

HOW TO LEAD A PERSON TO CHRIST – SESSION TWO

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. (Galatians 5:1)

Sin Is Slavery – Jesus Wants Us Free

One of the metaphors in scripture about sin is “slavery.” The idea that we are enslaved to sin and our fallen nature is taught by Jesus in *John 6:34*, “*Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin'*” and in several of the epistles; especially in Romans 6:16, “*Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?*”

We Were Dead in Sin – Jesus Wants Us Alive in Him

The bible teaches us that we were once dead in our sins and were under the dominion of darkness and the sway of the prince of the ruler of the air (Satan) look at *Ephesians 2:1-2*, “*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*”

The Law Does Not Make Us Righteous – Jesus Does

Scripture also tells us that we were under the law and therefore all of us were guilty before God because of our trespasses and sin. As law breakers we were subject to judgment and the penalty of death, eternally separated from God. Paul describes this in *Romans 3:21-24*, “*But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*”

The Good News – Freedom and Victory

Our Gospel is “good news.” Because of Jesus all of us have the gift of forgiveness of sins, eternal life; we are reconciled to God; we have been redeemed; we are justified and sanctified and have become.

NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST JESUS: 2 Corinthians 5:21

This is all positional – it has been accomplished by no effort on our part. It is a free gift of God to all who believe and accept for themselves (personally) what God has done for them. That being said, we do have a part. God expects us to allow Him to live in us and change us from the inside by His Holy Spirit. We are to put off the “old man” and call to death our sinful nature. (**Romans 6**) This too is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, but it involves our will. We will only walk in VICTORY over our sinful nature by the power of the Holy Spirit. This does take effort, discipline, hard work, and cooperation. The Lord would have us live free of our old sinful nature and for us to walk victoriously over the “world, the flesh and the devil.”

God’s Provision for Living Victoriously – The Holy Spirit

Living victoriously is for every area of your life. The Lord intends for us to have victory in our physical behavior, in our emotions and attitudes and lastly in our spiritual lives. When Paul wrote to the church at Galatia, he talked about having victory over the sins of the flesh by walking in the “Spirit,” **Galatians 5:16-21** says,

So, I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

As you read this list representing the fallen nature (the flesh) you will see bodily sins (immorality, debauchery), you will see sins in the heart (ambition, envy) and you will see sins in the spirit (witchcraft, idolatry). Jesus tells us we can overcome all of this by walking in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Not Perfect, But Purposeful –

Although we have access to the Holy Spirit this does not mean we will be perfect and never sin again. The fact is we will constantly face temptation and occasionally we will stumble and fall. It is not perfection that is required, and the Lord knows our frailty and that we are truly “dust.” All of us can relate to Paul as he writes in **Romans 7:19**, “*For the good that I will do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*” There are times when we do the right thing to do, but we

do not do it. This reality is part of our fallen condition. Thank the Lord, we have provision in *1 John 1:8-9*, “*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” When we do stumble and fall, we can confess our sins and receive full forgiveness and restoration.

God’s Purpose for Man

- To enjoy fellowship with God *Gen 1:26-30*
- To share in God’s rule of the world *Gen 2:15-17*

Nature of Sin

- Rebellion against God and His commandments *Gen 3:1-12*
- Examples of Sin:
 - doing wrong *Ps 51:4; James 2:11*
 - not doing right *James 4:17*
 - Lack of faith or belief *Rom 14:23*

Extent of Sin

- All are sinners *Isaiah 53:6, Rom 3:23; 1 John 1:8*
- Sin in all areas:
 - thought *Jeremiah 17:9*
 - word *James 3:1-10*
 - deed: acts of commission *1 John 3:4*
 - acts of omission *James 4:17*
 - Our condition spiritually *Ephesians 2:2-3; 5:8*

Results of Sin

- Separation from God *Isaiah 59:2*
- Slavery to sin *Romans 6:17; John 8:34*
- Death *Romans 6:23*

Man’s Attempt to Solve the Sin Problem

Note how these attempts all fail to remove the results of sin.

- Good works *Isaiah 64:6*
- Religious activities (e.g., penance) *Romans 3:20*
- Education *1 Cor 3:19-20*
- Determination *Romans 7:21-25*
- Rationalization *1 Cor 1:19; Col 2:8*

God’s Solution to the Sin Problem

- Jesus died for us:
 - to bring us back to God *1 Tim 2:5-6; Rom 5:8*
 - to set us free from the power of sin *1 Peter 3:18*
 - to give us eternal life *Romans 6:18*
John 3:16

Assignment

List the sins mentioned in the following references:

Matt 15:18-20 Mark 7:21-23 Rom 1:29-32
Rom 13:13, 14 1 Cor 6:9, 10

Can you imagine how serious man's basic problem is?

Certainty of Victory

- New reality: more than conquerors
 - Over adversities
 - Because of Christ's love
- New dimension: power of the resurrection
 - Despite loss of all things
 - Even in suffering
- New perspective: treasures in earthen vessels
 - Transcendent power of God
 - Life of Jesus
 - Renewal of inner nature
 - Incomparable eternal glory

Rom 8:37
Rom 8:35, 38-39
Rom 8:35, 37, 39
Phil 3:10
Phil 3:7-8
Phil 3:10
1 Cor 4:7
1 Cor 4:7
1 Cor 4:11-12
1 Cor 4:16
1 Cor 4:17

The Victory of Christ

- Over Sin
- Over Death
- Over Satan and spiritual power
- Overall false religions
- Over Sickness
- Over the world and its system

I John 3:5; Heb 2:14-18
I Cor 15:25-26; 56
Col 2:15; I John 3:8
Philippians 2:9-1, Col 2:8; 16-23
Acts 10:38, I Pet 2:24
John 16:33; Rev 11:15

The Way to Walk in Victory

- Repent of all known sin
- Renounce the devil and all his works.
- Reject all lies, fears and anxieties in the Name of Jesus
- Restore wherever possible and make restitution.
- Return and be reconciled to God and fellow man.
- Reverse the curse of the law through obedience.
- Receive God's love, forgiveness, healing, deliverance, blessings.