

It's all about
Relationship



**RESTORING OUR
BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS**

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

Facing our brokenness.

We live in a world of broken relationships. Most people use others for their own desires. When they don't need them anymore or feel like they have a "better deal" they discard and abandon them.

Few are faithful to the commitments they make. As broken people we focus on "ME."

Have you or anyone you know been affected by any of these?

Wars	Human Trafficking	Murders
Sexual Abuse	Divorce	Unfaithfulness
Violence	Poverty	Gangs
Financial Scams	Political Fighting	Lawsuits
Racism	Fractured Families	Corruption
Child Abuse	Rape	Hate
Robbery	Addictions	Bullying



SOME SUGGEST THAT THE SOLUTION TO ALL OF THIS IS:

More police, politicians, prisons, laws, lawyers, judges, religion, education or money...

Our major problem is not legal, economic, religious, psychological, or educational.

We have relationship problems caused by a heart problem.

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure." *Jeremiah 17:9*

We need a new heart.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." *Ezekiel 36:26*

God's outrageous love for us can create a new heart in us.

Let's take a closer look at God's love:

FOUR PRESENTATIONS

1. The need for and cost of a restored relationship.
2. What a restored relationship looks like.
3. What we do to restore our relationship with Jesus.
4. Some unique results of a restored relationship with Jesus.



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IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

SESSION 1

The Need For And Cost of a Restored Relationship



THE NEED FOR A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP

MAN

GOD

All a man's ways seem right to him. *Proverbs 16:2*

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT...

WE'RE NOT PERFECT

"There is no one righteous, not even one; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" *Romans 3:10, 23*

CONSEQUENCE: "For the wages of sin is death..." *Romans 6:23*

WE HAVE BROKEN THE LAWS OF GOD

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus Replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" *Matthew 22:36-39*

CONSEQUENCE: "All who rely on observing the law are under a curse..." *Galatians 3:10*

WE ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins..." *Ephesians 2:1*

CONSEQUENCE: "But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead." *1 Peter 4:5*

WE ARE BLIND

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel..." *II Corinthians 4:4*

CONSEQUENCE: "...he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him." *1 John 2:11*

WE'VE LOST OUR WAY

"They wander far from the life God gives." *Ephesians 4:18*

CONSEQUENCE: "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." *Proverbs 14:12*

WE ARE HELPLESS TO SAVE OURSELVES

"The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, 'Who then can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said: 'With man this is impossible.'" *Mark 10:26-27*

CONSEQUENCE: "Remember that at that time you were separated from Christ without hope and without God in the world." *Ephesians 2:12*

We can't restore our relationship with God by being good, doing good, being religious, or belonging to the right church or religion. We are helpless to save ourselves. Isaiah 64:6 says: "All our righteous acts are like filthy rags."

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT...

GOD IS PERFECT AND HOLY

"Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?" *Psalms 77:13*

GOD IS THE LAWGIVER

"There is only one Lawgiver and Judge..." *James 4:12*

JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE

"Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned. He has crossed over from death to life." *John 5:24*

JESUS IS THE LIGHT

"...I am the light of the world..." *John 8:12*

JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *John 14:6*

JESUS IS OUR HELP

"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible but not with God; all things are possible with God.'" *Mark 10:27*



God's plan is not to give us what we deserve but to rescue us from what justice demands. That is called God's mercy.

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

SESSION 2

What a Restored Relationship Looks Like



WHAT A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP LOOKS LIKE

The Bible is the story of God's pursuit for a loving relationship with man. God reveals Himself to us and offers us love and life through a covenant. This page explains the entire outline, theme and plot of the Bible.

Covenant: a treaty, agreement, will, testament, alliance.

A covenant has at least four parts:

The Parties—the persons who enter the covenant: God and man.

The Terms—what man agrees to do for God.

The Promises—what God promises to do for man.

The Consequences—the results of rejecting or abandoning God's covenant.

God's covenants reveal that He is faithful and always keeps His promises.

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Romans 15:4

All of God's covenants lead us to the New Covenant: the capsule, the prize, the treasure.

THE NEW COVENANT

The new covenant started when Jesus died and shed His blood on the cross:

"Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from sins..."
Hebrews 9:15

The New Covenant is better than the old:

"But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises." *Hebrews 8:6*

It's all about relationship

His invitation:

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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." *Matthew 11:28, 29*

"Now we rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins-making us friends of God." *Romans 5:11LB*

Long before you decided what you'd do with God, God decided what He would do with you.

-Louie Giglio

The Bible is the history of a series of connected covenants from God to man. They are different than contracts. A contract is selfish and protects oneself from the other. A covenant is an agreement in which two parties agree to advance the best interest of the other party; it is selfless.

Since before creation, God planned to offer forgiveness and eternal life for mankind.

"...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time." *Titus 1:2*

God revealed his love through a series of covenants. With a rocket, the capsule is the most important part:

Let's start at the bottom with #1 and move up:

5-He made a better covenant with us through his Son's death. *Hebrews 8:6*

4-He made a covenant with Israel (*Abraham's descendants*) *Exodus 19:5*

3-He made a covenant with Abraham. *Genesis 15:18*

2-He made two covenants with Noah *Genesis 6:18 & Genesis 9:9,11*

1-God made a covenant with Adam. *Hosea 6:7*



God's New Covenant

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ” *Ephesians 1:5 TLB*

God wants us to be in a healthy relationship with Him and others.

THE PARTIES OF THE NEW COVENANT

God and anyone who gets into Christ. It is offered to all people, of any race, economic group or nationality; to alcoholics, adulterers, addicts, murderers, prisoners, failures, the successful, religious or not. All are invited.

GOD'S PROMISES make us a new person.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.”
Ezekiel 36:26.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come.” *2 Corinthians 5:17 LB.*

God Promises...

Love—*John 3:16 & Romans 8:38-39*

Freedom from Accusation—*Colossians 1:22*

Forgiveness—*Acts 2:38 Exonerated*

Won't Remember Our Sins—*Hebrews 8:12*

Resurrection—*1 Corinthians 6:14 & 15:51-53*

Eternal Life—*1 John 5:11 & Romans 6:23*

Eternal Home/Place with God—*Revelation 21:1-4*

Life to the Full—*John 10:10*

Joy—*1 Peter 1:8*

New Birth—*John 3:3,7*

Adoption—*Ephesians 1:5 & Romans 8:15*

Family—*Galatians 6:10*

Presence—*Matthew 28:20*

Daily Help—*Romans 8:26-28 & Philippians 1:6*

Mind-Attitude—*Ephesians 4:23-24*

Purpose—*Ephesians 2:10*

Citizenship—*Philippians 3:20*

Spirit in Us—*1 Corinthians 3:16 & Romans 5:10, 8:9*

Power to Live—*Ephesians 3:21*

Security—*2 Peter 3:17*

Overwhelming Victory—*1 John 5:4-5 & Romans 8:37*

Persecution—*II Timothy 3:12*

Motivation—*II Corinthians 5:13-14*

Suffering—*1 Peter 1:6*

Hope—*II Corinthians 1:10b*

Loving Discipline—*Revelation 3:19*

Understanding—*Hebrews 4:15*

Inheritance—*1 Peter 1:4*

Accessibility and Confidence—*Hebrews 4:16*

God DOES NOT promise material wealth, good health, job security, or freedom from problems and sufferings.

God promises strength to persevere.

“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 16:33*

God promises us His peace.

“Since we have been made right in God's sight by faith in his promises, **we can have real peace with him** because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” *Romans 5:1 LB*

MAN'S TERMS

What I agree to do for God

First: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” *Matthew 22: 37,38*

Second: “And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” *Matthew 22:39*

Jesus showed us how to love God and people (*Romans 8:29*). He loved the good, bad, rejected, lonely, arrogant, displaced, outcast and the imperfect.

For **Christ's love compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ... All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. *2 Corinthians 5:14-15 & 18-20*

Loving like Jesus and sharing His story is my new life motivation.

Jesus is God's Great Gift

"In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us." *Ephesians 1:7-8*

ALL IS NEW...

Love—For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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. *Romans 8:38-39*

Freedom From Accusation—But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. *Colossians 1:22*

Forgiveness—Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

Acts 2:38—**Exonerated**

Won't Remember Our Sin—"For I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more" *Hebrews 8:12*

Resurrection—By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and **he will raise us also.** *1 Corinthians 6:14*

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. *1 Corinthians 15:51-53*

Eternal Life—And this is the testimony: **God has given us eternal life,** and this life is in his Son. *1 John 5:11*



For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

Eternal Home/Place with God—Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." *Revelation 21:1-4*

Full Life—The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and **have it to the full.** *John 10:10*

Joy—Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with **an inexpressible and glorious joy.** *1 Peter 1:8*

New Birth—Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." *John 3:3*

You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." *John 3:7*

For **you have been born again,** not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. *1 Peter 1:23*

Adoption—The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the

Spirit you received brought about **your adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*”

Romans 8:15

Family—Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those **who belong to the family of believers**. *Galatians 6:10*

Presence—And surely **I am with you always, to the very end of the age**. *Matthew 28:20b*

Daily Help—In the same way, the **Spirit helps us in our weakness**. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who **have been called according to his purpose**.

Romans 8:26-28

Mind-Attitude—...be made new in the **attitude of your minds**; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:23-24

Purpose—For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which **God prepared in advance for us to do**. *Ephesians 2:10*

Citizenship—But **our citizenship is in heaven**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 3:20*

Spirit In Us—Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that **God’s Spirit dwells in your midst**? *I Corinthians 3:16*

Power To Live—...**To Him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *Ephesians 3:21*

Security—since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from **your secure position**. *II Peter 3:17*

Overwhelming Victory—For everyone born of God **overcomes the world**. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. *I John 5:4-5*

Persecution—In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted...**

II Timothy 3:12

Motivation—For **Christ’s love compels us**.

II Corinthians 5:14

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

Hope—On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. *II Corinthians 1:10b*

Loving Discipline—Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

Revelation 3:19

Understanding—For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. *Hebrews 4:15*

Inheritance—And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you. *I Peter 1:4*

Accessibility and Confidence—So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. *Hebrews 4:16*

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

SESSION 3

**What We Do To Restore Our
Relationship With Jesus**



HOW TO RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A new relationship with God begins with faith in Him.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Faith in God is **“being fully persuaded that God has power to do what he has promised”** (Romans 4:21).

“Then what can we boast about doing, to earn our salvation? Nothing at all. Why? Because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds; it is based on what Christ has done and our faith in Him.” Romans 3:27

THIS IS GOOD NEWS!

We can do NOTHING to make God love us more than He already loves us.

Trying to save ourselves or being good enough leads to exhaustion, frustration, and desperation.

Biblical Faith Is:

Believing (*using your brain*) that God became man in Jesus, that he died for our sins, was buried and was raised from the grave.

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

Biblical faith requires intellectual belief and our response.

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

Faith leads to loving God

“If I have faith that can move mountains but have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2b

We need to be rooted in love

“...I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...and I pray that you being rooted and established in love.” Ephesians 3:16-17

Faith and love lead to loving obedience

“If you love Me you will obey what I command.” John 14:15



In the 1860s there was a famous tightrope walker named Blondin. He went to Niagara Falls to put on a three-day show. Blondin stretched the tightrope across the Falls, and for two days walked this rope, drawing a tremendous crowd. On the third day he said he was going to walk the rope, blindfolded and pushing a wheelbarrow. Before he tried this feat, he went among the crowd and asked, “Do you believe I can do this?” There wasn’t anyone in the crowd who doubted. So he climbed up on the rope and asked, “OK, who will come up and get in the wheelbarrow?”

How many do you think volunteered?

...only his five year old daughter.

True Love Leads To Repentance

"In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30

In Acts 2:14, we read Peter's first sermon to a crowd of unbelievers after the death burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Peter's Conclusion

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36

Following We Read The People's Response

"These words of Peter's moved them deeply, and they said to him and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" Acts 2:37b

Asking the question reveals they BELIEVED the message. Their new belief called for action.

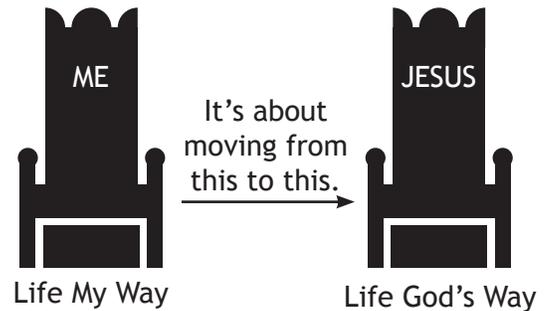
Peter's Answer

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 2:38

Repentance means making a "U-turn."

Religious repentance is trying to keep a long list of do's and don'ts in order to be acceptable to God and thus be save.

Christian repentance is turning from rejecting Jesus to trusting Him—it's all about turning to Him for a restored relationship.



Relationally, Jesus said we can't serve two masters.

When we repent, we are saying "It will be Jesus."

In God's eyes, we are either serving Him or we are serving the devil. The devil wants us to serve him and destroy our relationship with God.

"Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." II Timothy 2:25-26

"Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" Romans 2:4

"Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" Acts 3:19

God's love for us leads us to having faith in Him, loving Him, repenting and then...

Confession is My Verbal Declaration and Acceptance of My Relationship With Jesus

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9-10

Confession is speaking of my love for Jesus—it is my faith in action.

Can you imagine a guy proposing and in the coming days introducing his fiance to others by saying, "Hi, I want to introduce you to my friend..."

Baptism Is God's Command To His Covenant Invitation

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...' *Matthew 28:18-20*

Peter passed on Jesus' command:

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" *Acts 2:38*

In the Greek language, from which our New Testament was translated, the word baptize means "to dip, plunge, or immerse."

GOD COMMANDS BAPTISM INTO JESUS
It's a matter of covenant obedience.

The Bible models that disciples can be baptized any day, in any water, by any other disciple of Jesus. We are baptized into Jesus, not a denomination.

Baptism is our oath or pledge of loyalty and obedience to God.

"...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ..." *1 Peter 3:21*

My Pledge Of Commitment

The word pledge in the Greek is the same word that was used when two businessmen would enter into a deal. The seller made a proposition and the buyer considered it. If he accepted it, he stood and said, "I pledge that I am going to live according to the terms of this agreement." This was done before a witness, and that pledge finalized the agreement and made it binding.

When we are presented the news of God's love, we can either accept it or reject it. There is no neutral ground. We answer yes or no. If we choose to say yes, we are to respond to the covenant by being baptized.

When we turn to Jesus and declare that we want to become a disciple of Jesus, God asks us to take an oath. God has already taken His oath. He did it in the cross and signed it with His blood.



The following verses teach about what happens in baptism:

"...for all of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ." *Galatians 3:27*

"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name." *Acts 22:16*

We die to ourselves, and He gives himself to us.



"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." *Romans 6:3-4*

In baptism, Paul says we experience the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE HELPS CLARIFY OUR COVENANT WITH JESUS

Marriage is a Covenant Relationship. *Malachi 2:14*

THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE

THE COVENANT WITH CHRIST

<p>This relationship begins with a special kind of faith and confidence that says, “I’ve found the one I’ve been looking for.” This confidence leads to...</p>	<p>This relationship begins with a faith, confidence, and belief that says: “I’ve found the one I need: I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He came to die for my sins” This faith and belief respond by...</p>
<p>Loving the other with all your heart. Saying, “I want to spend the rest of my life with you alone.” This love and trust leads to...</p>	<p>Loving God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength.</p>
<p>Someone proposing marriage and the other accepting. Selfless love submits to the other’s best interest and promises to be faithful to them by putting their needs first. “You first, you only. The search is over.” <i>Are there other commitments to be renounced?</i></p>	<p>In love, I submit myself to Jesus and promise to be faithful and obey Him. I advance His needs before mine as He has done for me. I accept His invitation/proposal. I put Jesus on the throne of my life. You first, you only. The search is over. = Repentance. <i>Are there other commitments to renounce?</i></p>
<p>Telling others of the decision made. Committed.</p>	<p>Telling others of the decision I’ve made: Confession.</p>
<p>Wedding Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An end and a beginning. • Renouncing the single life for a shared life. It’s an exclusive relationship. • Giving the oath of allegiance to advance the other’s best interest. 	<p>Baptism is to the covenant with Jesus what the wedding is to the covenant of marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A end and a beginning. • Renouncing the “self” life for a shared life. • Giving the oath of allegiance.
<p>Now we share the benefits and responsibilities of a marriage covenant. <i>We can’t sit back and do nothing!</i> The depth and quality of your relationship will be determined by you and your mate working on growing your relationship.</p>	<p>Now I can enjoy all the promises of my new relationship and live to fulfill my terms of this covenant relationship with Jesus. <i>I can’t sit back and do nothing!</i> The depth and quality of my relationship with Christ will reflect how I work on my relationship with Him. God will be faithful.</p>

Where are you in the new covenant?

Let’s see...

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

SESSION 4

**Some Unique Results of a Restored
Relationship With Jesus**



UNIQUE RESULTS OF A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

One person's definition of a Christian:

"A Christian is a person who is becoming what in God's eyes he already is" *(Source unknown)*.

A similar statement is found in the Bible:

"...because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." *Hebrews 10:14*

There are two dimensions of our relationship operating at the same time.

Because of His love for us God makes us perfect in His sight, forever, by our *Position*:

Once we are **IN** Jesus, God patiently works to transform our *Condition*:

Our POSITION is:

A PLACE: "...And we are in Him who is true – even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." *1 John 5:20*

A GIFT: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

UNCHANGING: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." *1 John 5:13*

ALL EQUAL: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." *Galatians 3:28*

NEW PERSON: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" *II Corinthians 5:17*

OUR SPIRITUAL POSITION in Jesus is a result of our being loved. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us." He loved us, came for us, died and was raised from the dead and now adopts us as sons and daughters. We are deeply loved. Knowing this will change our hearts and minds and life. It's All About Relationship.

Our CONDITION is:

A JOURNEY: "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." *Philippians 1:6*

God is working to transform us.

A WORK IN PROGRESS: "Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." *1 Timothy 4:7-8*

We need to cooperate in this transformation.

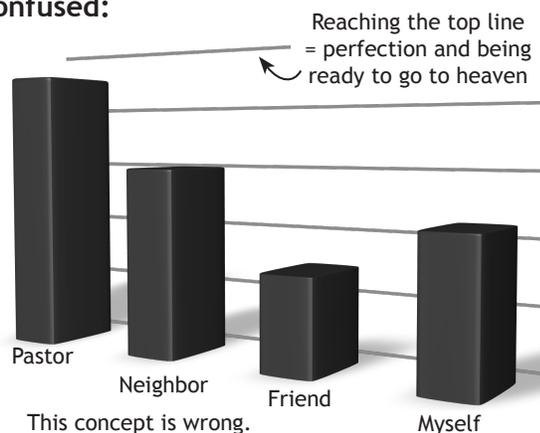
CHANGING: "And we... are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory" *II Corinthians 3:18*

UNEQUAL: "...though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you...all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant... But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." *Hebrews 5:12-14*

NEW ATTITUDE: "You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off the old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God." *Ephesians 4:22-24*

OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION reflects our response to our being loved. God's Holy Spirit is working in our lives to help us produce the fruit of the Spirit. We show our love and gratitude to God by trusting and obeying Him. It's All About Relationship

The following illustration shows how most people get confused:



Many say things like, “Me? I want to go to heaven, but when I see where I’m at and where I have to get, it seems hopeless. There’s no chance.”

The truth is, when we accept Christ we are immediately made 100% perfect in God’s eyes (*our position*)—we are going to heaven. We are made perfect forever because of God’s grace and our position in Christ. He then works to help us become more like Christ as he works on our condition.

“...because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” Hebrews 10:14

“God saved you by grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Our position gives us peace, joy, hope and confidence till the end of our life, during the conditioning and transformation.

“And I am certain that God who began the good work within you will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Jesus Christ returns.” Philippians 1:6

When will God be finished with our transformation?

Conclusion: We are saved because of our position, not our condition! That is the Grace of God.

This conclusion almost always raises the question: Does that mean it is not important to be good, that our conditioning is not important?

The answer found in The New Covenant is that IT IS important! We shouldn’t abuse or take God’s gift for granted.

“Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover up for evil; live as servants of God.” 1 Peter 2:16

The apostle Paul wrote:

“I don’t mean to say I am perfect. I haven’t learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be.” Philippians 3:12

Jesus loves me just as I am, but He has no plans of leaving me that way.

My old motivation was to make me look good in order to be saved.

If I do what I do so I will look good, selfishness and fear are my motivations. I become self-centered, covering up, denying, and comparing. I will never know if I have done enough. That is how man’s religion attempts to control us through fear.

Motivated by God’s love and grace I seek to be like Jesus to honor God and show Him my love, gratitude, and appreciation for my salvation and all He has done for me. I know we can’t DO enough, but that He has already DONE what needs to be done for me to have an eternal relationship with Him.

Strengthening my relationship with Jesus is my new motivation. I am powerless without my relationship with Jesus (*John 15:5*).

Life's Journey OUT of Christ

Life OUTSIDE Christ

- Facing Death
- Cursed
- Spiritually Dead
- Lost in Darkness
- Helpless to Save Ourselves

When we believe in Christ's sacrifice, repent, confess, and are baptized we crossover from death to life.

John 5:24



Life's Journey IN Christ

This white section represents our entire life in Christ. It shows our POSITION and CONDITION.

"For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight."

Ephesians 1:4

Because of our position in Christ, we are now 100% perfect in God's sight for the rest of our LIFE. When we die, God has already made us ready for heaven. How is that?



"And we all...are being transformed into His image." *2 Corinthians 3:18*

Through our "transformation" we are becoming what in God's sight we already are. In our journey we will still face unexpected, unpleasant and even painful situations. There are hills to climb, valleys to cross, and storms to face.

Our **CONDITION** reflects the spiritual shape we are in: Strong or Weak. Everyone's journey is different but the destination is the same. A transformation is taking place.



"Aim for perfection." *II Corinthians 13:11*

Acting and Reacting Like Jesus.

Sin = "Missed the Mark"

In Christ, God is not counting men's sins against them.

II Corinthians 5:19



It's because of our **POSITION**. Look at the bottle. Can you see the water inside without first looking through the bottle? In much the same way, when God looks at us after we accept Christ, He sees us through Jesus. We are IN CHRIST and continually cleansed by His blood—made blameless or perfect.



At Christ's 2nd coming...
We will be: Resurrected (*Revelation 21*)

AND

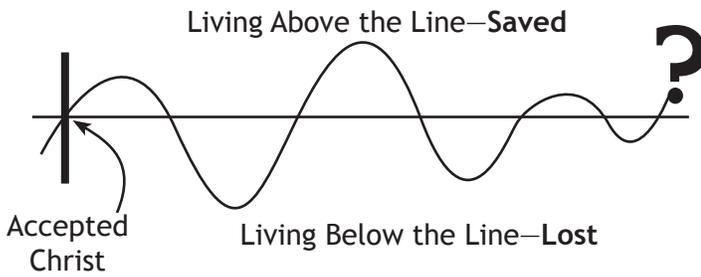
We will be: Finished Mature (*Colossians 3:1-4*).

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN TO DO WHEN HE SINS?

While it is something to be avoided, we will sin after becoming a Christian! (see 1 John 1:8). We are learning, growing, struggling and sometimes we fail. It's part of the transformation journey.

"We all stumble in many ways." James 3:3

Many have a mistaken idea of God's forgiveness. They have a concept called "lined religion":



Everything starts fine. We accept Christ and are moving up. Then we sin and we feel like we have fallen below the line. We pray "Lord, forgive me!" We hope we are above the line again, at least until the next sin. With time doubt arises: "Am I above or am I below?" We lose our sense of peace and security and fear sets in. **This is not how God works!**

What should we do when we sin? It is clear...

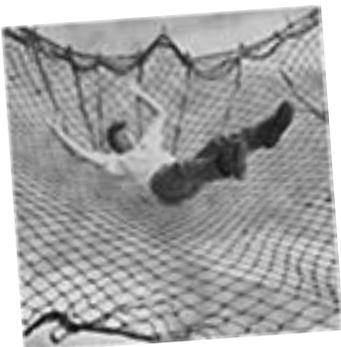
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

To confess is not saying, "I'm sorry," rather, it is saying, "I did it." Confess means that we agree with God that what we did was sin and we accept responsibility for that.

Why do we need to confess? It's to keep the lines of communication open in order to continue growing in our relationship with Jesus.

Adam and Eve hid from God when they sinned. When we try to hide our sins from Him, we shut Him out. We close our heart to Him. We are weakened and more vulnerable to destructive attitudes and behavior.

God wants us to be close to Him, to trust and love Him. He is waiting for us to confess.



At the circus we see the high wire artist doing his amazing routine. The safety net gives him confidence to be bold. He doesn't want to fall but there is protection in case he does. God calls us to 'step out' and follow Him in a

radically new LIFE. We don't want to fall or fail God. There is protection in case we do. God's grace is our safety net.

What if we don't confess?

"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent." Revelation 3:19

This verse is loving a promise from God.

"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:10-11

CONFESSION IS:

- Accepting responsibility for our actions
- Telling God that we agree that we've sinned
- Declaring our intent to change
- Giving thanks to God for His forgiveness
- Seeking to restore my damaged relationships

The New Covenant doesn't teach us to repeatedly ask for forgiveness; we already have it. It was promised!

We need to continually confess our sins, thank God for His forgiveness, and then live according to God's ways.

ASK ME FOR THE PENCIL!

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

Does this make sense to you? Do you have any questions?

Do you know anyone who needs a new relationship with God?

