

## VVM Life Group- Cyclical Lesson 9

**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 6:14-15)

- a. (KJV) But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creature.**
- b. (TPT) **May my only boast** be found in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. In him I have been crucified to this natural realm; and the natural realm is dead to me *and no longer dominates my life*. Whether a man is circumcised or uncircumcised is meaningless to me. What really matters is the transforming power of this new creation life.
- c. (AMPC) But far be it from me to glory [in anything or anyone] except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) through Whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world! For neither is circumcision [now] of any importance, nor uncircumcision, but [only] a new creation [the result of a new birth and a **new nature** in Christ Jesus, the Messiah].
- d. (MSG) For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. Can’t you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what *God* is doing, and he is creating **something totally new, a free life!**

**Commented [BC1]:** The influence of the earth realm is considered as DEAD to a Christian

**Commented [BC2]:** NEW CREATION understanding is very critical!

**Commented [BC3]:** We brag about our DEATH to self, because it leads us to NEW LIFE

**Commented [BC4]:** The NEW MAN dominates our nature. We are not slaves to our old sinful ways

**Commented [BC5]:** The world should see something VERY different when they see a Jesus follower

## 2. Soul Renewal /Discipline the Flesh– (Rom 7:18,20,22-23)

- a. (KJV) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
- b. (TPT) For I know that nothing good lives within the flesh of my fallen humanity. The longings to do what is right are within me, but willpower is not enough to accomplish it. So if my behavior contradicts my desires to do good, I must conclude that it's not my true identity doing it, but the unwelcome intruder of sin hindering me from being who I really am. Truly, deep within my true identity, I love to do what pleases God. But I discern another power operating in my humanity, waging a war against the moral principles of my conscience and bringing me into captivity as a prisoner to the “law” of sin—this unwelcome intruder in my humanity.
- c. (AMPC) For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.] Now if I do what I do not desire to do, it is no longer I doing it [it is not myself that acts], but the sin [principle] which dwells within me [fixed and operating in my soul]. For I endorse *and* delight in the Law of God in my inmost self [with my new nature]. But I discern in my bodily members [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh] a different law (rule of action) at war against the law of my mind (my reason) and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that dwells in my bodily organs [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh].
- d. (MSG) For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don't *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

**Commented [BC6]:** This is why we must KILL the flesh nature, it offers nothing good

**Commented [BC7]:** Your flesh is at WAR with you...how do you fight back? Or do you let it call the shots?

**Commented [BC8]:** Your true IDENTITY is in Jesus, the old man must be seen as an INTRUDER

**Commented [BC9]:** If you don't renew the soul and discipline the flesh you will never reach your potential in Christ

**Commented [BC10]:** The will of the soul is not able to overcome sinful flesh without the renewed spirit's help

**Commented [BC11]:** Learn to differentiate between spirit NATURE, flesh APPETITES and soul REASON

**Commented [BC12]:** The Holy Spirit of Jesus is the only way to conquer sin and guilt

**Commented [BC13]:** What can you list as your current methods of FIGHTING FLESH? How do you squash its rebellion?

### 3. Love Character – (1John 3:23-24)

- a. (KJV) And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us
- b. (TPT) So these are his commands: that we continually place our trust in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we keep loving one another, just as he has commanded us. For all who obey his commands find their lives joined in union with him, and he lives and flourishes in them. We know and have proof that he constantly lives and flourishes in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.
- c. (AMPC) And this is His order (His command, His injunction): that we should believe in (put our faith and trust in and adhere to and rely on) the name of His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and that we should love one another, just as He has commanded us. All who keep His commandments [who obey His orders and follow His plan, live and continue to live, to stay and] abide in Him, and He in them. [They let Christ be a home to them and they are the home of Christ.] And by this we know *and* understand *and* have the proof that He [really] lives *and* makes His home in us: by the [Holy] Spirit Whom He has given us.
- d. (MSG) Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

**Commented [BC14]:** BELIEF is a command. Christians live by Faith

**Commented [BC15]:** To stay in God you must LOVE. No Love=No God

**Commented [BC16]:** Finding it hard to flourish in your union with God ? There is something that you are not in Faith about, or your Love walk is off

**Commented [BC17]:** The PROOF you have His Spirit= you live from faith in His word and you Love people

**Commented [BC18]:** Stay in Love and Faith= Stay in Him

## Kingdom Stewardship

(1 Chron 16:29)

- a) (KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: Bring an offering, and come before him: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- b) (CEB) Give to the LORD the glory due his name! Bring gifts! Enter his presence! Bow down to the LORD in his holy splendor!
- c) (EASY) Agree that the Lord's name is great. Bring a gift to offer to him in his temple. Worship the Lord, who is beautiful and holy.

**Commented [BC19]:** What does your level of giving say about your honor for God? The quality of your gift?

**Commented [BC20]:** Does the Bible tell us how to worship God with MONEY?

**Commented [BC21]:** Jesus is a King. Should you come before a king with no gift? Only words?

**Commented [BC22]:** The Bible has over a thousand references to offerings/gifts/sacrifices. Does God think it is important?

**Commented [BC23]:** How many places in scripture can you find where God instructs us to worship Him with an offering?