

EXPERIENCING

GOD'S

LOVE AND

FORGIVENESS

SECTION VII

APPOINTMENT VII: EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE & FORGIVENESS

Objectives:

1. To show we can have daily fellowship with God
2. To show how to maintain daily fellowship with God
3. To establish a foundation for later explaining the ministry of the Holy Spirit

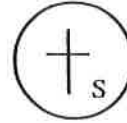
I. THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE (I Corinthians 2:14-3:3)

A. Ask the person you're following-up to read I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 and pick Out 3 people. Diagram and label each "man".

1. Natural man (vs. 14): *"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."* This is a person in his natural state—without Christ. His own nature or Self is "on the throne", ruling his/her decisions, desires, etc. Christ is on the outside of his/her life.



natural man



spiritual man



carnal man

2. Spiritual man (vs. 15-16): *"The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment...but we have the mind of Christ."* This is the person who has asked Christ into his/her life and has Him on the throne, ruling his/her desires, decisions, etc. The old sinful nature or Self is still present but not in control.

3. Carnal man (vs. 3:1-3): *"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ..."* the word "carnal" means "flesh" just as "carnivorous" means "flesh-eating". This person is a carnal/worldly/fleshly Christian—i.e., he or she has asked Christ into his or her life, but he or she is not allowing Christ to rule. Christ is still present in this person's life, but He is not on the throne. Decisions, desires, etc. are based on Self. (Note that "flesh" spelled backwards without the "h" is "self").

B. Spend time talking about the characteristics (outward & inward) of each man. For example, the "carnal man"

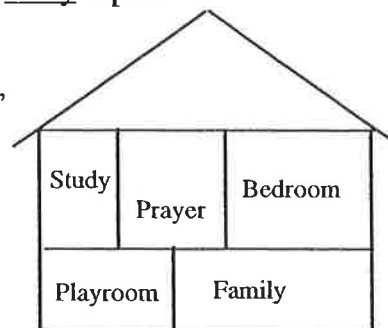
1. may be immoral
2. may be trying to live the Christian life in his own efforts
3. may be going against what he knows God wants him to do in less obvious areas.
4. may only be partially yielded to Christ
5. may "grieve the Holy Spirit" (Eph. 4:30) by doing things he knows God doesn't want him to do

C. Compare and contrast the three types of "man". For example, outwardly, the natural and carnal man may be identical.

II. HOUSE DIAGRAM (Also see booklet called “My Heart Christ’s Home”)

The purpose of this illustration is to show that God wants to be a part of every aspect of our lives.

- A. Draw a house with several rooms. Label them family room, study, bedroom, kitchen, etc. Be sure to call one room the “party” or “play” room, and one room “prayer room” or “prayer closet”.
- B. Explain that this home represents our lives, with each room being a different aspect. For example, the “family room” represents one’s relationship with one’s family. The “play room” is one’s leisure time. The “study” is one’s study and class time. The “prayer room” represents one’s spiritual activities—i.e., prayer life, church, Sunday School, etc.



- C. Tell your young Christian that God wants to be a part of everything we do, every aspect of our lives. He wants and loves to help us.
- D. Explain that the carnal man has Christ in his house but has shut him into the prayer room. He isn’t allowing Christ into the other rooms or areas of his or her life.
- E. Explain that there are some rooms that you are not allowing Christ to be in – that is, areas of your life that you are not entrusting to Him. You may not realize this at first. As you grow closer to Him, He makes you aware of these parts of your life. When He does, let Him have access to those rooms, or trust those areas of your life to His care and control.

III. SIN CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- A. Definition of sin – Go over these verses on sin.
 1. Romans 14:23 – Whatever is not of faith is sin.
 2. Hebrews 11:6 – Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
 3. Isaiah 64:6 .
- B. Sin is doing what we want instead of what God wants, in both attitude and action.
- C. Basis for forgiveness of sin
 1. Read John 1:29. Ask “Why did Jesus come?” (to take away sin)
 2. Read Colossians 2:13.
 - a. How many of your sins did Christ forgive when He died for you? (all)
 - b. What about those sins you haven’t done yet, like those you will do next year? (He died for those, too.)
 3. Has He forgiven you for those already? (yes)
 4. Point out that if He hadn’t, then He would have to continue to come back to die.
 5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Christ had no sin of His own, so He is able to pay for ours.

6. Hebrews 10:10-17

- a. First explain that Jews gave yearly sacrifices for sin as a sign of the coming Messiah. (The offering of sacrifices is explained more in vs. 1-10.) In vs. 10-17, we see that Christ came to take away our sins.
- b. Explain what “sanctify” means. (to set apart for Holy use)
- c. Ask “By whose sacrifice are we sanctified?” (vs. 10 – Jesus’)
- d. “By this sacrifice, what did He do?” (vs. 14 – took away all sin)
- e. “How long did the sacrifice cover sin?” (vs. 14 – for all time)

7. *Transition to next topic:* Now the question arises, “Why can’t I go out and sin all I want? I am already forgiven, aren’t I?” How would you answer that?

D. Why we can’t sin habitually

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 – We are new creatures.
2. I Corinthians 2:16 – We have the mind of Christ
3. Because we have a new nature.
 - a. “Husband-wife” analogy: If a wife says she’ll love her husband no matter what he does, what would be his reaction? Because of her love, he would *want to please her*. Our reaction towards God should be the same. Since He loves us so much, we will not want to sin against Him because of our love for Him.
4. Because we don’t want to break fellowship with Him.
 - a. We don’t want to sin so we can enjoy fellowship with God and experience the abundant life.
 - b. We are eternally forgiven, but we may not be experiencing the forgiveness on a day-by-day basis. We may feel guilty in some way.
5. *Transition:* God loves us so much that He wants us to enjoy constant fellowship with Him. So, He has provided a way for us to deal with sin and guilt.
 - a. Ask, “How do we remedy the problem of being out of fellowship with God?” “How do we deal with sin?” “What do you do?”

E. Confession – Confession is how we maintain fellowship with God.

1. I John 1:9
 - a. We need to confess sin to God. The context is fellowship, and thus, this verse is describing experiential forgiveness. We are already totally, legally forgiven before God.
 - b. “What does confess mean?” (It means to agree or say the same thing that God says about sin.)
 - c. “What does God say about sin?” (It is displeasing to Him although it is forgiven already.)
 - d. Thus, confession is a sincere heart expression of these two elements to God. Real confession involves:
 - i. Agreeing with God that what you did was sin and displeasing to Him
 - ii. Repentance – a change in attitude and action toward that sin

2. Are we forgiven because we confess? (no)
3. Then why confess?
 - a. To restore fellowship with God from our side
 - b. To remind us of our forgiveness so we can experience what is already true of us in God's sight
4. God isn't interested in special words, but in sincerity of heart.

ASSIGNMENT

EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

I. THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE (I Corinthians 2:14-3:3)

A. Read I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 and notice the three kinds of people:

1. Natural Man (vs. 14): *"The man without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

This is a person in his natural state--without Christ. His own nature of Self is "on the throne," ruling his/her decisions, desires, etc. Christ is on the outside of his/her life.

2. Spiritual Man (vs. 15-16): *"The spiritual man makes judgment...but we have the mind of Christ."* This is the person who has asked Christ into his/her life and has Him on the throne, ruling his/her desires, decisions, etc. The old sinful nature or Self is still present but not in control.

3. Carnal Man (vs. 3:1-3): *"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ..."* The word "carnal" means "flesh" just as "carnivorous" means "flesh-eating". This person is a carnal/worldly/fleshy Christian-i.e., he or she has asked Christ into his or her life, but he or she is not allowing Christ to rule. Christ is still present in this person's life, but He is not on the throne. Decisions, desires, etc. are based on Self.

B. Think about the characteristics (outward & inward) of each man. For example, the "carnal man."

1. may be immoral
2. may be trying to live the Christian life in his own efforts
3. may be going against what he knows God wants him to do in less obvious areas
4. may be only partially yielded to Christ
5. may "grieve the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 4:30) by doing things he knows God doesn't want him to do

Now write down 3 or 4 characteristics that describe the "natural man" and the "spiritual man."

Natural Man

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Spiritual Man

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Compare and contrast the three types of “man”. For example, outwardly the natural man and the carnal man may be identical.

II. HOUSE DIAGRAM

The purpose of this illustration is to show that God wants to be a part of every aspect of our lives.

- A. Draw a house with several rooms. Label them family room, study, bedroom, kitchen, etc. Be sure to call one room the “party” or “play” room, and one room the “prayer” room or “prayer closet”.
- B. Understand that this home represents our lives, with each room being a different aspect. For example, the “family” room represents one’s relationship with one’s family. The “play” room is one’s leisure time. The “study” is one’s study and class time. The “prayer” room represents one’s spiritual activities – e.g., prayer life, church, Sunday school, etc.
- C. God wants to be a part of *everything* we do, every aspect of our lives. He loves us and wants to help us.
- D. The Carnal man has Christ in his house but has shut him into the prayer room. He isn’t allowing Christ into the other rooms or areas of his or her life.
- E. There are some rooms that you are not allowing Christ to be in – that is, areas of your life that you are not entrusting to Him. You may not realize this at first. As you grow closer to Him, He makes you aware of these parts of your life. When He does, let Him have access to those rooms, or trust those areas of your life to His care and control.

III. SIN, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A. Definition of Sin – Read and summarize the following verses:

1. Romans 14:23

2. Hebrews 11:6

3. Isaiah 64:6

Sin is doing what we want instead of what God wants, in both attitude and action.

B. Basis for Forgiveness of Sin

1. Read John 1:29. Why did Jesus come?

2. Read Colossians 2:13

a. How many of your sins did Christ forgive when He died for you? _____

b. What about those sins you haven't done yet, like those you will do next year? Has He forgiven you for those?

3. If He hadn't, then He would have to continue to come back to die.

4. Read II Corinthians 5:21. Christ had no sin of His own, so He was able to pay for ours.

5. Hebrews 10:10-17

a. Jews gave yearly sacrifices for sin as a sign of the coming Messiah (the offering of sacrifices is explained more in vs. 1-10). In vs. 10-17 we see that Christ came to take away our sins.

b. In verse 10 it states that "we have been made holy", which means to set apart for holy use.

c. By whose sacrifice are we made holy? (vs.10)

d. By this sacrifice, what did He do? (vs.14)

e. How long did the sacrifice cover sin? (vs.14)

C. Now the question arises, Why can't I go out and sin all I want?

1. Read II Corinthians 5:17

2. I Corinthians 2:16

3. Romans 8:4

ACTION PLAN

Lesson Three

1. List all your life activities in the house model.
2. List things that may distract your walk.
3. Pray for your five friends that don't know God.
4. Invite one person to a church activity this week or set aside time to spend with them.
5. Make a date with God. Set aside a special time to get away with God.