

# Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

## Lessons 14-16

*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 Fourteen: Dealing with Sin

## How do I overcome sin in my life?

Every believer has three spiritual enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. These enemies are constantly working together to ruin our joy and spoil our service to Christ by getting us to sin. Jesus Christ went to the cross to deal with sin. By faith in Jesus Christ, every sin we have committed or will ever commit has been paid for and forgiven. But as long as we are in this flesh, we will continually have a battle with sin. The purpose of this lesson is to show you what sin is, how to have victory over it, and what sin steals from us when we give into temptation.

### I. What is Sin?

There are many verses that help us to understand what sin is.

#### A. Sin includes the wrong things that we do.

1. Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4)
2. Sin is anything that is not right (1 John 5:17).
3. Sin is anything done apart from faith (Romans 14:23).

#### B. Sin includes our failure to do the good things we know we are supposed to do, such as pray, witness, give, or read the Bible (James 4:17).

## II. Why Do I Sin?

We have an inherited disposition toward sin within us (Romans 7:18, 21). However, we do not HAVE to sin (John 8:11, 1 Corinthians 15:34, 1 John 2:1). Sin is the result of our being drawn into temptation by our own lusts (James 1:13-15). This temptation comes in three forms (1 John 2:15-16).

- A. The lust of the flesh – This is what Eve faced when she saw that the tree was “good for food” (Genesis 3:6). Jesus Christ was tempted in the same way to turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger (Matthew 4:3).
- B. The lust of the eyes – This is what confronted Eve when she saw that the tree was “pleasant to the eyes” (Genesis 3:6). The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted when the Devil caused all the kingdoms of this world to pass before his eyes (Matthew 4:8).
- C. The pride of life – This is what tempted Eve when she saw that the tree was “desired to make one wise” (Genesis 3:6). Likewise, Christ was tempted to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of temple so that they angels would bear him up (Matthew 4:6).

In each of these areas, Eve gave in to the temptation. On the other hand, in each of these areas Jesus Christ resisted the devil’s temptation setting an example for us (Hebrews 4:15-16).

### **III. How Does God Deal with My Sin?**

- A.** God has dealt with your sin by judging it in Christ on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). This affords us judicial forgiveness for all of our sins – past, present, and future (Colossians 2:13, 1 John 2:12).
- B.** While your sin will not force you out of God’s family, He will deal with you as a loving father deals with his son, by chastening you (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- C.** All of our actions have consequences. Even though you may confess and forsake your sin, God will still allow you to reap what you have sown (Galatians 6:7-8).

### **IV. What Do I Stand To Lose Because of My Sin?**

While you cannot lose your eternal life, there are things that you may forfeit because of continued disobedience to God’s word.

- A.** You can lose your joy (Psalm 51:12).
- B.** You can lost your testimony (Genesis 19:14).
- C.** You can lose your rewards (2 John 8).
- D.** You can lose your health (1 Corinthians 11:30).
- E.** You can lose your life (1 Corinthians 11:30).

### **V. How Can I Overcome Sin?**

- A.** Be honest with God about your sin. Take responsibility for your actions and confess your sins (1 Corinthians 11:31-32, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9).

- B.** Do not put yourself in a situation that you know will lend itself to temptation (Matthew 6:13, Romans 13:14).
- C.** Do not allow sinful thoughts to control your mind (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- D.** Walk in the Spirit, and yield your members to Christ, reckoning yourself dead unto sin, but alive unto God (Galatians 5:16, Romans 6:11-13).
- E.** Meditate in the word of God (Psalm 119:9, 11, 2 Corinthians 7:1). Do you remember Christ's method of overcoming the Devil's temptations?
- F.** Ask the Lord for the help you need (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15-16).
- G.** When you are tempted, take God's way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- H.** Learn to hate the sin that so easily besets you (Proverbs 8:13, Psalm 119:104).
- I.** Separate yourself **from** worldly influences (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) and separate yourself **unto** the things of God (Romans 1:1, Ephesians 4:28, 1 Corinthians 16:15).

# Lesson Fourteen Questions

1. What are the three forms in which temptation presents itself?
2. How did Jesus Christ overcome the Devil's temptation in Matthew 4?
3. Can a believer lose his salvation because he sins? What can the believer lose because of sin?
4. Why does God chasten his children (Hebrews 12:6)?
5. What has God promised to provide us in the face of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)?
6. What are the two aspects of Biblical separation? Give an example of how this works for you personally?

# Memory Verses for Lesson Fourteen

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.

*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Romans 6:11

*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.* Hebrews 4:15

*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* Psalms 119:11

# Lesson Fifteen: Liberty in Christ

**Since all my sins are forgiven, am I free to do as I please?**

God's grace is greater than our sin (Rom 5:20). As New Testament believers, we are not under the law, but under grace (Rom 6:14). We are saved and kept eternally secure, not because of what we do, but because of what Christ has done on our behalf. Sadly, some people will pervert these wonderful truths and use them as an excuse to live for themselves. This lesson is designed to give you a balanced view of your liberty in Jesus Christ.

## **I. Your Liberty in Christ Provides Freedom to do God's Will, Not to Sin**

- A. Your liberty is *from* sin that you might do what is right, not what you want (John 8:36, Galatians 5:1, Romans 6:12-18, 8:2-4).
- B. Our liberty in Christ frees us to serve the Lord and others (1 Peter 2:16). Our liberty should never be abused to fulfill our fleshly lusts (Galatians 5:13).

## **II. The Misuse of Your Liberty Can Have a Serious Effect on Others**

- A. Your life is an influence upon other people. You will either be a testimony for good or bad, but you cannot remain neutral (Romans 14:7).
- B. You are to avoid things that might cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith (Romans 14:13-15, 1 Corinthians 8:9-13).



C. You are to avoid the appearance of evil, even when it may not technically be wrong (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

D. It should be every believer's desire to maintain a good testimony before believers and unbelievers alike (Acts 16:1-2, 11:22-24, Colossians 4:5, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

#### **IV. While You are Not Under the Law, You are to be Motivated by Love**

In the New Testament, love is the answer to the law. This provides us with important, common-sense boundaries in every relationship that we have. See Matthew 22:37-40, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:13-14, 6:2.

#### **V. We Must Let the Holy Spirit Guide Us in Matters that are Not Perfectly Clear**

There are some matters where the scriptures do not clearly define what is and is not acceptable. However, even in these so-called "gray areas" the scriptures provide us with guidance and direction as the Holy Spirit applies them to our specific circumstances. Below are a series of questions that you can ask yourself on occasions of uncertainty.

A. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life? See 1 Corinthians 6:12.

B. Am I edifying myself or others? See 1 Corinthians 10:23.

C. Can I ask God to bless the thing I would do with a clear conscience? See Colossians 3:17, Acts 24:16.

- D.** If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed? See 1 John 2:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
- E.** Would it cause a brother to stumble? See Romans 14:13-15, 15:1-2.
- F.** Would it be cause for a lost person to reject Jesus Christ? See 1 Corinthians 10:31-33.
- G.** Does my conscience condemn me for it? See 1 Peter 3:16, Hebrews 13:18, 1 Timothy 1:5.
- H.** What is good or right about this thing that I would allow in my life? See Philippians 4:8.

It is only through a consistent walk with the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can maintain a balance between liberty in Christ and the needs of others (2 Corinthians 3:6, 17).

## Lesson Fifteen Questions

1. What does it mean to have liberty in Christ? What have we been liberated from?
2. How might the misuse of your liberty affect someone else negatively?
3. How can we know the proper course of action in a situation that is not specifically spelled out in the Bible?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Fifteen

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.

*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10:31

*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*  
Galatians 5:13

# Lesson Sixteen:

## Witnessing for Christ

**As a child of God, what responsibility do I have to tell others of my Savior?**

As believers, we can be grateful that someone told us about Jesus Christ. Different believers have different skills, talents, and gifts, but every believer has a responsibility to be a witness of Jesus Christ to others. This lesson is designed to show you your Christian obligation to be a witness and provide you with some tips on how you can do this effectively.

### **I. A Ministry for Every Believer**

- A.** The last instructions the Lord Jesus Christ gave his followers before ascending back to the Father was to teach and preach the gospel to others (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47-48, Acts 1:8).
- B.** This is called the ministry of reconciliation in Second Corinthians 5:18. Observe that this ministry is a *word* ministry (2 Corinthians 5:19).
- C.** God uses human instrumentation (like you and me) to bring sinners to Christ (Proverbs 11:30, 1 Corinthians 4:15, 7:16, 9:22).

### **II. Being Prepared to Speak Up**

Many believers lack the confidence needed to speak to others about the gospel. If it is your responsibility to witness for Jesus, then it is your responsibility to prepare yourself for the opportunity when it should arise (1 Peter 3:15).

- A. You should know what the gospel is since that is the substance of our message. The gospel is defined in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. You can have confidence that any sinner that truly believes the gospel will be saved (Romans 1:16).
- B. You should be equipped with the word of God, since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God! It is a good idea to mark the Bible verses that you might use to lead someone to Christ. You should also memorize important verses that will help in the event that you do not have a Bible with you. You can begin by memorizing “The Romans Road”: Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10.
- C. Try to remember to take tracts with you (in your pocket or your purse) so that you can share these with people you attempt to witness to.
- D. Keep in mind that everyone needs to be saved. Learn to look upon others as eternal souls that must be born again to be spared hell.

### **III. Objectives for Presenting the Gospel**

There are certain truths that a lost person must be confronted with in order to be saved. Outlined below are some important basic steps that should be covered when attempting to lead someone to Christ.

- A. You must show the person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.
  - 1. Appropriate scriptures – Romans 3:10, 23, James 2:10.

2. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-18) serve as an excellent tool to illustrate man's sinfulness (1 John 3:14).
- B.** You must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death.
  1. Appropriate scriptures: Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8.
- C.** You must show the sinner that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for his sin.
  1. Appropriate scriptures: 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21.
  2. It is important that they understand that Christ was sinless (1 Peter 2:22, Hebrews 4:15).
- D.** You must show the sinner that salvation is by faith alone, apart from works.
  1. Appropriate scriptures: Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:21, 3:24, Romans 3:24.
- E.** You must show the sinner that they must receive Christ personally by faith.
  1. Appropriate scriptures: John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10, Acts 16:31.
  2. When a person is clearly convinced of their need of Christ, you may encourage them to receive Christ for themselves (Romans 10:13-15).

#### **IV. Giving Your Personal Testimony**

One powerful tool that you have is your own personal testimony. Even if you did not feel confident finding the verses to explain the gospel, or if a person didn't seem to be receptive to scripture at first, you can always tell someone what Christ has done for you.

- A.** There are three parts to every personal testimony as can be seen from the Apostle Paul's example in Acts 26.
  - 1.** Your life before you got saved (Acts 26:4-5, 9-11). This is your chance to tell someone that you were a sinner in need of a Savior.
  - 2.** How you got saved (Acts 26:12-18). This is your chance to tell someone that you trusted Jesus Christ alone and He saved your soul.
  - 3.** Your life since you got saved (Acts 26:19-23). This is your chance to tell someone that Jesus has made a difference in your life and that you know you're on your way to heaven.

#### **V. A Few Tips**

- A.** Mark a Bible. There is nothing as powerful as God's word.
- B.** Pray for souls. You will be much more conscious and burdened for the souls you pray for.
- C.** Pass out tracts. Even when you cannot speak up you can often pass along the gospel in print.



## Lesson Sixteen Questions

1. Whose responsibility is it to be a witness? Provide scriptural support.
2. What is the scriptural definition for the gospel?
3. What are some steps that you can take to be prepared to give someone the gospel?
4. What scriptural tool has God left us to convince men of their sin?
5. What are the three basic parts to a personal salvation testimony?
6. List the five things from this lesson that you must show a sinner in order for him to be saved?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Sixteen

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 he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* Mark 16:15

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* 1 Peter 3:15

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:* John 1:12