

# Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

## Lessons 11-13

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of  
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be  
glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

2 Peter 3:18

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# Lesson Eleven: Other Christians

## What is my responsibility to other Christians as a part of God's family?

When you received the Lord Jesus Christ, you were born again into God's family. This means that you have a new Father. It also means that you have brothers and sisters in Christ as a part of the household of faith. Just like with any earthly family, God's family comes with certain privileges and responsibilities for every different member. This lesson is designed to acquaint you with your role in God's family by addressing your relationship to other believers.

### I. You Have a Spiritual and Eternal Relationship to Every Other Child of God

#### A. Other saved people are your brothers and sisters in Christ.

See the following passages that illustrate this point: John 1:12, Galatians 3:26, 4:5, 6:10, Ephesians 1:5, 2:19, 3:14-15, 1 John 3:1.

1. This means that lost people are not your spiritual brothers and sisters regardless of any other factors.
2. God puts even more emphasis on our eternal, spiritual relationships than he does upon our physical kinship (Mark 3:31-34, 1 John 3:16).
3. This also means that other genuine Christians, regardless of their denominational affiliation, are your brothers and sisters in Christ as well.

## **II. You Have Specific Responsibilities Toward Your Spiritual Family**

If you study the words “one another” in the New Testament you will notice that there is a great deal of instruction on how the people of God are to treat other believers. Spiritual maturity demands interaction with others. If you can only get along with YOU, you are not spiritually mature! You will notice in most of the following areas that the standard for your treatment of others is God’s treatment of you – He certainly has set the bar high!

- A.** You should love God’s people (John 13:34-35, 1 Peter 3:8, 4:8, 1 John 3:14-16).
- B.** You should minister to God’s people, both spiritually and physically (Galatians 6:1-2, Rom 12:13, 1 John 3:17-18).
- C.** You should pray for God’s people (James 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).
- D.** You should comfort, edify (build up), and encourage God’s people (Romans 15:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13).
- E.** You should serve God’s people with humility (Philippians 2:3-4).
- F.** You should be patient with God’s people (Romans 15:5-7, Ephesians 4:2).
- G.** You should be kind and forgiving toward God’s people (Ephesians 4:32).
- H.** You should be honest with God’s people (Ephesians 4:25).

### **III. You Have a Part in Biblical Fellowship with Other Saints**

Christian fellowship is not based on food or common worldly interests. Christian fellowship is based on our common fellowship with Jesus Christ.

- A.** Biblical fellowship is the sharing of life and ministry with other believers (Philippians 1:3-6, 2:1-2, see also 2 Corinthians 1:11, 8:4).
- B.** Maintaining fellowship with God's people requires the exercise of spiritual character like humility (Philippians 2:3-8, Proverbs 13:10).
- C.** When we do not have fellowship with the saints, it is an indication that our fellowship with Christ is not where it should be (1 John 1:3-7, 1 Corinthians 1:9-10).

### **IV. The Bible Gives Instructions for Handling Offenses Among Other Believers**

The time will come when you experience hurt, disagreement, and offense at the hands of God's children. Many believers let these experiences get them out of fellowship with God's people and ultimately neutralize their effectiveness for the Lord. You cannot let every little conflict offend you (Psalm 119:165). In the cases of serious offense, there is a definite Biblical pattern for dealing with it.

- A.** Address the offense with the party that has hurt you; this should be done personally and privately (Matthew 18:15). Most conflicts will be resolved at this stage.

- B.** If the matter is not solved privately, enlist a mature and objective mediator that both parties will respect (Matt 18:16, 1 Corinthians 6:1-5).
  
- C.** If the matter still cannot be resolved, take it to the church leadership so that the offending party might have the opportunity to submit to Biblical authority within the local church (Matthew 18:17).
  - 1.** In some cases, church discipline will be in order. Be prepared to support church discipline. There are certain offenses that demand the attention of church leadership.
    - a.** False doctrine (Romans 16:17)
    - b.** Fornication/Intemperance (1 Corinthians 5:9, 11)
    - c.** Refusal to work (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11, 14)
    - d.** Greed and covetousness (1 Timothy 6:5)
  
  - 2.** The purpose of church discipline is repentance (Luke 17:3) and restoration (Galatians 6:1-2).
  
  - 3.** Commit these situations to the pastoral leadership of the church (Hebrews 13:7, 17).
  
- D.** Always guard yourself against a root of bitterness in your heart when facing conflict and offense (Galatians 5:14-15, Hebrews 12:14-15).

# Lesson Eleven Questions

1. Why would God put more emphasis in his word on our spiritual relationships than physical kinship?
2. In what way has Jesus Christ established the standard by which we're to treat others? Give examples.
3. Give a few examples of how we should treat our brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. On what should our fellowship with other believers be based upon? When a man does not have fellowship with other believers what does that indicate about his fellowship with God?
5. What is the first step in resolving a serious offense with another believer?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Eleven

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Ephesians 4:32

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

# Lesson Twelve:

## The Will of God, Part One

### How can I know the will of God for my life?

God does not measure a person's success in terms of wealth, education, or popularity. Our success in life is determined by knowing and doing the will of God. This lesson is designed to help you see what the will of God is for your life so that you can concentrate on fulfilling His will.

#### I. The Bible is Our Guide to Knowing God's Will

Much of God's will for our lives is clearly revealed in the pages of scripture. Because the word of God never changes, we must be directed by the absolute standard of the Bible. Below are some of the things which are clearly stated as being God's will for every individual.

A. It is God's will that all men be saved (2 Peter 3:9).

1. This means that all lost people are out of the will of God.
2. This also means that God expects us to be actively involved in preaching the gospel.

B. It is the will of God for us to live a holy life and abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7).

C. It is the will of God that we give thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18).



- D.** It is the will of God for us to submit ourselves to the ordinance of man (1 Peter 2:13-15).
- E.** It is the will of God to redeem the time He has given us (Ephesians 5:15-17).
- F.** It is the will of God to serve those in authority from the heart (Ephesians 6:5-8).
- G.** It is the will of God for our minds to be transformed and that we not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:1-2).
- H.** It is the will of God that we be conformed to Christ's image (Romans 8:28-29). Every believer is *called* to be Christlike (Ephesians 4:1, 11-12).
  - 1.** This begins with our salvation (1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Colossians 3:10). This establishes the image of Christ within us.
  - 2.** It continues with our sanctification (1 Peter 4:1-2, 2 Corinthians 3:18). This manifests the image of Christ through us.
  - 3.** It will be completed with our glorification (Ephesians 1:3-14, 1 John 3:1-2). This is our final conformity to Christ's image.

The will of God is not only about what we *do*, but who we *are*. When men look upon the outward appearance, God looks upon the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). The will of God reaches beyond our actions to the thoughts and intents of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12).

### **III. What About the Areas of God's Will that I'm Unsure About?**

- A.** The key to discerning the details of God's plan for our lives is to obey the aspects of His will that He has already revealed to us (John 7:17, Romans 12:1-2). Don't become consumed with the details that are unclear! Focus on obeying what you know and God will guide you in the areas about which you are unsure.
  
- B.** How does God give me guidance in the specific details of His will for me?
  - 1.** God will use His word to give you very personal direction and confirmation concerning his will for your life (Psalm 119:105). This is why it is so important to consistently read the Bible and sit under Bible preaching.
  
  - 2.** God gives us wisdom to know and do His will (James 1:5). Wisdom is about the application of Biblical principles in the absence of clear scriptural commands.
    - a.** This will include seeking wise counsel from spiritually minded authorities in your life (such as your pastor, parents, or more mature believers - Proverbs 11:14).



# Lesson Twelve Questions

1. How has God clearly revealed much of His will for our lives?
  
2. This lesson mentioned eight areas of God's will that are clearly revealed in scripture. List these below.
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
  - c.
  
  - d.
  
  - e.
  
  - f.
  
  - g.
  
  - h.
  
3. What is the key to understanding the details to God's plan for our lives?
  
  
4. What are some of the tools the Lord has given us to discern the details of his plan for our lives?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Twelve

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Romans 12:1-2

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

# Lesson Thirteen:

## The Will of God, Part Two

### How can I stay in the will of God?

God's will for our lives is not like a moving target that we constantly aim for and often miss. God's will is a place of rest and peace where we can enjoy the confidence that we are pleasing Him and thus fulfilling our purpose in life (Revelation 4:11). With that said, the enemy is constantly seeking to divert us out from the will of God.

#### I. What are Some of the Things That Can Divert Me from the Will of God?

- A. Sin. The quickest route away from the will of God is a path of sin.
- B. Impatience. Timing is important to God (Galatians 4:4).
  - 1. God wants us to wait upon Him (Psalm 25:21, 27:41, 40:1).
  - 2. Consider the devil's temptation of Christ in Matthew 4:8-11. A good thing (like Christ ruling the kingdoms of this world) at the wrong time (when Satan offered Christ the kingdoms) can be ruinous to God's will for us.
- C. Improper Methods. The way we go about our things is important to God.

1. God wanted Abraham to have a seed, but not through Hagar (Genesis 16:1-3). God promised Jacob would receive his father's blessing, but not through his mother's deceit (Genesis 27:22-29).
2. God's methods are not deceitful or manipulative.

**D. Improper Motives.** God is concerned about why we do what we do.

1. Israel wanted a king to reign over them so that they could be like other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). God had promised to give Israel a king (Genesis 49:10, Deuteronomy 17:14-20), but not for that purpose (Number 23:9).

**E. The Wrong Attitude.** God's will for us extends to our spirit and attitude.

1. Remember that God is as interested in what we *are* as what we *do*. The condition of our spirit and attitude has to do with what we *are*.
2. It is possible to do the right thing - such as maintain sexual purity (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4) - and yet develop an attitude of frustration and discontentment with the will of God (like singleness or marital fidelity).

3. Our contentment is found in Christ (Hebrews 13:5). Having a relationship with Him should be sufficient for keeping a good spirit and attitude no matter what our circumstances may be.

## II. What If I Mess Up?

Many of us have experienced great failures when it comes to doing God's will. When you have failed to fulfill the will of God, manifest genuine repentance, confess your failure to Him, and move on (1 John 1:9). The will of God is not a missed target, but a present opportunity.

## III. God Wants You to Know and Do His Will

- A. God wants you to know and fulfill His will as much or more than you do (Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:17, Colossians 1:9).
- B. God doesn't reveal all the details of His plan for our lives all at once.
  1. If he did, it would overwhelm us. Sometimes we are simply not ready (John 16:12).
  2. God wants us to be patient and walk by faith trusting him with what we do not understand (Philippians 4:6-7).
- C. You can stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Colossians 4:12), and the Holy Spirit is praying for that very thing (Romans 8:27).



## Lesson Thirteen Questions

1. List the five things from this less that can divert us from the will of God.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
2. What should you do when you have missed the will of God for your life?
3. Why doesn't God reveal all of the details of His plan for my life all at once?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Thirteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* Philippians 2:13

*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* Revelation 4:11