

## LESSON 2: UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEW RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND MAN

1. In the first lesson, you reviewed the events leading up to your conversion and the meaning of each step. In addition, you studied several meanings of the word “commitment” in an effort to clearly understand what you did in becoming a Christian. Baptism, the consummating act of your obedience changed your relationship to God and man. Thus, you have a new relationship.

2. The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand your new relationship to God and man.

(Question):

A. The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand your new relationship to God and man. **True or False**

3. Understanding this relationship more fully will help you prepare to meet the events of this changed life with greater confidence. This is the ultimate purpose of this work – to help you live an acceptable life in God’s sight and be prepared to enter heaven when Christ returns.

(Question):

A. The ultimate purpose of this work is to prepare you to enter heaven. **True or False**

4. When you “committed” or “pledged” your life to Christ, your relationships changed. Likewise, your responsibilities changed.

(Question):

A. A “committed” life is one of changed relationships and responsibilities. **True or False**

5. Though your relationships have changed and a period of adjustments must be endured, you are in the happiest state possible on earth. Much of this happiness comes from our obedience to and conformance with the will of God. Truly this is man’s duty as indicated in Eccl. 12:13; “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

(Question):

A. Living the Christian life can be happy. **True or False**

B. Living the Christian life can be sad. **True or False**

6. Now with this brief introduction of the second lesson before us, let us discuss your new, changed relationships. Perhaps the best way to do this is to compare your former state with the present one.

(Question):

A. One effective way to study your new relationship is to compare your former state with the present one. **True or False**

B. One effective way to study your new relationship is to forget your former state. **True or False**

7. First, let us look at the former state in a general way, that is, the creation and fall of men. The creation of man was the consummating or crowning act of God’s work.

(Question)

A. The crowning act of God’s creation was the fall of man. **True or False**

B. The crowning act of God’s creation was the creation of man. **True or False**

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8. Man was created on the same day as the higher animals (Gen. 1). However, he is infinitely different from animals; he was the only creature that was created in the image of God – into him, God breathed and man became a living soul!

(Question):

In what way is man different from animals?

- A. Man has a soul. **True or False**
- B. Man was made in God's image. **True or False**

9. Man was created with a moral and intellectual nature. Thus, man was able to comprehend such concepts as duty and right and wrong. He was created a free moral agent, free to become holy or evil. In the strictest sense, Adam and Eve were created in a state of innocence.

10. Man did not remain in this state very long, however, until God placed the race under law. This act was necessary because without law, man could not exercise the moral powers with which he has endowed; without law, man could not act virtuously or sinfully.

11. You might compare this to a situation where man was created with a body requiring food then being deprived of the power to furnish it. Thus, it was necessary for God to provide a law for man.

(Question):

- A. Was God fair in putting man under law? **Yes or No**

12. In giving law to man, God defined the bounds or limitations, as well as the liberties that man would have. God

also indicated the consequences that would come if man disobeyed.

(Question):

- A. God specified the bounds as well as the liberties of His law to man. **True or False**

13. God instructed Adam and Eve (man) to dress and keep the Garden of Eden and forbade them to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (see Gen. 2:8 – 17). If they failed in the forbidden thing, God indicated that they would suffer death, Gen. 2:17: “But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

(Question):

- A. God's commands to man were clear and direct. **True or False**

14. Here God provided man with the environment to exercise this power of choice. The law as stipulated by God was entirely reasonable or else it would have been an immoral act on God's part.

(Question):

- A. God provided for man's free moral agency. **True or False**

15. Further, God had adequately equipped men to act responsibly in this situation. Now everything rests upon the shoulders of man; the choice is his. He can act virtuously or he can disobey; which will he do?

(Question):

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- A. God made a law that was too demanding of man.  
**True or False**

16. From Genesis chapter 3, you learn that man was a miserable failure. He chose to disobey God by eating of the forbidden fruit and in doing so, sinned in His sight. As a result, he had to suffer the consequences of his doing. This began with man's discharge from the Garden of Eden.

(Question):

- A. Man failed in his temptation in the Garden of Eden.  
**True or False**
- B. Man succeeded in his temptation in the Garden of Eden. **True or False**

17. Now, the death about which God spoke was not an instantaneous one for we know that Adam continued to live for many years after committing sin. Instead, man's body began to die slowly, eventually to be returned to the dust of the ground from whence it came (Genesis 3:19).

(Question):

- A. Adam's experience with physical death was instantaneous. **True or False**
- B. Adam's experience with death was slow. **True or False**

18. Spiritually, however, Adam died instantaneously when the sin was committed because death is a separation. And Adam has separated or alienated himself from God by his unrighteous act.

(Question):

- A. Adam died spiritually instantaneously. **True or False**

- B. Adam died physically instantaneously. **True or False**

19. Thus you begin to see the state of man: fallen, alienated, lost, and hopeless, in a state of sin. Sin is a transgression of the law (I John 3:4), a stepping outside the bound and limitations of the law or and abuse of liberties. Man stepped outside the limits of God's law when he ate of the forbidden fruit. He abused the liberty given by God.

(Question):

- A. Sin is a transgression of law. **True or False**

20. Though man has sinned, God did not completely abandon him, for in Gen. 3:15 we have the earliest indication of a redeemer or savior. "And I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; it (the savior) shall bruise thy head (Satan), and thou (Satan) shall bruise His (Christ's) heel.

(Question):

- A. In Genesis 3 a promise of a redeemer is found.  
**True or False**
- B. In Genesis 3 a promise of a savior is found. **True or False**

21. This certainly typifies the wonderful love of God and His concern for fallen mankind. Man, now alienated or separated from his God, was hopelessly lost without the provision of God. The prophecy of Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled when Christ was crucified and arose thus overcoming death.

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(Question):

- A. God was unconcerned about the fallen man. **True or False**

22. The theme then of the Old Testament (O.T.) from this point on is “The Savior is coming.” Remembering this fact will greatly aid you in your study and understanding of the O.T.

(Question):

- A. The theme of the Old Testament is “The Savior is coming.” **True or False**

23. Understanding your constitution or make-up, which is, that you were created a free moral agent with the power of choice. It is obvious that you can choose to serve God or Satan. Thankfully, you have chosen to serve God, but man (generally speaking) in this fallen condition had chosen to follow Satan.

(Question):

- A. God has given hope to those who choose to serve Him. **True or False**

24. These are the only choices available to you or me as far as God is concerned. We cannot choose a middle ground; we cannot serve two masters according to Matt. 6:24; “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and man.”

(Question):

- A. Man can choose a middle of the road course and be pleasing to God. **True or False**

25. As a sinner, man was a servant of the devil, a rebel against God. The consequences of this condition, if unchanged, were grave.

(Question):

- A. A sinner is a rebel against God. **True or False**  
B. A sinner is a servant of the devil. **True or False**

26. Two of the major consequences of sin are (1) separation from God and (2) death. Isaiah said, “your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hidden my face from you, that He will not hear,” (Isaiah 59:2). Paul said, “the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,” (Romans 6:23). Thus, the consequences of sin are extremely grave – the difference between life and death spiritually.

(Question):

- A. Separation is a consequence of sin. **True or False**  
B. Death is a consequence of sin. **True or False**

27. Now as we pass from the general (man) to the specific (you), it is important to realize that your situation is not so morbid and futile because you have chosen to do something about it. Having obeyed the commands of Christ as studied in our first lesson, you were cleansed of your sins; you were sanctified.

(Question):

- A. Sanctification comes through the Holy Spirit. **True or False**  
B. Sanctification comes through obedience to word of God. **True or False**

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28. Though you were a rebel against God, your obedience to His plan for cleansing permits Him to consider you as if you had never sinned. This is what being sanctified means. What love He had for us? So much that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus (John 3:16).

(Question):

- A. Your future with Christ is bright because you have chosen to do something about it. **True or False**
- B. Your future with Christ is bright because you have been sanctified. **True or False**

29. In a sense, you might consider a sanctified person in the same condition as a newborn babe, i.e. sinless. You were born into this world in a perfect state as far as sin is concerned. You were not depraved by heredity; you didn't start off with sins against you. Or, in other words, your slate was clean in the beginning.

(Question):

- A. A sanctified person is in the same condition as a newborn babe. **True or False**
- B. A sanctified person is in the same condition as a sinner. **True or False**

30. Man, then, was not born depraved. Ezekiel stated this principle in Ezekiel 18:20: "The soul that sinneth shall die: the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

(Question):

A. Man is born depraved and sinful. **True or False**

31. If you were born depraved and sinful, how could Christ say, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3)? It is evident that children are not depraved.

32. You remained in this pure condition until you reached an accountable age. Then sin resulted just as with Adam and you, too, separated yourself from God – at this point you become lost.

(Question):

- A. You were pure and sinless all your life. **True or False**
- B. Until you became accountable to God and sinned. **True or False**

33. You did not begin this sinful life by sinning constantly. Rather you drifted into it. Someone has aptly remarked, "People seldom lose their religion by a blowout, it is usually by a slow leak." This is an extremely important principle for you to remember as you embark on this new life!

(Question):

- A. People tend to drift into sin fast. **True or False**
- B. People tend to drift into sin slowly. **True or False**

34. Numbers 7 through 33, we discussed generally (man) and specifically (you) what your relationship was to God in your former state. We might sum it up for emphasis as follows: Man was created a free moral agent; he was free to choose his path, he chose to disobey God and, as a result, separated himself from God; spiritual death came soon,

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followed by physical death. God, though, being merciful and loving set in order a scheme whereby man could be reconciled to Him. Thus, the theme of the Bible became “someone is coming.” This was man’s situation generally – rebels against God. Specifically, you were born into this world pure and sinless. Like Adam of old, you had the power of choice.

35. So when you became accountable to God, you sinned and separated yourself from God. Thankfully you did not stop in this lost and hopeless condition. Now, through your obedience, all things have come new. Your relationship has been changed. Let us look at your new relationship to God and your fellow man.

36. Many things could be said for this new relationship, but I believe Paul states it well in II Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” Thus, your relationship has been changed – all things are new.

(Question):

- A. All things are new to those in Christ. **True or False**
- B. All things are new to those out of Christ. **True or False**

37. Paul, in the above reference, predicates being a new creature on being in Christ. And he indicates in Romans 8:1, “there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Notice that Paul says that no condemnation is to come to those in Christ who truly walk after the Spirit. Thus, the walk is important.

(Question):

- A. A Christian will walk after the flesh. **True or False**
- B. A Christian will walk after the Spirit. **True or False**

38. In this new relationship, you are no longer a rebel against God, rather you have been saved from all your past sins and are clean and pure in God’s sight. Knowing that this is true should be a great source of comfort, consolation and happiness to you.

(Question):

- A. As a Christian you have had all your past sins forgiven. **True or False**

39. This is not to indicate that you are forever saved from sin, however, because that depends on your faithfulness to the promise you made Christ at your conversion. The apostle John admonishes in Revelation 2:10, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

(Question):

- A. A Christian has been saved from all past and future sins. **True or False**

40. In the former state you were a servant of Satan but now you are a child of God, a member of the family of God! Paul points this out in writing to the Romans. “For if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:13,14).

(Question):

- A. Christians are sons of God. **True or False**

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41. Being a child of God, a member of His family makes you an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. “For if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:17).

42. Your new relationship should be a great period of spiritual growth, a seeking after God and His ways. This growth must take place if you are to continue to be pleasing to God. Satan will be constantly challenging you to leave this new life so you must keep your guard high by growing and becoming involved in spiritual things.

(Question):

A. Satan will leave you alone since you have become a Christian. **True or False**

43. Thus far you have learned that all things are new in this relationship – new creature, new walk, new hope of salvation, new child of God, new heir with Christ. Another important new relationship is your membership in the spiritual family of God. In this spiritual family many of the relationships are similar to those in your physical family.

(Question):

A. New relationships imply new concerns. **True or False**

B. New relationships imply new responsibilities. **True or False**

44. Let us note some of these relationships. First, Christ is the husband in this family and the church is His wife (see II Cor. 11:2). This is where you come in because you are now a part of the church, the bride of Christ. You are married to

Christ! Being married implies faithfulness. This is true in both the physical and spiritual realms. Of course, you will not intentionally do things that will reflect on the church of Christ.

(Question):

A. You are married to Christ in a physical sense. **True or False**

B. You are married to Christ in a spiritual sense. **True or False**

45. Another aspect of this family relationship is that you have brothers and sisters, and you have responsibilities to them. You must be concerned about their welfare since all belong to same family.

(Question):

A. As a member of the family of God your duty and responsibilities are to God and Christ only. **True or False**

46. These spiritual relationships can be well illustrated by comparing them to the physical body. What happens when you mash your finger? Aren't the other members of the body concerned? Absolutely! At first you put your finger in your mouth to comfort it, your eyes would examine it to assess the damage, then your other hand applies medication and a bandage to it. Your mind would continue to direct attention to it until the pain goes away. This is the type of concern that should be shown to a fellow brother or sister of Christ.

47. Not only are all relationships new in this changed state but also you are to seek new things. Your first responsibility is to seek the kingdom of God. Jesus gave these instructions in the great Sermon on the Mount: “But seek ye first the kingdom

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of God and His righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).

48. After God, Christ and the church, your responsibility is to others. Lastly, you are to be concerned about yourself. Doubtless, you will grow into this proper emphasis so don't become discouraged if you fail in the very beginning. You must, however, get up and continue.

(Question):

Which is the proper sequence of emphasis?

- A. Self, God, Christ, church then others. **True or False**
- B. God, Christ, church, others, then self. **True or False**

49. Since your relationship is new and you are seeking new things, ask yourself these interesting questions. Why were you saved? Why would Christ die for you?

50. Paul recognized that Christ died for him and indicated so in writings to the Romans. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Roman 5:6). Christ died that you might live. Thus it is important for you to live for him. I believe this is why you were saved – live for Him and serve others.

(Question):

- A. You were saved to live for Christ and to serve others. **True or False**
- B. You were saved because of your good life. **True or False**

51. The life of service is the greatest life you can live. Jesus said, “But he that is greatest among you shall be a servant” (Matt. 23:11). This is the happiest life too!

(Question):

- A. You can be great by only praying. **True or False**
- B. You can be great by serving. **True or False**

52. The above principle is illustrated by the story of a man who was lost in a snowstorm. The blowing snow blinded his vision and numbed his hands and feet. The man plodded on, however, until he was forced by exhaustion to stop. The man had given up hope of getting out of the storm alive. But as he fell into the snow, he realized he had fallen across the body of a friend who had fallen earlier and was near the point of death. The man muttered as he began to rub the body of his friend, “I can't let him die.” By the movement of his own body, he was able to revive his friend and prevented his own body from freezing. Together they were able to get out, and so it is in living the Christian life. Since Christ saved you, may you serve Him and your fellow man.