

VVM Life Group- Cyclical Lesson 8

Cultivate Good Relationships! “Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.” (Rom 14.1 MSG)

1. New Creation – (Gal 3:26-27)

- a. (KJV) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- b. (TPT) You have all become true children of God by faith in Jesus Christ! Faith immersed you into Christ, and now you are covered and clothed with his life.
- c. (AMPC) For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (clothed yourselves with) Christ.
- d. (MSG) By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise.

Commented [BC1]: Divine Humanity! Can a God have children who are not gods? Jesus’ off-spring we are!

Commented [BC2]: Immersed into Jesus= New Birth. New Creature. New Nature. New mixture of Humanity & God

Commented [BC3]: His life covers over ALL of the old you. You remain clothed with God, what else do you need?

Commented [BC4]: Do you live a daily UNION with Jesus and His anointing? A communal lifestyle with God?

2. Soul Renewal /Discipline the Flesh– (1 Cor 9:27)

- a. (KJV) I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
- b. (TPT) I train like a champion athlete. I subdue my body and get it under my control, so that after preaching the good news to others I myself won’t be disqualified.
- c. (AMPC) But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].
- d. (MSG) No lazy living for me! I’m staying alert and in top condition. I’m not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

Commented [BC5]: It is POSSIBLE to preach God’s word and still be found a fake Christian! (Just pamper your physical wants)

Commented [BC6]: Translated: “I beat my body black and blue”. God is saying you must deal with your flesh very harshly. It’s a spoiled child who demands attention

Commented [BC7]: How do you handle your body roughly? What hardships do you put it through? How do you subdue it? Make a list... be sure to pass the FIT test

Commented [BC8]: Your body must be FORCED to align with your destiny. Jesus is more concerned with your CHARACTER than your comfort

Commented [BC9]: Religious people TALK a lot, but never display the power of the Kingdom in their lives

3. Love Character – (1 John 3:16-18)

- a. (KJV) Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but *in deed and in truth*.
- b. (TPT) This is how we have *discovered love's reality*: Jesus sacrificed his life for us. Because of this great love, we should be willing to lay down our lives for one another. If anyone sees a fellow believer in need and has the means to help him, yet shows no pity and closes his heart against him, how is it even possible that God's love lives in him? Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds
- c. (AMPC) By this we come to know (progressively to recognize, to perceive, to understand) the [essential] love: that *He laid down His [own] life for us; and we ought to lay [our] lives down for [those who are our] brothers [in Him]*. But if anyone has this world's goods (resources for sustaining life) and sees his brother *and* fellow believer in need, yet closes his heart of compassion against him, how can the love of God live *and* remain in him? Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory *or* in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity).
- d. (MSG) This is how *we've come to understand and experience love*: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, *what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear*. My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love.

Commented [BC10]: Jesus is watching how you sacrifice for His body

Commented [BC11]: Love is an ACTION word...not just feelings or mere words. List the ways you live sacrificially for the body

Commented [BC12]: God's proof of love=Sacrifice for other Christians

Commented [BC13]: His death for us AND our death for others= visible display of love. His price is our price

Commented [BC14]: SACRIFICE = the understanding of love

Commented [BC15]: Christians who MAKE love disappear!

Kingdom Stewardship

(Psalms 35:27)

- a) (KJV) Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: Yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.
- b) (TPT) But let all my true friends shout for joy, all those who know and love what I do for you. Let them all say, “The Lord is great, and he delights in the prosperity of his servant.”
- c) (MSG) But those who want the best for me, Let them have the last word—a glad shout!—and say, over and over and over, “GOD is great—everything works together for good for his servant.”

Commented [BC16]: Can people who know you shout about how good God has been to you? They should see it!

Commented [BC17]: Your life should make God seem bigger. His prosperity ON YOU brings Him fame

Commented [BC18]: God loves it when His children are prospering in every way

Commented [BC19]: If you live a righteous cause for Him, you qualify for His prosperity...if you don't, you do not qualify

Commented [BC20]: Everything does NOT work out for everybody on earth...ONLY His servants can say that all things work for their good