test?'

- o What areas of your life do you feel you need improvement in when compared to Paul's list of how we should live our lives?

- o Look up the word reconcile in a trustworthy dictionary and define it below.

- o In Scripture, reconciliation requires a relationship change either between you and God or between you and another person. Read the verses below and take note of who is involved, what the problem is, and what action needs to be taken.
 - a. Colossians 3:13
 - b. Acts 3:19
 - c. Ephesians 4:32
 - d. Hebrews 12:14
 - e. Luke 17:3
 - f. Luke 23:34
 - g. Matthew 5:24
 - h. Romans 5:10

- o What are you in need of repenting and confessing of to God? Take a moment and write God a letter expressing your agreement you have sinned against Him and tell Him how sorry you are for your behavior, thoughts, words, and action or perhaps your non-action.

- o Write out 1 John 1:9 in the space below.

- o List any assumptions you may have that you have heard or were taught that are contradictory to the Bible and research them thoroughly using God's Word. For example: the idea of purgatory or praying using beads, etc.