

“FULL LIFE IN CHRIST” SEMINAR

Jesus said, “*...I came that (men) might have life and have it more abundantly.*” The life which Jesus Christ offers to each of His followers is a full, abundant and overflowing life. Earnest hearts by the thousands are seeking and finding His fullness as never before in these days.

What this exciting life involves—the steps along the way—will be unveiled in the “FULL LIFE IN CHRIST” Seminar. These are the truths which have opened the door to joyous new life for so many.

The entire Seminar comprises 27 sessions. These are divided into four segments.

FIRST SEMESTER

ESTABLISH: BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Session 1 “JESUS CHRIST: FRONT AND CENTER”

The entire Christian life revolves around a personal experience with Jesus Christ.

Session 2 “A MODERN DAY KINGDOM”

An explanation of the “Good News” concerning God’s ultimate purpose in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world.

Session 3 “A MODERN DAY MIRACLE”

An understanding of the New Birth from both the psychological and Scriptural viewpoints.

Session 4 “UNDERSTANDING CONVERSION”

God initiates a process with the New Birth whereby He intends to renew our entire being according to His plan and purpose.

Session 5 “GOD’S PLAN FOR FREEDOM”

A fuller understanding of water baptism and its role in setting us free to live the new life in Christ.

Session 6 “OUR BIRTHDAY GIFT”

This promised gift of the Holy Spirit holds the key for all that Jesus plans and desires from those who will enthrone Him on their hearts.

“FULL LIFE IN CHRIST”

SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

The Facilitators will attend the teaching session along with their group. They will be listening during the session to jot down good questions which will help draw the group members into discussion, and which will also help group members grasp the important emphasis of the lesson. Suggested procedures and discussion questions will also be provided for each session for the facilitators to use as they see fit.

The Facilitators will work with their specific group throughout the entire seminar. They will try to get to know each one personally and intimately so that they will be in a position to add to the lives of their group members out of their own walk with Christ. It will be helpful if they meet individually with each member of their group at least once during the first semester.

They will seek to answer any questions and help with any problems which group members may have. They will check the progress in understanding which their group members are achieving by going over each person's completed question sheets week by week before they are returned. They will share freely of their own personal experiences.

They will contact absentees immediately to see that they get the materials they missed and that they “make-up”. The teaching by listening to a tape in plenty of time for them to prepare for the next class. When the group member has “made-up” the missed session, the facilitator will fill out the appropriate slip and hand it in to the instructor.

Most of all, the facilitator will seek, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to impart the “Full Life in Christ” to the members of their group as the sessions go along. They will expect that the Word of God will be implanted into the life and experience of each person in the group and thus become a “living Word.” They will seek to be sure each group member not only has understood each teaching, but that they have experienced it in their own personal lives.

To this end, they will pray daily for their group members; they will counsel with them as necessary, and they will assist in imparting spiritual experience through the laying on of hands and prayer.

ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

Weekly Assignments

Session 1

1. Complete Question sheet, Session 1.

Session 2

1. Complete Question sheet, Session 2.

Session 3

1. Complete Question sheet, Session 3.

Session 4

1. Complete Question sheet, Session 4.
2. Read carefully “Why Immerse Believers Only?”

Session 5

1. Complete Question sheet, Session 5
2. Read carefully “Grow in the New Life.”

Session 6

1. Complete Question sheet, Session 6.

Establish
Session 1

Jesus Christ: Front and Center

Jesus Christ Front and Center

The title of the first session is Jesus Christ Front and Center.

First of all, we will start out with a definition ... who is a Christian. Notice that it says in your notes:

“A Christian is one who has personally committed his life to Christ, who loves Him, who trusts in Him as his Savior, and who is obedient to Him as his Lord.”

There could, of course, be other valid definitions of who is a Christian, but this one is simple to remember, and you'll notice that the heart of it is Jesus Himself. Too many people view Christianity as a tradition. But we understand that Christianity is knowing Jesus personally.

Notice that there are three different aspects to our relationship with Jesus. You'll notice that those who have personally committed their life to Jesus:

- First of all, they love Him.
- Second, they trust Him as their Savior.
- And third, they are obedient to Him as their Lord.

So if you take those three words ... love, trust and obey, and connect them to Jesus Christ, then you have a good definition that you can remember.

In this first session, we are going to deal with first two elements of this relationship with Jesus.

But who is this Jesus?

- One Solitary Life
- The Case for Christianity by C.S. Lewis

JESUS CHRIST: FRONT AND CENTER

Who is a Christian?

“A Christian is one who has personally committed his life to Christ, who loves Him, who trusts in Him as his Savior and who is obedient to Him as His Lord.”

The Person of Jesus Christ is the center of our definition; and not His

_____ **Teachings** _____

_____ **Miracles** _____

_____ **Doctrines** _____

Our personal commitment to Him has at least three dimensions:

I. A Personal Love for Jesus Christ

A. Because He loves us:

Our love for him comes as a result of His loving us first. —1 John 4:19

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. —Romans 5:8

B. Because He gave Himself for us

C. Because we come to know Him

II. A Personal Trust in Him as Savior

A. Why do we need Him as Savior?

1. The “S **I** N” Story Genesis 3

2. What sin is:

a. **Commission**

The person who keeps every law of God, but makes one little slip, is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is — James 2:10

b. **Omission**

Remember, too that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin — James 4:17

c. **Unbelief: The greatest sin of all.**

There is not eternal doom awaiting those who trust Him to save them. But those who don't trust Him have already been tried and condemned for not believing in the only Son of God.

— John 3:18

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Jesus of Nazareth was born over 2000 year ago. For hundreds of years the great prophets of Israel had foretold His coming. The Old Testament written over a period of 1500 years contains over 300 references to His coming. His public ministry was only three years. In that time He gave man the formula for a full and abundant life and for the life to come.

Arnold Toynbee, the most eminent historian of our day, has given more space to Jesus of Nazareth than any other six great men who have ever lived combined, including Mohammed, Buddha, Caesar, Napoleon, George Washington, etc.

The Encyclopedia Britannica gave 20,000 words to Jesus. Thinking men of all lands and religions who have had the opportunity to investigate the evidence will agree that Jesus is the greatest personality that the world has ever known.

It is interesting to consider that Jesus claimed to be God. He also claimed to be the author of a new way of life. Interestingly enough, wherever this message has gone, new life, new hope, and purpose for living have resulted. Either Jesus of Nazareth was who He claimed to be, the Son of God, the Savior of Mankind or He was the greatest imposter the world has ever known.

One frequently hears the statement that history is HIS STORY — the story of the life of one man, because if you remove Jesus of Nazareth from history, history would be an entirely different story. One writer described his influence in this way: “Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life, Jesus of Nazareth.”

Author Unknown

C.S. LEWIS, IN HIS FAMOUS, “THE CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY,” STATES:

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn’t be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level with a man who says he’s a poached egg— or else he would be the devil of hell! You must take your choice. Either this was, and is the Son of God, or else a mad man or something worse. You can shut Him up for a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But don’t come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great moral teacher. He hasn’t left that alternative open to us.”

JESUS CHRIST: FRONT AND CENTER

Who is a Christian?

“A Christian is one who has personally committed his life to Christ, who loves Him,
who trusts in Him as his Savior and who is obedient to Him as His Lord.”

The Person of Jesus Christ is the center of our definition; and not His

_____ **Teachings** _____

_____ **Miracles** _____

_____ **Doctrines** _____

Our personal commitment to Him has at least three dimensions:

1. A Personal Love for Jesus Christ

A. Because He loves us:

Our love for him comes as a result of His loving us first. —1 John 4:19

*But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ
to die for us while we were still sinners. —Romans 5:8*

B. Because He gave Himself for us

C. Because we come to know Him

II. A Personal Trust in Him as Savior

A. Why do we need Him as Savior?

1. The “S **I** N” Story Genesis 3
2. What sin is:

a. Commission

*The person who keeps every law of God, but makes one little slip, is just as
guilty as the person who has broken every law there is — James 2:10*

b. Omission

*Remember, too that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin —
James 4:17*

c. Unbelief: The greatest sin of all.

*There is not eternal doom awaiting those who trust Him to save
them. But those who don't trust Him have already been tried and
condemned for not believing in the only Son of God.
— John 3:18*

Let's talk about our relationship with Jesus. We are emphasizing that it is the person of Jesus who is the center of our definition of Christianity.

- It's not His **TEACHINGS**, as wonderful as His teaching are.
- It's not His **MIRACLES**, although no one has ever done greater miracles than Him.
- It's not His **DOCTRINES** either, although the doctrines that have come from Jesus' teachings are strong and we need to know them.

But it's our personal relationship with Jesus.

First of all, a Christian is one who loves Jesus. Some people have said, "How can we love Jesus when He lived 2000 years ago."

There are 3 reasons why a Christian loves Jesus:

- A. First, because He loved us. He loved us first; and He loved us while we were yet sinners. (I John 4:19; Romans 5:8)
- B. Not only did he love us, but He gave Himself for us. There is no other figure in history Who did this for us.

If we were in a burning building, and someone came and rescued us, and we would have died if they hadn't rescued us, and in this rescue, they themselves breathed this fire and they died, wouldn't we feel something in our hearts for them? Even if we didn't know them at all, because they gave their life for us, we would love them. So what about when the eternal God became a man and lived amongst us, and then He gave his life for us because he loved us, wouldn't we love Him? Of course we would. So we love Him because he loved us, and he gave himself for us.

JESUS CHRIST: FRONT AND CENTER

Who is a Christian?

“A Christian is one who has personally committed his life to Christ, who loves Him, who trusts in Him as his Savior and who is obedient to Him as His Lord.”

The Person of Jesus Christ is the center of our definition; and not His

Teachings

Miracles

Doctrines

Our personal commitment to Him has at least three dimensions:

I. A Personal Love for Jesus Christ

A. Because He loves us:

Our love for him comes as a result of His loving us first. —1 John 4:19

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. —Romans 5:8

B. Because He gave Himself for us

C. Because we come to know Him

II. A Personal Trust in Him as Savior

A. Why do we need Him as Savior?

1. The “S I N” Story Genesis 3
2. What sin is:

a. Commission

The person who keeps every law of God, but makes one little slip, is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is — James 2:10

b. Omission

Remember, too that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin — James 4:17

c. Unbelief: The greatest sin of all.

There is not eternal doom awaiting those who trust Him to save them. But those who don't trust Him have already been tried and condemned for not believing in the only Son of God. — John 3:18

C. The more you know Jesus, the more you'll love Him.

- How many of you have known Jesus and loved him for 20 years?
- How many of you love him more now than you did 15 years ago? Yes, I do. The reason is that I know Him better.
- The same thing is true with my wife. I loved her when I married her. But in the process, we've had children, we've nursed each other through sickness, we've gone through good times and bad times, we've taken vacations together, we've bought houses, and so, the more I've experienced with her, the more she's become a part of me, the more I love her.

Some people have said, "I wonder if I'm a Christian, because I'm not sure that I love Jesus as much as I should?" There is nothing here that says you have to love Jesus as much as you should. I'm human and I don't love Jesus as much as I should, but I do love Him, and I'm loving Him more all the time. Love is something that grows.

So a Christian is one who loves Jesus and it's a growing love.

JESUS CHRIST: FRONT AND CENTER

Who is a Christian?

“A Christian is one who has personally committed his life to Christ, who loves Him, who trusts in Him as his Savior and who is obedient to Him as His Lord.”

The Person of Jesus Christ is the center of our definition; and not His

_____ Teachings _____

_____ Miracles _____

_____ Doctrines _____

Our personal commitment to Him has at least three dimensions:

1. A Personal Love for Jesus Christ

A. Because He loves us:

Our love for him comes as a result of His loving us first. —1 John 4:19

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. —Romans 5:8

B. Because He gave Himself for us

C. Because we come to know Him

II. A Personal Trust in Him as Savior

A. Why do we need Him as Savior?

1. The “S I N” Story Genesis 3

2. What sin is:

a. **Commission**

The person who keeps every law of God, but makes one little slip, is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is — James 2:10

b. **Omission**

Remember, too that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin — James 4:17

c. **Unbelief:** The greatest sin of all.

There is not eternal doom awaiting those who trust Him to save them. But those who don't trust Him have already been tried and condemned for not believing in the only Son of God.

— John 3:18

The second dimension in our personal commitment to Jesus is that we trust Him as Savior.

Sin is the reason WHY people need to trust Him as savior?

The heart of sin is ... I... putting myself first before God and others.

- You know the story of Adam and Eve. They had a wonderful love fellowship with God, but then Eve decided to do something that God said not to do. So then immediately she had made a decision in her heart to put herself first instead of God. And that is SIN.

Everyone who sins has put themselves first. At the heart of every problem we have in this world is the putting of self first.

- That is the root of marital difficulty.
- This is the start of trouble in our family.
- This is the source of trouble in our village or city
- This is the source of problems in our society
- This is the source of conflicts between nations
- One person, or one group of people say, "We're going to put ourselves first; we're number one!" And look what happens.

JESUS CHRIST: FRONT AND CENTER

Who is a Christian?

“A Christian is one who has personally committed his life to Christ, who loves Him, who trusts in Him as his Savior and who is obedient to Him as His Lord.”

The Person of Jesus Christ is the center of our definition; and not His

Teachings

Miracles

Doctrines

Our personal commitment to Him has at least three dimensions:

1. A Personal Love for Jesus Christ

A. Because He loves us:

Our love for him comes as a result of His loving us first. —1 John 4:19

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. —Romans 5:8

B. Because He gave Himself for us

C. Because we come to know Him

II. A Personal Trust in Him as Savior

A. Why do we need Him as Savior?

1. The “S I N” Story Genesis 3

2. What sin is:

a. Commission

The person who keeps every law of God, but makes one little slip, is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is — James 2:10

b. Omission

Remember, too that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin — James 4:17

c. Unbelief: The greatest sin of all.

There is not eternal doom awaiting those who trust Him to save them. But those who don't trust Him have already been tried and condemned for not believing in the only Son of God.

— John 3:18

There are 3 areas in which we sin:

- **COMMISSION** ... “whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” There are things we do that we shouldn’t do.
- **OMISSION** ... These are things that we should do that we don’t do. James ... “to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
- **UNBELIEF** ... the greatest sin of all because it results in condemnation.

So all of us have been guilty of acts that we have done (commission), and things that we should have done that we haven’t (omission), and so we all become sinners. We need a Savior.

JESUS CHRIST: FRONT AND CENTER

Who is a Christian?

“A Christian is one who has personally committed his life to Christ, who loves Him, who trusts in Him as his Savior and who is obedient to Him as His Lord.”

The Person of Jesus Christ is the center of our definition; and not His

_____ **Teachings** _____

_____ **Miracles** _____

_____ **Doctrines** _____

Our personal commitment to Him has at least three dimensions:

1. A Personal Love for Jesus Christ

A. Because He loves us:

Our love for him comes as a result of His loving us first. —1 John 4:19

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. —Romans 5:8

B. Because He gave Himself for us

C. Because we come to know Him

II. A Personal Trust in Him as Savior

A. Why do we need Him as Savior?

1. The “S **I** N” Story Genesis 3

2. What sin is:

a. **Commission**

The person who keeps every law of God, but makes one little slip, is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is — James 2:10

b. **Omission**

Remember, too that knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin — James 4:17

c. **Unbelief:** The greatest sin of all.

There is not eternal doom awaiting those who trust Him to save them. But those who don't trust Him have already been tried and condemned for not believing in the only Son of God. — John 3:18

Now here's the good news of Jesus Christ.

- Notice in your notes that there is a gap between Holy God and Sinful Man.

“But your sins / iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you.” Isaiah 59.2

- This gap is bridged, but the way that it's bridged is by God's activity, not man's activity.
- All the religions of the world are basically mans attempts to make himself presentable in the sight of God. Some will fast and pray on a regular basis; some will go on pilgrimages; some will say prayer wheels; some will walk on hot coals; some will give great sums of money to their idols. Some will carefully follow certain laws and rituals.
- Here is the difference between the good news about Jesus Christ and every other religion in the world - God has bridged the gap! The initiative comes from God, not man.
- God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son. So God reaches down to us to provide our salvation, rather than expecting us to reach up to Him.

And who needs to have God reach down and save them?

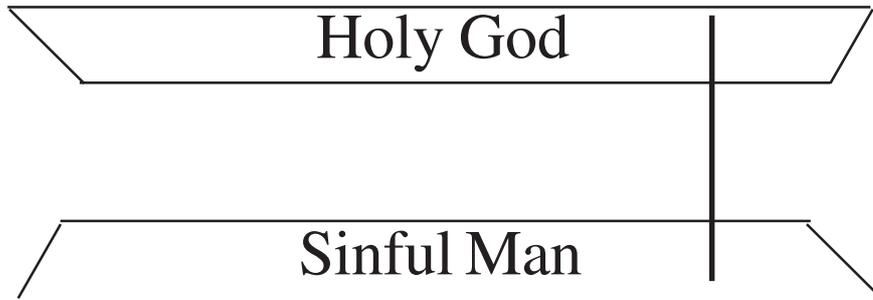
- Point 4 in your notes says “everybody” ... “all of sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”.
- It doesn't matter how rich they are; it doesn't matter how educated or uneducated they are; it doesn't matter about their family background.
- “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”
- And the reason for that is because we all have a “throne” in our life. A throne is the place where decisions are made, where ruling takes place. Now the person who does not have Jesus as their savior, guess who sits on the throne of their life? They sit on the throne of their life. Big #1 ... Me! They may not be total unbelievers; they may know about Jesus; they may have respect for Jesus. But Jesus is outside of their life; He's not on the throne of their life. Until Jesus is invited onto the throne, we cannot be saved, we cannot be Christians.

So, the answer is in Jesus. He became our Savior. His cross makes the bridge between the Holy God and sinful man.

2 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

3. What sin does:

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God:
your sins have hidden his face from you. —Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)*



4. Who has sinned

Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal. —Romans 3:23.

5. Sin is going one's own independent way

"There is a throne in your life, and either God is on that throne or you are on that throne. If you are saying, 'I am the master of my life, I will do as I please,' you will qualify as a sinner."

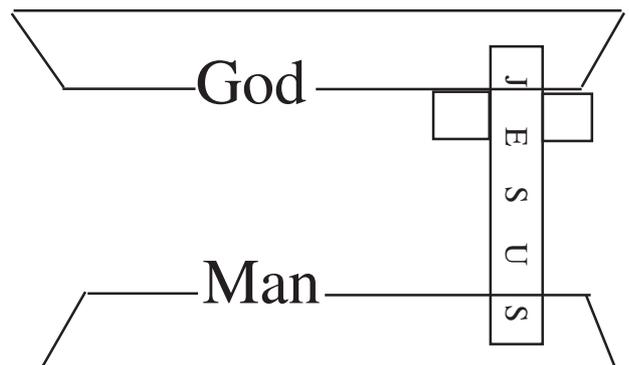
—Bill Bright—"The Uniqueness of Jesus"



B. What has He done to save us?

1. He became our substitute

*In life — Phil 2:5-10, John 8:46,
Romans 15:8-10, Heb 5:7-9
In death — Romans 5:8, Isaiah 53,
I Peter 2:21-24*



2. He alone can forgive and give us salvation:

*Jesus told him "I am the Way, yes, and the Truth
and the Life. No one can get to the Father
except by means of Me." — John 14:6*

*There is salvation in no one else! Under all heaven there
is no other name for men to call upon to save them. — Acts 4:12*

Let's understand very clearly WHAT Jesus has done to save us.

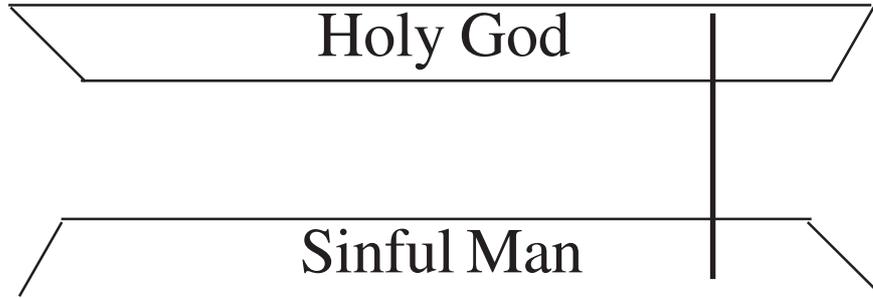
He became our substitute.

- Think of a sporting event. Someone is playing the game, and they are not doing as well as they should, so another player is sent in to take their place. That person becomes their substitute.
- This is what God did in Jesus Christ. He sent Jesus into the world to be our substitute, to take our place, both in the life that he lived and the death that he died.
- Who else has ever lived the perfect life but Jesus? He asked His enemies, "which of you convinces me of sin?" and they had no answer. He only was the holy one. So he did not have to die for his own sins, but he could choose to die for our sins.
- So he takes our place, and he lives the perfect life that none of us have ever been able to live, and he dies in our place for the sin that we have committed. In that way, he becomes our substitute.
- He came to earth so we could go to heaven
- He died so we could live
- He became sin so we could become the righteousness of God
- He became poor so we could be rich
- He took our place on the cross, so we could sit with Him in heaven

2 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

3. What sin does:

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God:
your sins have hidden his face from you. —Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)*



4. Who has sinned

Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal. —Romans 3:23.

5. Sin is going one's own independent way

"There is a throne in your life, and either God is on that throne or you are on that throne. If you are saying, 'I am the master of my life, I will do as I please,' you will qualify as a sinner."

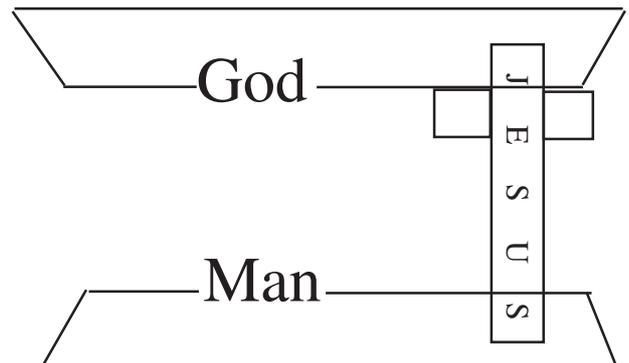
—Bill Bright—"The Uniqueness of Jesus"



B. What has He done to save us?

1. He became our substitute

In life — Phil 2:5-10, John 8:46,
Romans 15:8-10, Heb 5:7-9
In death — Romans 5:8, Isaiah 53,
I Peter 2:21-24



2. He alone can forgive and give us salvation:

*Jesus told him "I am the Way, yes, and the Truth
and the Life. No one can get to the Father
except by means of Me." — John 14:6*

*There is salvation in no one else! Under all heaven there
is no other name for men to call upon to save them. — Acts 4:12*

He alone can forgive us and give us salvation.

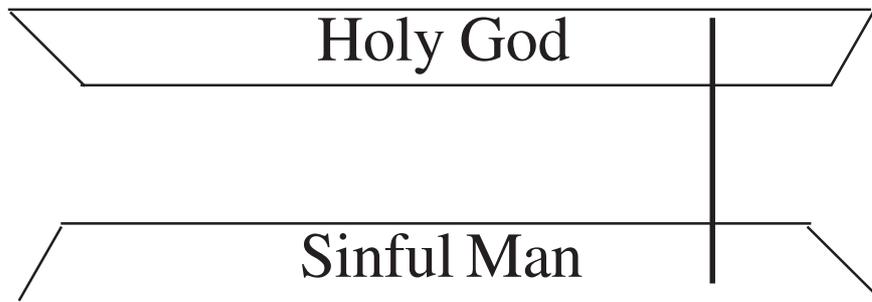
Notice at the bottom of your page, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Acts 4:12 states, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved!"

2 F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation

3. What sin does:

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God:
your sins have hidden his face from you. —Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)*



4. Who has sinned

Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal. —Romans 3:23.

5. Sin is going one's own independent way

"There is a throne in your life, and either God is on that throne or you are on that throne. If you are saying, 'I am the master of my life, I will do as I please,' you will qualify as a sinner."

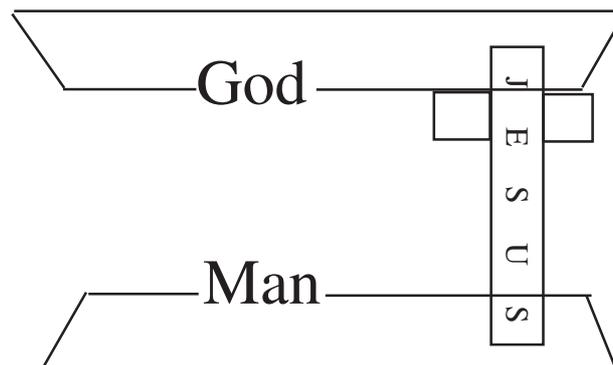
—Bill Bright—"The Uniqueness of Jesus"



B. What has He done to save us?

1. He became our substitute

In life — Phil 2:5-10, John 8:46,
Romans 15:8-10, Heb 5:7-9
In death — Romans 5:8, Isaiah 53,
I Peter 2:21-24



2. He alone can forgive and give us salvation:

*Jesus told him "I am the Way, yes, and the Truth
and the Life. No one can get to the Father
except by means of Me." — John 14:6*

*There is salvation in no one else! Under all heaven there
is no other name for men to call upon to save them. — Acts 4:12*

Now HOW do we trust this substitute, Jesus? There are at least 3 steps that are important in trusting Jesus.

First, we must **REPENT**.

It's important to understand what it means to repent.

- It means changing your way of life; changing your direction and your plans.
- It starts with the intent of your heart, and then it follows through by walking in a new way, in a new direction.

Let me remind you of the first children who were born on this earth ... two boys, Cain and Abel. Now Cain is a perfect example of a human being who will not repent.

Cain was a farmer, and God said, "I want you to worship Me by offering a sacrifice of a sheep."

- But Cain decided that he would much rather give God some of his vegetables. "That would be more meaningful to me. I'll bring to God some of my best rated vegetables," Cain decided. So he brought his vegetables to offer to God.
- Whereas Abel, Cain's brother, brought a sheep just as God had instructed.
- God accepted Abel's sacrifice, but He did not accept Cain's.
- Now Cain was at a very critical point in his life. He could humble his heart, and say alright, I'll do what you want me to do God, and go get a lamb and offer it. But he didn't do that. He wanted to do what he wanted to do. He became so angry that he killed the brother who's sacrifice God accepted.
- That is the opposite of a repentant heart.

C. How do we trust Him as Savior?

1. We must Repent Mark 1:15

2. We must Believe Acts 16:31, I Cor. 15:1-6

3. We must Commit

To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them.

— John 1:12 (also Rev. 3:20; Gal. 2:20)

It involves the surrender of our total person:

— **our intellect**

— **our emotion**

— **our will**

CONCLUSION:

All of what you have learned about Christ will do you little good until you actually meet Christ. It is not enough to know about Christ. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven... On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not...do many mighty works in your name?’ But I will reply, ‘You have never been Mine, I never knew you. Go away...’”

It is possible for you to meet Christ personally. He must come to live within you in order for you to be a Christian. The Christian life is not the Christian trying to imitate Christ, it is Christ imparting His life to and living His life through the Christian. You must know Christ personally. If you have not already met Him, you can meet Him right now.

Repentance is like this:

- I am walking down the path of life that I have chosen, and then, all of a sudden, I begin to feel that this perhaps isn't the way that I should be walking.
- I hear a message or someone tells me about Jesus, and I begin to think maybe I should go that way.
- But I keep walking in the way I had chosen.
- And then maybe I go to a Christian meeting, and the Holy Spirit convicts me, I may even shed a few tears, but the next day, I'm still walking this same way.
- It's the way with which I have been comfortable. It's the way my ancestors have walked, I haven't really known any other way, so I keep walking.
- I may receive knowledge, my heart may be moved, but I have not repented, until ... one day, I decide, "I'm not going to go this way anymore. I'm going to turn around and go Jesus' way."
- Now that is repentance.
- Until we repent, Jesus cannot save us. We will always be looking to ourselves, or to some other people, or to some other way to save us, instead of looking to Jesus alone. So first, we have to repent.

We must also **BELIEVE**.

What do we have to believe? Do we have to believe the whole bible? No. Of course, the more we know of the Bible, the better. But what we actually must believe in order to be saved, Saint Paul says in I Corinthians 15:1-6, is this:

- Jesus was the son of God
- Jesus came down to this earth
- He took our place. He died for us.
- He rose again and went back to the Father.
- And if we believe on Him, He will forgive us of our sins and will save us.

C. How do we trust Him as Savior?

1. We must Repent Mark 1:15
2. We must Believe Acts 16:31, I Cor. 15:1-6
3. We must Commit

To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them.

— John 1:12 (also Rev. 3:20; Gal. 2:20)

It involves the surrender of our total person:

- our intellect
- our emotion
- our will

CONCLUSION:

All of what you have learned about Christ will do you little good until you actually meet Christ. It is not enough to know about Christ. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven... On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not...do may mighty works in your name?’ But I will reply, ‘You have never been Mine, I never knew you. Go away...”

It is possible for you to meet Christ personally. He must come to live within you in order for you to be a Christian. The Christian life is not the Christian trying to imitate Christ, it is Christ imparting His life to and living His life through the Christian. You must know Christ personally. If you have not already met Him, you can meet Him right now.

Having repented and having believed, then we must **COMMIT** ourselves to Jesus our as Savior.

I John 1:12 says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name."

There was a day when Joe was a chaplain in the Air Force. His squadron had once a month weekend drills. His goal was for a pilot to take him up for a ride in a fighter plane. But it was against the rules. He kept teasing them. Finally, one day, the squadron commander called him and said, "Are you ready to go?" And he said, "Where are we going?", The commander said "Up!". Joe rushed down to the flight area. Then the commander took him out to the plane. There was a ladder from the ground to the cockpit. He had a decision to make. Did he really want a ride on that plane? Did he believe that the commander was a good pilot? Did he believe that all the mechanics that had worked on that plane had done a good job? Did he think that if he got on that plane that he would be taken up and brought back safely? He had been saying that he wanted a ride for weeks, but now he had to commit himself to what he had been saying. He would never get to ride in that plane unless he put one foot on the ladder, then the next foot on the ladder, and then climb in the cockpit.

And you see, that's the way it is with Jesus.

- We can believe that He's the savior.
- We can know that He can take us safely to eternal life.
- But as long as it remains only something that we understand , it will not be effective for us. We have to get on board.

When Jesus spoke the word "believe" in the Greek language, the meaning of that word went way beyond just believing with your mind. It meant totally "commit" yourselves, rely completely upon, trust only in Me.

It's like someone falling out of a fishing boat in the ocean, and they are drowning when someone throws them a rope. They don't stop to think if that rope's strong enough, or if it's the right brand of rope. No, they're going to be lost, so they grab hold, it's their only chance.

Look with me at the Conclusion at the bottom of the page.

F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation **3**

C. How do we trust Him as Savior?

1. We must Repent Mark 1:15

2. We must Believe Acts 16:31, I Cor. 15:1-6

3. We must Commit

To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them.

— John 1:12 (also Rev. 3:20; Gal. 2:20)

It involves the surrender of our total person:

— our intellect

— our emotion

— our will

CONCLUSION:

All of what you have learned about Christ will do you little good until you actually meet Christ. It is not enough to know about Christ. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven... On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not...do may mighty works in your name?’ But I will reply, ‘You have never been Mine, I never knew you. Go away...”

It is possible for you to meet Christ personally. He must come to live within you in order for you to be a Christian. The Christian life is not the Christian trying to imitate Christ, it is Christ imparting His life to and living His life through the Christian. You must know Christ personally. If you have not already met Him, you can meet Him right now.

All of what you've learned about Christ will do you little good until you actually meet Christ.

The second paragraph says, "It is possible for you to meet Christ personally. He must come to live within you in order for you to be a Christian. The Christian life is not the Christian trying to imitate Christ. It is Christ imparting His life to and living His life through the Christian. You must know Christ personally. You must commit to Him and receive Him on the throne of your life."

Many of you indicated a few minutes ago that you have done that. But perhaps there are some of you who haven't yet repented, believed, and committed your life to Jesus. Now that you understand what Jesus has done to save you, perhaps you want to take that step.

Pray.

C. How do we trust Him as Savior?

1. We must Repent Mark 1:15
2. We must Believe Acts 16:31, I Cor. 15:1-6
3. We must Commit

To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them.

— John 1:12 (also Rev. 3:20; Gal. 2:20)

It involves the surrender of our total person:

- our intellect
- our emotion
- our will

CONCLUSION:

All of what you have learned about Christ will do you little good until you actually meet Christ. It is not enough to know about Christ. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven... On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not...do may mighty works in your name?’ But I will reply, ‘You have never been Mine, I never knew you. Go away...”

It is possible for you to meet Christ personally. He must come to live within you in order for you to be a Christian. The Christian life is not the Christian trying to imitate Christ, it is Christ imparting His life to and living His life through the Christian. You must know Christ personally. If you have not already met Him, you can meet Him right now.

F.L.C. — ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation
Question Sheet, Session 1

Name _____

1. In your opinion, why is the first session entitled, “Jesus Christ-Front and Center?”

2. Why does a Christian love Jesus Christ? (see I John 4:19)

3. What is sin? (see James 2:10 and 4:17) What is eternal sin? (John 3:18)

4. Who has sinned? (see Romans 3:23)

5. What does sin do? (see Isaiah 59:2)

6. In what ways was Cain an example of all mankind in his response to the offering God required of him? (see Genesis 4:1-8; Hebrews 11:4 and I John 3:11-12)

7. Why did God have to go through the whole bit of becoming a man and dying on the cross? (see Romans 5:6-8 and 6:6-11; Hebrews 9:24-28 and I Peter 2:24)

8. How do we trust Christ as our Savior? (see Mark 1:24, 15 and Revelation 3:20)

9. What are the things that usually keep people from a “real” repentance and subsequent turning of their life over to Jesus Christ?

FULL LIFE IN CHRIST, Group Facilitator Suggestions

ESTABLISH: Building the Foundation, Session #1

BREAK THE ICE

IT WILL BE IMPORTANT IN THIS SESSION TO GET ACQUAINTED. Have your people share around the circle their responses to the following questions, one at a time. (Share around the whole circle with question #1, then #2 and #3) It might be good for you to start with yourself.

1. Tell something about the most interesting person in your family and why you think they are interesting.
2. What do you like doing best in your normal daily activity?
3. Tell us about a person in your acquaintance who you can tell truly loves Jesus Christ. How can you tell? Describe that person.

THEN, IF YOU HAVE TIME

DRAW THE GROUP MEMBERS OUT IN REGARD TO THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND FEELINGS ABOUT THIS FIRST TEACHING. Suggested questions are offered below. You may, of course, use some of your own as well. Also, give opportunity along the way for group members to ask their own questions.

1. Why is it difficult for some people to really believe in Jesus Christ? What often stands in the way?
2. What are the things that usually keep people from a “real” repentance?
3. Can you think of any other ways that God could have taken care of our sins rather than by Jesus Christ taking our place on the cross? (Help them to see how no other way would be possible.)

FOR NEXT WEEK:

Call the attention of the group to the first Question Sheet. Encourage them to complete it before the next session and to bring it with them.