

VVM Life Group- Cyclical Lesson 10

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 5:16, 24-25)

- a. (KJV) *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- b. (TPT) Let me emphasize this: As you yield to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, **you will abandon the cravings of your self-life**. Keep in mind that we who belong to Jesus Christ have already experienced crucifixion. **For everything connected with our self-life was put to death on the cross and crucified with Messiah**. **If the Spirit is the source of our life, we must also allow the Spirit to direct every aspect of our lives.**
- c. (AMPC) But I say, walk *and* live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to *and* controlled *and* guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings *and* desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites *and* desires. If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. **[If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.]**
- d. (MSG) My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God’s Spirit. Then you won’t feed the compulsions of selfishness. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified. Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but **work out its implications in every detail of our lives.**

Commented [BC1]: Only advance when first checking with the Spirit

Commented [BC2]: Being Spirit-led involves recognition of the carnal tendencies and appetites, and ignoring them

Commented [BC3]: You are NOT still a sinner. Your old nature of darkness has already been killed off 2,000 years ago with Jesus. A NEW being now lives in you

Commented [BC4]: We have ALL the life available to us we will ever need. You now need to “walk out” bible obedience

Commented [BC5]: Can you list what God has done for you... versus the things that YOU MUST STILL DO for yourself?

Commented [BC6]: If you don’t view yourself as a citizen of heaven you will never be able to discipline your flesh

Commented [BC7]: Your flesh is at WAR WITH YOU, but are you fighting against it? Winning the war, or losing the war?

Commented [BC8]: What is your plan of attack to shut down your carnality? **Tell the group your effective methods**

Commented [BC9]: **Tell the group** how you make yourself purposely uncomfortable in order to put down sensual urges

2. Soul Renewal /Discipline the Flesh– (1 Peter 2:11)

- a. (KJV) Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as **strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;
- b. (TPT) My divinely loved friends, since you are resident aliens and foreigners in this world, I appeal to you to divorce yourselves from the **evil desires that wage war within you.**
- c. (AMPC) Beloved, I implore you as aliens and strangers *and* exiles [in this world] to **abstain from the sensual urges** (the evil desires, the passions of the flesh, your lower nature) that wage war against the soul.
- d. (MSG) Friends, this world is not your home, so **don’t make yourselves cozy in it**. Don’t indulge your ego at the expense of your soul.

3. Love Character – (James 3:13, 16-18)

- a. (KJV) Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.
- b. (TPT) If you consider yourself to be wise and one who understands the ways of God, advertise it with a beautiful, fruitful life guided by wisdom's gentleness. *Never brag or boast about what you've done and you'll prove that you're truly wise.* So wherever jealousy and selfishness are uncovered, you will also find much chaos, disorder and every kind of meanness. But the wisdom from above is *always easy to correct, ready to be convinced and willing to yield to others.* It is filled with love and mercy, never displays prejudice or wears a mask of hypocrisy in any form and it always bears the beautiful harvest of righteousness! Good seeds of wisdom's fruit will be planted with peaceful acts by those who cherish making peace.
- c. (AMPC) Who is there among you who is wise and intelligent? Then let him by his noble living show forth his [good] works with the [unobtrusive] humility [which is the proper attribute] of true wisdom. For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil *and* vile practices. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is *wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned* (free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity). And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for *and* make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].
- d. (MSG) Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats. *Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others.* It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

Commented [BC10]: Follow people of Humility to find wisdom. Loves highest rank is Humility (others focused)

Commented [BC11]: Meekness and Humility admit that God is the source

Commented [BC12]: NEVER allow strife! It is the manifest presence of Satan himself. He authored jealousy & division

Commented [BC13]: A bragging tone reveals ignorance and insecurity

Commented [BC14]: Christlike Humility yields in LOVE to others

Commented [BC15]: Be really good at noticing the fruits of SELF...always grasping and jockeying. Demons are there

Commented [BC16]: Love is ONE DIRECTIONAL. Love flows outward toward others, and needs no return

Commented [BC17]: Find someone who GETS ALONG WITH OTHERS and God will be there.

Kingdom Stewardship

(Jeremiah 29:11)

- a. (KJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
- b. (TPT) For I know the thoughts *and* plans that I have for you, says the Lord, *thoughts and plans for welfare and peace* and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.
- c. (MSG) I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

Commented [BC18]: Where can we find God's thoughts about us? They are all written in the Bible!

Commented [BC19]: Does His plans for you involve anything other than welfare and peace? Will He take care of you?

Commented [BC20]: God promises to NEVER leave us or forsake us

Commented [BC21]: You will absolutely love the destiny He has written for you. What you expect deep within, He has awaiting for you! More than you can ask or think!