

Answers: Lesson Twelve: CLI Leadership Bible Study

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 12: THE LEADER'S FIRE OF HOLINESS

Lesson 12: The Leader's Fire of Holiness (Day One) *Holy is the LORD*

Read Colossians 4:12 and answer questions 1-2:

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Colossians 4:12

Note: The apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Colossians that his fellow worker, Epaphras (EP uh frass), is always wrestling in prayer for them. Wrestling is a strenuous and demanding activity and thus to wrestle in prayer denotes struggling and exerting effort. The Greek word agonizomai (ἀγωνίζομαι) translated wrestle in English is also used in the sense of doing one's best and not giving up.

1. What is Epaphras' prayer for the members of the Colossian church?

That they may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

2. Have you prayed for others to stand firm in all the will of God? Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer

3. Commit to wrestle in prayer for one person this week. Pray in the spirit of Epaphras' prayer, *that this person may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.* Write your comments about this prayer experience?

Personal Answer - Bible Minister, please make appropriate comment on your Learner's answer so that he or she knows you read the answer and are interested in their growth in Christ Jesus.

Read 1 Peter 1:15-16 and answer questions 4-6:

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16 (quoted from Leviticus 11:45-46)

4. Peter says, because God who called you is holy, be holy in _____ *all* ____ you do (v.15)

5. What challenges do you have in being holy in all you do?

Personal Answer

6. How may we pray for you in your challenges to be holy?

Bible Minister: Please write down your Learner's prayer request and pray for at least a week.

Read Leviticus 11:44 and answer questions 7-8:

I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground. Leviticus 11:44

7. Why did the LORD tell the Israelites to consecrate (set apart) themselves and be holy (v. 44a)?

Because God is holy

8. What is meant by the word clean and unclean in our everyday language?

Clean can be defined as not dirty; free from impurities, imperfections or blemishes. Unclean is dirty, impure, imperfect or blemished.

For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' Mark 7:21-23

Read Mark 7:21-23 and answer the questions 9-11:

9. According to Jesus, what makes a person unclean?

The evil that one thinks and acts upon (from heart and mind) and makes one unclean.

10. Explain in your own words the point or concept that Jesus is teaching to his disciples?

Jesus is expanding the concept of cleanness to a person's inward attitudes and motivations. He wants His disciples to realize that following God's rules in a mechanical and thoughtless way does not make a person clean.

Definition: Slander is saying something false and damaging about another person that damages his or her reputation. Notice it is included with a long list of evil sins, including murder, in Mark 7:21-23. And in a sense it is murder, it is character assassination.

11. Jesus says that just having slanderous thoughts about someone makes us unclean. How will this change the way *you* think and talk about others?

Personal Answer

Read Isaiah 6:1-3 and answer questions 12-13:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.² Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.³ And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Isaiah 6:1-3

12. Who did Isaiah see? (Read John 4:24,12:41; Revelation 1:13)

Preincarnate, Lord Jesus Christ

Definitions: Incarnation is the act of God the Son taking on a sinless human nature in the person of Jesus Christ for the purpose of freeing human beings from sin. Preincarnate describes the time before Jesus took on human nature through his holy conception and birth.

Definition: Seraph is a heavenly or angelic being with human form and six wings. The plural, masculine, noun is normally rendered seraphim, but translated seraphs in the NIV Bible translation. They seem to be positioned over God's throne for divine worship and used as agents of purification. Seraphim are only mentioned in Isaiah 6.

13. What were the seraphim calling out to one another?

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Read Isaiah 6:4-8 and answer question 14–20:

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:4-8

14. What did Isaiah exclaim in verse 5? "___ **Woe** ___ to ___ **me** ___!" I cried. "___ **I** ___

am ___ **ruined** ___! For I am a man of ___ **unclean** ___ lips, and I live among a people of

___ **unclean** ___ lips and my ___ **eyes** ___ have seen the King, the ___ **LORD** ___ Almighty."

15. Write in your own words why Isaiah cried out in fear (v.5):

Personal Answer - but when confronted with a holy God, we are overcome with our own lack of holiness (Luke 5:8). His perfection brings us to our knees in worship and fear (Revelation 1:17).

16. How did God take away Isaiah's sin and guilt (v.6-7)?

Isaiah was purified and made holy by a red, hot coal from the altar. The prophet's sin was covered and God's holy wrath was turned aside (Leviticus 16:11-13).

17. If a burning coal was immediately placed on your lips or offending body part, how might your sinful actions change?

Personal Answer

18. Right after Isaiah's guilt was taken away and his sin atoned for, what did he hear the Lord saying (v.8a)?

"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

19. What was Isaiah's reply (v.8b)?

"Here am I. Send me!"

20. What is your reply to God's call?

Personal Answer

Personal Application: Meditate on God's holiness (Numbers 27:12-14; Leviticus 20:1-7; Joshua 24:19-27; Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:24-27; John 6:68-69; Revelation 4:8-11, 16:5-7).

21. What did the LORD impress upon you about His holiness?

Personal Answer - Bible Minister, please make appropriate comment on your Learner's answer so that he or she knows you read the answer and are interested in their growth in Christ Jesus.

Lesson 12: The Leader's Fire of Holiness (Day Two) Fire of Fear

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:5-6

22. Read Exodus 3:5-6. What was Moses' response when God revealed Himself (v.6c)?

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Read Proverbs 9:10 and answer questions 23-24:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

23. What is the beginning of wisdom?

The fear of the LORD

24. What is understanding?

Knowledge of the Holy One

There are several Hebrew words used for fear in the Old Testament. In both Exodus and Proverbs above, the Hebrew word for fear is yare (יָרֵא). It is used to express Moses' response to God at the burning bush and also the prescription for receiving wisdom. The Hebrew word yare (יָרֵא) means: **1. fear, be afraid, be afraid of** **2. stand in awe of** **3. fear, reverence, honor, e.g. parents, things** **3. inspire reverence, godly fear and awe.**

Definition: Revival refers to a specific period of spiritual renewal and holiness in the lives of Christians; they exhibit a healthy fear and reverence for God. Revival is derived from the word revive which means to recover consciousness or full strength; bring somebody back to life.

25. Have you caught the spark of God's holiness? Yes No (Circle one) Why or Why not?

Personal Answer

26. Did Moses and Isaiah teach those they led about God's holiness? **Yes** No (Circle one)
How do you know?

Moses and Isaiah not only taught the Israelites verbally about God's holiness, they wrote their lessons down for future generations. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy, and Isaiah wrote the book of Isaiah

And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness. Deuteronomy 6:25

27. Read Deuteronomy 6:25. What will be the Israelites righteousness?

Carefully obeying all the law

Read Romans 10:4 and answer questions 28-29:

Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.
Romans 10:4

28. Do you get your righteousness by following the Old Testament Law? Yes **No** (Circle One)

29. How do you, or anyone else get righteousness?

Trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

Definition: The Greek word *phobeomai* (φοβέομαι) is translated *fear* in Luke 12:5 and other New Testament passages. In addition to fear, *phobeomai* (φοβέομαι) denotes being afraid of; being afraid (to do something); worshiping and reverencing (God) and respecting others. The Greek word captures the same meaning as the Hebrew word for *fear* we looked at earlier. Christians are still admonished (warned) to fear and reverence the triune God.

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who that has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:29

30. Read Hebrews 10:29. How do you think God views Christians who deliberately keep on sinning and do not care about their purity?

He views them sternly or harshly as deserving punishment.

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. Acts 9:31

31. According to Acts 9:31 the church was strengthened and encouraged by the **Holy** Spirit. It **grew** in **numbers**, living in the **fear** of the **Lord**

32. How are *you* being encouraged by the Holy Spirit and living in the fear the Lord?

Personal Answer

33. How are you encouraging believers to live in the fear of the Lord?

Personal Answer

Personal Application: Have you ever had an uneasy feeling when verses *seem* to oppose or contradict one another? Most of the time it is just a matter of additional prayer and study to understand how biblical concepts interact and work together. Other times you may not receive a complete answer. In these cases, there may remain a holy tension in Scripture until you pass on to glory.

A Christian leader must learn to accept holy tension, knowing God's word is always true. Our finite minds may not understand how certain teachings fit together, but by faith we know they do. Below you will have an opportunity to ease the tension in two biblical concepts.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18

34. Read 1 John 4:18. How does the teaching "no fear in love" fit within the context of a holy God that is "to be feared" (1 Peter 2:17). Reference other verses to make your case or argument.

May be various answers but idea is for the Learner to search out Scripture for himself. Here is one answer:

Christians are not afraid of Judgment Day and punishment because we trust and believe that Jesus died and paid the penalty for our sins. Jesus' act of perfect love (Ephesians 3:12) drives out fear (Matthew 10:15) of hell, fear of man or any other kind of fear. Except of course, the fear of God.

God (and God alone) is to be feared (Psalm 76:7). We are not afraid to approach God through the blood of Christ because He is our righteousness. However, we approach God respectfully and with holy awe.

We are also called to work out our salvation with fear (Philippians 2:12). We fear being unfaithful and falling into unrepentant sin. This is a positive fear. Sin is separation from God and to fear God's displeasure and separation should help us walk in His love and fellowship.

Lesson 12: The Leader's Fire of Holiness (Day Three) Effort and Grace

Read Hebrews 12:14-15 and answer questions 35-37:

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.¹⁵ See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:14-15

35. The author of Hebrews tells the Jewish believers to Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Definition: Grace is God's divine power in action to undeserving people (Hebrews 12:15).

In the New Testament, the writers used the Greek word *charis* (χάρις) to convey God's divine power working through a person's life. It was also used specifically to express a believer's unmerited salvation in Christ. Previously there had not been a precise word to describe God's plan of salvation because it was unknown. The actual plan of salvation in Christ was hidden from mankind until the proper time when God revealed it (Romans 16:25-26, Ephesians 3:4-6).

Grace (*charis*) was a secular (not religious) word in use at the time. It had the "idea of a favor or kindness done to another or of a gift which brought pleasure to another. Viewed from the standpoint of the recipient (receiver), it was used to refer to the thankfulness felt for a gift or favor."¹ Writers of the New Testament have also used grace (*charis*), in its secular meanings. For example, we say grace (give thanks) before a meal (1 Corinthians 10:30).

The Hebrew word *chen* (חֵן) is perhaps closest to the Greek word *charis* (χάρις). When speaking of God it can mean His gift of redemption from enemies, troubles and sins. Although there isn't a particular word for grace in the Old Testament that conveys the same meaning as in the New Testament, God's grace or favor is revealed throughout Scripture. God is described as gracious. He is merciful and loving. He gives help in time of need. He shows favor to those who don't deserve it. He is steadfast in His promises. He continually delivered His people from their enemies and provided the sacrificial system for taking away sins. The Old Testament is not only a record of God's grace but a promise of His even greater grace which was to come through Jesus Christ.²

36. How do you think pursuing holiness and accepting God's grace work together?

Jesus has makes us holy by His blood and will continue to help us through all our temptations. We cannot be holy on our own. On the other hand, God did not take away our free will and our ability to sin. He expects Christians to pursue godly lives. We have a duty to discipline our minds and bodies. But even in our pursuit of holiness, God works through us (grace) and helps us persevere each day.

37. How does your life demonstrate the right relationship between grace and effort?

Personal Answer

Definition: Humility is knowing one's true position before God and attributing all talents and gifts to, and from Him. Humble Christians are not concerned with pleasing themselves but with pleasing God and serving His people. Jesus is *the* model of a humble servant (Philippians 2:5-8).

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

¹ Butler, 573.

² Ibid

38. Read James 4:6. How can you be assured of having God work in your life?

By being humble and not proud

As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 Corinthians 6:1

39. Read 2 Corinthians 6:1. What does it mean, "not to receive God's grace in vain (no use)"?

Paul is saying that you can receive grace to no purpose and without result. Although we should live for Christ, we can still live for ourselves (2 Corinthians 5:15), and that will ultimately prove empty and fruitless.

Personal Application: Ask God to speak to you through reading and meditating on Matthew 25:14-30; Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 5:12-14; and 2 Peter 1:5-11.

40. Please share what God impressed upon you during your Scripture reading:

Personal Answer

Lesson 12: The Leader's Fire of Holiness (Day Four) The Struggle

Read Hebrews 12:4 and answer questions 41-42:

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
Hebrews 12:4

41. Do Christians struggle against sin? **Yes** No Maybe (Circle one)

42. How stringently (rigorously) should you fight back against sin in your life?

By saying "shedding your blood," the author of Hebrews is saying that we are to resist sin to the point of death.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5 and answer questions 43-45:

*As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--
5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood,
offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5*

Definition: Spiritual means having no physical substance. "Giving a sacrifice involves permanently giving something that has value to the giver, and therefore involves giving up something that most people would rather keep for themselves. A sacrifice is given by a lesser being (man) to a greater being (God) as a form of submission and worship. Animals given for

sacrifice in ancient Israel had to be "without blemish," and were some of the finest animals the farmer owned (Exodus 12:5; Leviticus 1:3)."³

43. What kind of priesthood do you belong to?

Holy priesthood

44. What spiritual sacrifices will *you* offer to God through Jesus Christ?

Personal Answer but some ideas would be prayer, Bible study, putting others first, helping the poor, weak, hungry and imprisoned.

45. What are some ways that *you* will help others become a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ?

Personal Answer but some ideas would be praying for others, helping them study the Bible, work through a problem area in their lives, etc.

Personal Application: Think about some of your personal habits such as eating, drinking, reading, daydreaming, looking, listening and watching programs. Are they glorifying to God? For example, do you look at other people and think about them in a critical or unkind manner? Or do you look at them as made in the image of God and individuals whom He loves and desires to work through? Pray and ask God to help you purify these habits so that your living and leading are synonymous (identical). Remember, make every effort to get rid of all impurities.

46. Share one unholy personal habit that you will commit to work on with God's grace:

Bible Minister: Please write down your Learner's habit. Pray for at least a week that the Holy Spirit will help him or her overcome this unholy personal habit.

Lesson 12: The Leader's Fire of Holiness (Day Five) Turn, Fix and Focus

Personal Application: Read or sing the following hymn by Helen Lemmel. (If you do not know the melody to this worship song, research to hear it; it is worth the effort.) Think about the words and what meaning they have for you in pursuing holiness.

Turn You Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's a light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

³ United Church of God, <http://www.ucg.org/christian-living/treasure-digest-qa-what-are-spiritual-sacrifices/>

Refrain

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conquerors we are!

Refrain

His Word shall not fail you—He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

Refrain

47. How does this hymn encourage your pursuit of holy living?

Personal Answer

48. How does this hymn encourage you to lead others in pure actions?

Personal Answer

Read Hebrews 12:2-3 and answer questions 49-51:

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3

Definition: Fix means to fasten firmly and to direct (the eyes or attention) steadily toward something. This is the meaning of the Greek word *aphorao* (ἀφοράω), that is translated fix in Hebrews 12:2 above. It means to direct one’s attention without distraction.

49. What does "fix your eyes" on Jesus mean to you?

Personal Answer

50. Do you "fix your eyes" upon Jesus? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Why or Why Not?

Personal Answer

51. What are some ways that you can help others "fix their eyes" upon Jesus?

Personal Answer

Read John 15:19-21 and answer questions 52-53:

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. John 15:19-21

52. Will the world honor you for your pure life and treat you well? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Answer but should be No.

53. Explain your answer in #52?

Personal Answer - but explained in John 15:20, *Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.*

- End Lesson 12 -

Holy Father, May we burn with a leader's fire of holiness, now and forever, in Jesus. Amen.

Next: Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare

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