



# FIRMLY PLANTED IN CHRIST

*A Study on Knowing Jesus Personally*

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# POSITION IN CHRIST

*Nothing you can do will ever make God love you any more or any less!<sup>1</sup>*

## ***A Right View of God***

Most Christians who consistently struggle with intimacy with God or making an impact on the world around them do not have a proper relationship with God the Son, God the Spirit, or God the Father. Either they do not relate correctly to Christ as Savior and Lord and thus are not truly a Christian, or they do not relate correctly with the Spirit because they do not understand how to walk in the power of the Spirit-controlled life, or they do not relate correctly with God the Father because they do not grasp the Fatherhood of God and their position as a child of God.

### **God Is Your Father**

1. Read these verses. How is God described in each?

Matthew 6:9

Matthew 7:11

Romans 8:14-16

# *A Right View of Self*

## **You Are God's Child (John 1:12)**

1. Read the following verses. What are your privileges as God's child?

Ephesians 1:13-14

Ephesians 3:12

Matthew 6:25-34

Romans 8:29

Romans 8:38-39

Ephesians 1:7

John 5:24

Hebrews 12:5-11

John 10:10

2. Children naturally do certain things with their father. Read these verses. What should your behavior be in regards to your heavenly Father?

Ephesians 5:1

Matthew 6:25-27

Romans 8:15

Matthew 7:11

John 14:15

John 17:4

### **The Lies and the Truth**

The truth about how God views us sets us free from the lies of this world and of Satan.

**Lie:** I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.

**Truth:** Because I am in Christ, I am completely forgiven for all my sin and failure. God will never be angry with me again!

**Read:** Romans 4:8, Romans 8:1, Psalm 103:12, and Isaiah 43:25

**Lie:** I must meet the approval of certain others to feel good about myself.

**Truth:** Because I am in Christ, I am totally accepted by God, absolutely pleasing to God, and approved of once and for all by God!

**Read:** Galatians 1:10

**Lie:** I am unworthy of God's love and am separated from God.

**Truth:** Because I am in Christ, I am deeply loved by God. Christ made me worthy of God's love!

**Read:** 1 John 3:1 and Romans 5:8

**Lie:** I am what I am. I cannot change. I'm hopeless.

**Truth:** Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation, and God is changing me into the image of Christ every day!

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 1:6, and 2 Corinthians 3:18

# CHRIST'S PRESENCE

*A striking characteristic of the first Christians was the certainty of their relationship with Christ.<sup>1</sup>*

## ***A Biblical Examination***

### **Trustworthiness of God's Word**

Assurance is based on the authority of God's Word.

1. In Mark 1:15, what conditions are necessary for a person to have eternal life?

2. What does Numbers 23:19 say about God keeping his promises?

3. In Romans 8:38-39, what does God promise?

<sup>1</sup> Leroy Eims, \_\_\_\_\_, p.??

4. What is eternal life according to John 17:3?

5. When does eternal life begin, according to John 5:24?

6. Study 1 John 5:11-13 and answer the following questions.

Where is eternal life (v. 11)?

Who has eternal life (v. 12)?

What is John's purpose for writing this letter (v. 13)?

To whom does the promise in verse 13 apply?

### **Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the internal witness of our assurance.

1. Read Romans 8:14-16.

Who are God's children (v.14)?

What kind of spirit do we have (v.15)?

What inner proof do we have of salvation (v.16)?

2. What does 1 John 3:24 tell us about knowing that God abides in us?

3. What is one reason the Holy Spirit was given (Ephesians 1:13-14)?

4. Read Romans 8:9. What is true of someone who does not have the Spirit in them?

### **Changed Life**

The proof that we have experienced a new birth and have become children of God will be demonstrated by our changed lives.

1. Examine 1 John 2:3

How does it describe the person who knows God?

Can a Christian continue habitually in sin? Why or why not?

2. Compare John 14:15 with John 14:21. After thinking about these verses, briefly state the relationship between loving God and obeying God.

3. Study 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.

What is the right response to Christ by a person who has truly experienced the love of Christ (v. 14-15)?

Can people live only to please themselves and be controlled by the love of Christ?

What does it mean to be a "new creation" (v.17)?

## ***A Practical Exercise***

Write out your personal testimony of how you came to trust Christ through repentance and faith. Use the outline below to help you tell your story clearly.

1. My life before Christ

2. How I came to realize my need for Christ and trust him as Savior and Lord

3. How my life has been different with Christ

# CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

*"...Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps." - 1 Peter 2:21*

## **Definition**

Character is who you are when no one is looking.

### Character

- who you really are
- comes from the inside
- what matters to God

### Personality

- who you want people to think you are
- constructed from the outside
- what matters to man

"As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man." Proverbs 27:19

## **Why Be a Person of Christ-like Character?**

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

1. What does God say about our character?

Read Romans 8:29. What has God predestined us to?

Read 1 Peter 1:16. God says, "be \_\_\_\_\_, for I am \_\_\_\_\_."

## 2. Why do we need to be Christ-like?

Read Philippians 1:27. We are to "Only let your manner of life be \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel of \_\_\_\_\_..."

Read Ephesians 4:22-24. We are to:

"Put \_\_\_\_\_ your old self, which... is \_\_\_\_\_ through deceitful desires..."

"...be \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of your minds..."

"...put \_\_\_\_\_ the new self, created after the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_..."

Read 1 John 2:6. Whoever "says he \_\_\_\_\_ in him ought to \_\_\_\_\_ in the same way in which he walked."

## ***How to Develop Christ-like Character***

### 1. Recognize your obstacles

1 John 2:15-16

Galatians 5:19

1 Peter 5:8-9

### 2. Focus on Christ's example. What did Jesus do?

Philippians 2:5-8

Matthew 4:1-10

Luke 23:34

3. Renew your mind

Read Philippians 4:8 and Matthew 6:33. What should your thoughts be focused on?

Read Romans 8:5-9. How does v.6 say the mind is to be controlled?

4. Pray for God to develop your character Read Psalm 139:23-24.

" \_\_\_\_\_ me, O God, and \_\_\_\_\_ my heart! Try me and \_\_\_\_\_ my thoughts! And see if there be any \_\_\_\_\_ way in me, and \_\_\_\_\_ me in the way everlasting!"

5. Reflection. Stop now and pray this verse for your life. Write down specific areas or traits present in your life that are not Christ-like:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ***End Results***

"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 2 Peter 1:8

1. What is the end result of renewing your mind? Read Romans 12:2.

2. Read Titus 2:12. What is the end result of living self-controlled, upright, and godly lives today?

3. What is the end result of letting your light shine before men? Read Matthew 5:14-16 and answer:

# LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

*Jesus Christ has always existed and always will. Not all people presently acknowledge Him as their lord, but that does not alter the reality of His lordship. All will someday acknowledge Christ as lord, but the privilege of submitting to His lordship is possible now.*

## ***Acknowledging His Lordship***

1. Titles reveal important information about the person to whom they refer. What are Jesus' titles in the following verses?

John 13:13

Acts 2:36

Revelation 19:16

Summarize what these verses reveal about Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus Christ is lord of...

Colossians 1:18

Colossians 1:16-17

Romans 14:9

3. Write your own definition of the word "lord" as you feel it applies to Jesus Christ.

4. What place should Christ hold in a believer's life (Matthew 6:33)?

5. Why should someone make Jesus Christ the lord of his life?

1 John 3:1

Jeremiah 29:11

Matthew 10:29-31

6. Prayerfully meditate on the lordship of Christ. Have you decided to acknowledge Jesus' lordship in your life?

Yes

No

## ***The Practice of Lordship***

Once you have decided to acknowledge the lordship of Christ in your life, you will prove that he is Lord by submitting to him hour by hour and obeying him in the daily affairs of life.

Take a few moments to evaluate your practice of the lordship of Jesus Christ. A good way to determine if Christ is in control of an area of your life is to ask, "Am I willing to do whatever Christ desires in this area?" or "Will I be able to thank God for whatever may happen in this area?"

1. Name any areas which you are not allowing Christ to control.

2. What can you do in these areas to acknowledge Christ's lordship?

3. According to Luke 6:46-49...

What is a good way to evaluate if Christ is truly lord of your life?

What is the best foundation upon which to build your life?

4. What does Romans 12:1 say you should do with your life as a Christian?

5. According to Luke 9:23, what three things is the person who follows Christ called to do?

The Action to Take

What This Means In Your Own Words

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does the lordship of Christ mean to you?

# THE SPIRIT- LED LIFE

## *The Ministry of the Holy Spirit*

1. The Holy Spirit is a person, the Spirit of God living in you. Read John 14:16-17 and 25-26 and count the number of times Jesus refers to the Spirit as a person: \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Read these verses and learn what Jesus taught about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39

John 16:7-15

John 14:16-17

John 14:25-26

John 15:26

Acts 1:8

3. What will be the results of a Spirit-controlled life?

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

2 Corinthians 3:17

Galatians 5:22-25

4. Why can the Christian not live the abundant life Christ promised in his own efforts?

Romans 8:6-8

John 15:4-5

5. How can the Christian experience the abundant lifestyle that Christ promised in John 10:10?

Ephesians 5:15-18

Galatians 5:16-18

# ***How To Be Controlled by the Holy Spirit***

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 14:16-18.

What did Jesus promise?

How long is the promise good for?

Does Jesus ever make a promise he does not keep?

2. When does a person receive the Spirit of God promised by Christ? Read Ephesians 1:13-14 and Romans 8:9.

3. Read Ephesians 5:18.

What does it mean to be controlled (filled) by the Spirit?

Does the term "filling" mean quantity or control of the Spirit? Explain your answer.

How is being drunk like being filled with the Spirit?

4. Read Ephesians 4:30 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19.

What does it mean to grieve or quench the Spirit of God within you?

How can you tell if you have grieved the Spirit of God?

What sins in your life quench the Spirit and keep you from experiencing the full power of the Holy Spirit?

5. What action must be taken to be controlled by the Spirit of God?

1 John 1:9

Romans 12:1-2

Colossians 2:6

### ***Important: Remember These Principles & Promises***

1. God has promised to answer our prayer of faith if we ask anything according to his will (1 John 5:14-15).
2. It is his will that we be controlled by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
3. God has promised to fill you with the Holy Spirit if only you ask in faith (Luke 11:13).









