

**DISCIPLESHIP 1  
IDENTIFICATION  
SERIES**

**LESSON 5  
UNIT II**

**PUT OFF LIFE-STYLE OF OLD MAN  
RENEW THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND  
BEING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

For

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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**A. PUT OFF LIFE-STYLE OF OLD MAN**

Ephesians 4:22. "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"

When you have repented of living in the pigpen, in the sewer of the world's thinking and attitudes, eating with the pigs, the next **STEP** in the **TRANSFORMATION PROCESS IS TO PUT OFF THE FORMER LIFE AND WAYS OF THE OLD MAN.**

**QUESTION - How can you accomplish this?**

- You must **learn to** recognize the life-style, thinking patterns and attitudes **of the old man** when they raise their ugly heads in your new life. The Apostle Paul makes several lists of the ways *and* attitudes of the old man. Ways and attitudes which are sin and are of Satan.

1 Corinthians 3:3, "For ye are yet carnal (*worldly*): for whereas there is envying, and strife, and divisions, are you not carnal and walk as men?"

1 Corinthians 5:9-11, "I wrote to you in an epistle not to company with fornicators (*a fornicator is one who is involved in any kind of sexual immorality*)...or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters. . or a railer (*one who screams and yell at people*), or a drunkard. . with such an one no not to eat (*do not have social relationships*)."

2 Corinthians 6:14, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers . . ."

2 Corinthians 10:7. "Do not look on things after the outward appearance . . ."

Galatians 5:19-21, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest (*revealed, plain*) which are these; Adultery (*sexual immorality with a married person, to whom you are not married*), fornication (*any form of sexual immorality or sexual perversion*), uncleanness, lasciviousness (*excessiveness, the absence of restraint*) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance (*being partial a segregationist, racist*) emulations (*jealousies*), wrath, strife, sedition (*causing divisions*), heresies (*teaching a lie as the truth*), envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like. . ."

Ephesians 4:25-31, "Wherefore putting away lying . . . be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil...steal no more . . . Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth . . . Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.

Ephesians 5:3-5, "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting which are not convenient (*suitable*) . . ."

2 Corinthians 13:7, here Paul summaries saying - "**now I pray to God that ye do no evil . . ."**

If you are ever in doubt as to whether something is of the old man or not - just as yourself. "**Is this something that Jesus would think or do?**" If the answer is **no or possibly no** - it is without a doubt of the old man and his stinking thinking and doing.

- On the question: How can we accomplish this? We are to renounce the **sin** when we recognize that it has been part of our thinking and doing.
- We need to develop a **hatred for** the sin.
- We must **repent** of the specific sin - this means to make a conscious decision to change. A conscious, determined effort **not to allow this thing in our thinking or doing**. We must put away and not reserve the right to ever do it again under any circumstance.
- We must learn to say **no to sin**, to the voice of Satan, the ways and thinking of the old man and of the world.

**Ephesians 4:22. "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"**

**B. RENEW THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND**

**Ephesians 4:23, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;"**

In this lesson we want to see that the **NEXT STEP** in the **PROCESS OF PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN**, which according to Ephesians 4:23, is **"Be renewed in the spirit of your mind."**

Now, just as we must learn to recognize the ways, thinking patterns and attitudes of the old nature before we can put him off; it is through the educating of our minds that we will renew our minds and thus learn to recognize the ways, the thinking patterns and attitudes of the NEW NATURE, THE NEW MAN, which after the image of God is created in righteousness and true Holiness.

The simple fact is, that just as, the god of this world, that is Satan, has to a more or less degree **blinded our** minds to the evil in relationship to the ways, attitudes and thinking patterns of the old nature (of which he is the father, John 8:44); he, also, has **blinded our** minds to a more or a less degree to the ways, attitudes and thinking patterns of the new man (of which God is the Father, John 1:12-13).

**Hosea 4:6 says, "my people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge."**

Many of God's children are being destroyed through the deception of Satan because they do not know the ways of the new man. We must know the ways of this new creation, this new person that we have become, before we can walk in them. Amen.

**WHERE DO WE GO FOR THIS KNOWLEDGE?**

To the Bible of course, which is the **WORD OF GOD**. We must study the Word of God to learn the ways, the attitudes and thinking patterns of the new man which through the new birth has taken on the nature and character of his Father God. Just as a child must learn and be taught the things we as parents want them to know, even so, we must be taught and learn the things our Father wants us to know and **DO**.

Now those things which we are to learn, He, our Father, has revealed to us in His Word, the Bible.

**Specifically, what topic or subject matter DO WE STUDY TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEW MAN.**

Ephesians 5:1 gives us a clue for it says, **"Be ye, therefore followers of God. as dear children."**

As God's children, our Father desires that we follow in His ways. Literally. the Greek word which is translated followers, means to be an imitator. We, then, are to imitate the attitudes, thinking patterns and ways of our Father.

Therefore, if we according to our new nature as children of God are to be imitators of God. then, we must learn to know the nature and character of God, that we might imitate Him.

As you then, you study the Bible specifically to learn the nature and character of your Father, you also need to be conscious of the fact that what you are learning about God's nature and character is also the nature and character of your new nature as a child of God.

Remember, you have been recreated after the image of God in righteousness and true holiness and that you are studying in the Bible the nature and character of God to find out what it means to be created in righteousness and true holiness. Why? Because that is who you are and you are really studying to discover, to learn about the attitudes, thinking patterns, and ways of this new person you have become through the new birth in Jesus.

When we know who we are, that is, what our true nature and character is, then we will be able to make the corrections and changes necessary in our life-style, thinking, and attitudes when we find ourselves identifying with the old man, the old nature.

**That's all well and good, however, the Bible is a big book.**

### **Where do we go to learn about God, our Father?**

- Let me first emphasize the fact that the whole Bible from Genesis through Revelation will teach you about God. Therefore, you need to study all the Bible.
- **For a quick short course on who God is**, that is, His nature and character, you can study the LIFE OF JESUS in the four Gospels. In fact I would suggest that at least half of your Bible study time be in the Gospels. **John 14:7 tells us that if we know Jesus, then we will know the Father.**

When we get to know our Jesus, we will know our Father. And when we know our Father then our minds will be renewed and we will know the nature and character of this new person we have become. We will know what our attitudes, thinking patterns and ways are.

Now before we go to the next lesson, let us look at Jonah 4:2 where we find in a nut shell a concise description of God and thus a description of ourselves as His children.

**Jonah 4:2, ". . . I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil."**

These are qualities which we as children of God already have. Not qualities which you need to seek. The thing we need to do is to exercise them in our living. **YOU ARE AS YOUR FATHER IS:**

- **gracious** - This means that in relationships, you, as God has for you, can give to those around you that which they do not deserve.
- **merciful** - You have the Quality of character, like your Father, NOT to give people what they deserve.
- **slow to anger** - Here is the ability to control anger.
- **a person of great kindness** - This means that you have a servants heart.

- **a person who has the capacity to be forgiving in any situation.**

**That's who you are:**

**Ephesians 4:23, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;"**

**C. BEING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

**Ephesians 5:1, "Be ye therefore, followers (*literally imitators*) of God as dear children."**

To imitate God in your daily life is to make **JESUS** your pattern for living, that is to say, doing the things that Jesus did and **NOT DOING** the things Jesus would not do. In this way you are putting on the new man.

Since making Jesus the pattern for our living is the way to put on the new man, we then, need to look at the things Jesus did, His works, so that we can imitate them.

Now the works of Jesus had their beginning and can be said, that they flowed out of **AN ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF HIS FATHER**. Jesus' attitude toward life was one of desiring to always do the will of His Father and to please Him.

**John 4:34** say of Jesus, ". . . My meat (*that which fills me up, my desire* ) is to do the will of him that sent me . . ."

**John 8:29, ". . . I (*Jesus*) do always those things that please Him (*the Father*)."**

How did Jesus know the will of the Father and how to please Him? John 5:19 gives us the answer and is to be **our example**.

**"The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what he SEETH the Father DO; for what things soever he DOETH, THESE ALSO DOTH THE SON LIKEWISE."**

**Jesus never did anything on His own, He was not an independent thinker or doer. Rather than thinking and doing for Himself, He watched His Father and did what He saw His Father do.**

An attitude of obedience, total submission of His own will to the will of the Father, watching the Father and then doing only what the Father did **WORKED FOR JESUS and IT WILL WORK FOR YOU. AMEN.**

**Being obedient** to the Father, that is, doing the things He tells us to do, when He tells us to do them, the way He tells us to do them, without question **IS BEING A FOLLOWER (IMITATOR) OF JESUS**. And as we IMITATE JESUS we are becoming more like Him in our daily life. As we become more like Jesus, we will begin to enjoy a deeper and closer relationship with our Father. Which relationship will then result in us being moved more and more into the abundant life of health and prosperity which our Father God wants for us.

**Being obedient to the will of the Father IS TO PLACE YOURSELF UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD.** It means to SUBMIT to God's authority. This means having absolute trust and confidence that God's way is the right way and that God has your **best interest at heart. TO BE SUBMISSIVE IS TO HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE.**

Let us look at an example of obedience from the Bible which results in the best and then an example of disobedience that brings bad results.

### **EXAMPLE ONE:**

In John 2:6 we hear Mary the mother of Jesus saying to the servants, ". . . **Whatsoever he (Jesus) saith unto you, DO IT.**"

In verse 7, Jesus says to the servants, ". . . **fill the water pots with water. . .**" **The servants with unquestioning obedience**, ". . . filled them up to the brim."

In verse 8, "**And he (Jesus) saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. AND THEY BARE IT.**"

The obedience of the servants resulted in that the governor of the feast was pleased with the fine taste of the water made into wine and the bridegroom was praised for having saved the best wine for the last.

**"Whatsoever He saith to you, Do IT." BEING OBEDIENT IS THE KEY TO RECEIVING THE BEST FROM OUR FATHER GOD.** ". . . Behold, to **obey** is better than sacrifice . . ." we are told in 1 Samuel 15:22.

### **EXAMPLE TWO**

1 Samuel, chapter 15, in verse 3, Samuel says to King Saul, "**Now go and smite Amalek utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both men an woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**" **Saul is instructed to destroy ALL - there was to be no spoils of the battle.**

BUT WHAT DID HE DO?

Verses 14-15 show that he allowed the men to spare the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice on GOD'S Altar.

In verse 20 we see that King Saul had taken Agag the king of Amalek as a prisoner instead of killing him as he was told to do.

No where in God's instructions to Saul did God tell Saul to bring Him Agag or for the people to take spoils of the sheep and oxen for a sacrifice. Yet Saul in verse 20 says, "**Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord.**" **Saul must have had a hearing problem. He only heard what he wanted to hear.** Saul did not have an attitude of obedience. His attitude was, and **ours also too much of the time.** "I'll do what God wants me to do, but I WILL DO IT MY WAY. We must interrupt God's word in the light of the circumstances, in light of the situation. God didn't really mean for us to destroy all those perfectly healthy sheep and oxen it will please Him (*God*) when we offer them to Him as a sacrifice.

**Now comes** verse 22 - "**...To obey is Better than sacrifice...**"

Saul's disobedience cost him the privilege of being King of Israel. Let us understand that disobedience will always cost us something. **And that giving an offering to God can**

**not make up for an act of disobedience.** Only repentance will blot out the sin and bring us into that place of the refreshing presence of our Father God.

**WHEN CAN WE KNOW THAT WE ARE MOVING INTO THE REALM OF OBEDIENCE?**

When we are wanting to do something and have made up our mind that we are going to do it "come hell or high water" - when we are set on a course of action or going in a certain direction -**AND GOD SAYS, DON'T DO IT or SAYS, GO THIS WAY**, and we listen to God, rather, **than to our own WANTS**; then we are moving into the realm of obedience. We are developing an **ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE**.

**We must become sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit - open minded to whatever the Lord would have us do. WE MUST BE WILLING TO OBEY.** We are to do things the way God wants them done, **NOT** the way we think He wants them done, or the way we want God to want them done. Amen.

Even Jesus had to say (Luke 22:42) - ". . . Not My will, but thine be done . . ." We are also told of Jesus in Hebrews 5:8, ". . . though He (Jesus) were a son, yet LEARNED He obedience by the things he suffered."

Obedience is learned. Thank you Jesus that you learned the way of obedience. That you learned it so well, and was so submissive to the Father, that you humbled yourself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the CROSS.

Jesus is our example, even as He learned obedience, we too can learn obedience. We can learn total and complete submission to the Father and be **an imitator of God as children of God**. In this way we will be **WALKING IN THE WAYS OF THE NEW MAN**

**END of IDENTIFICATION Series**

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