

## **Lesson 1: Salvation**

### **A Personal Relationship With God**

What happens when we receive Christ as our Savior?  
How does our new relationship with God work?

True Christianity is based on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. God demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son to save us from the destiny that we all deserve: a literal hell in which sinners will be tormented for all eternity. Because of this, nearly 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ suffered on the cross in our place and paid the punishment of the sins of all humanity with His blood. Even today, forgiveness and eternal salvation are freely available for all who repent of their sin and place their faith solely in the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross.

If you have made the decision to allow God to be your Master, and have stopped relying on your own efforts to gain entry into heaven, then you have begun a new life. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

The devil also knows of your new life in Jesus Christ. His desire for you to reject God's salvation is *no longer* in effect. However, he now will exert every effort to keep you from growing close to God and fulfilling God's plan for your life.

The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand the results of having received Christ, and how this has changed your personal relationship with God forever.

### **I. Are all human beings children of God?**

**A. *The Bible tells us "no; in the eyes of God two spiritual families exist: one of them is the family of Satan.***

#### **1. Jesus Himself was the One who declared it to us.**

- a) In John 8:38 He said that two spiritual fathers exist. One of them is God, His Father.
- b) In that same context, He accused his persecutors of being sons of the father of the other family: Satan. John 8:44-47

#### **2. All human beings enter into the family of Satan at their physical birth.**

- a) Originally it was not this way; Adam was made in the image and semblance (likeness) of God, his Father. Genesis 1:26-27
- b) But in Genesis 3:1-6 Adam and Eve contaminated the entire human race with their sin. Note the results in Romans 5:12:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

c) From that moment forward, all humanity has remained dead spiritually toward God, living under the power of Satan. Ephesians 2:1-2

d) As a consequence of the sinful nature with which every man is born and although he may not be "so bad", an unconverted person is condemned to eternal death in hell. Romans 6:23 clearly says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

***B. The other spiritual family is the family of God.***

**1. We enter into the family of God upon receiving Christ.  
(John 1:12-13)**

a) Upon receiving Him we are given the right (the power) to become sons (children) of God.

b) When we make the decision to receive Jesus Christ, God causes us to be born again. This birth was not a birth of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man (it was not a physical birth) but a birth of God (a spiritual birth).

c) "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" With these words in John 3:3, Jesus confirms to us that the rebirth necessary for entrance into the kingdom of God is of a spiritual nature.

**2. When we enter into the family of God not only do we inherit His nature, but God has saves us, immediately giving us eternal life.**

a) John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath (already) everlasting life..."

b) John 6:47: "He that believeth on me hath (already) everlasting life."

c) I John 5:12: "He that hath the Son hath (already) life..."

**3. When we receive Christ, besides entering into the family of God, we are no longer part of the family of the devil.**

a) Upon receiving Christ, we become new creatures; our new life in Christ is perfectly described and summed up in 2 Corinthians

5:17-18: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..."

b) Because of God's desire to have a very close relationship with us, He made our body to become His dwelling place. From the very moment we received Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came to live within us. I Corinthians 6:19.

c) Therefore, our Father commands, that as His children, we be different from the children of Satan. 2 Corinthians. 6:14-18.

## **II. How does God treat us now that we are His children?**

*A. From the moment that we are converted, God treats us as a good earthly father would treat his children.*

- 1. He establishes His Fatherhood over us and calls us "children of God". I John 3:1.**
- 2. He cares for us. I Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."**
- 3. He is always available to guide us and to teach us. John 14:26**
- 4. He provides abundantly for our needs. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.**
- 5. He disciplines us when we are disobedient. Hebrews 12:5-11**
- 6. It is His plan that each one of us seek our maximum potential and it is His plan that each one of us reach it. Romans 8:28-29**
- 7. He is always quick to help us when we need Him. Psalms 46:1-2**

*B. In His dealing with us, God allows us to experience difficult times.*

- 1. Like a good father, He never will do anything with the intention of harming us. We can be confident in that all that He does in our lives from here forward will be with the purpose of making us grow and mature.**
- 2. We can be sure that, although God is our Father, He is infinitely superior to any earthly father.**

a) Earthly parents commit all kinds of errors in rearing us; God does not.

b) If in spite of all their errors we usually trust our parents, let us have no doubt that we can rest in God's perfection. And let us never question the manner in which He raises us spiritually: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask him?" Matt. 7:11

### **III. How should we conduct ourselves now that we are children of God?**

#### *A. We should try to live in such a way that we may please our Father.*

**1. We must live each day in communion with God. Any sin breaks that communion, and should hurt us deeply.**

**2. God knows that although we have a sinful nature in our bodies, we in fact now have two natures. Colossians 3:5-10**

a) We maintain our old nature, which is physical, sinful and in the image of Adam (The old man).

b) But now we also have a new nature, spiritual, perfect and in the image of God. (The new man)

**3. As long as we are alive in this world, these two natures are both present and in opposition with one another to take control of our life.**

a) We must be aware that whichever nature we feed more will dominate our attitudes and our conduct: "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: And these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Galatians 5:16-17

b) Therefore, let us try to maintain an appropriate spiritual diet: reading the Word, praying, and learning from the Bible teaching of our local church. Galatians 6:7-8

#### *B. When we sin, let us confess our offense immediately, that we might maintain communion with Him. I John 1:9-10.*

**1. We must confess our sins to God. Let's do it by praying at the very moment in which we realize that we have offended Him, no matter where we are. I John 2:1**

**2. The Bible never asks that we confess our sins to a man so that he may absolve us of our sins.**

**3. The only occasion in which we should confess our sins to a man is when we have offended him personally, and we are seeking his forgiveness. James 5:16**

**Some Popular Beliefs**

1. All humanity is part of the "Great Family of God."
2. A person can "earn" his way to Heaven.
3. Anyone is able to attain heaven by whatever path he may choose, as long as he is sincere.
4. There is no sin. (Sin does not exist.)
5. Many who do believe in sin say that it should be confessed to a leader of the church so that forgiveness or absolution may be received.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand why these teachings are completely false.

Describe in your own words the spiritual principle from this lesson which has most impacted you:

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**Put into practice what you have learned.**

1. Feed your new nature with the Word of God by developing the habit of reading it every day.
2. Develop the good habit of confessing your sins to God each day.
3. Make a list of the people that you would like to see receive Christ and have an eternal relationship with Him and start praying for them.

**What did we learn?**                      Circle either T (True) or F (False)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. All humans are children of God.  | T | F |
| 2. There are two spiritual families in the universe.  | T | F |
| 3. In the moment in which we receive Christ, we receive eternal life.   | T | F |
| 4. Since we are already saved, it doesn't matter if we continue living like the rest of the world.              | T | F |
| 5. Sometimes God will treat us badly, causing us to experience problems designed to harm us.                    | T | F |
| 6. Whether or not our lives please God will depend on us feeding our new nature with the Bible and with prayer. | T | F |
| 7. If we sin after having received Christ, God will not forgive us.   | T | F |

Before starting Lesson 2, memorize John 1:12-13

"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: Which were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

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