

STANDING FOR TRUTH

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JoLynn Gower

493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

LESSON FIVE

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

□ **2 Corinthians 6:4-8**...but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the **word of truth**, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;

□ Truth: *aletheia*: certain beyond any doubt

WHO DO YOU LIVE TO PLEASE?

MOVING BEYOND MYSELF

- **Romans 15:1-3** Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."
 - Please: *aresko*: to be agreeable to someone else; to excite positive emotion
 - We please God when we help a weaker brother or sister
 - We please God when we build up our neighbor
 - Jesus did not live to please himself; he lived to please the father by helping us
- PLEASING GOD HAS AN ELEMENT OF SELFLESSNESS

MORE THAN OBEDIENCE

- It is possible to obey God and still not please Him!
- **Galatians 1:10** For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.
- Favor: *peitho*: to gain the confidence of someone
- The Holy Spirit helps us move past “only obedience”
- **Philippians 2:12-13** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

GOD HELPS US LEARN HOW TO PLEASE HIM

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

- ❑ HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT PLEASES GOD?
- ❑ **1 Thessalonians 4:1-2** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority* of the Lord Jesus.
- ❑ Commandments: *parangelia*: strict orders; particularly from a military commander to the troops
- ❑ We follow the instructions that God has given
- ❑ Example: **Exodus 20:13-16** "You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

GOD DEALS WITH SIN

- ❑ Sin doesn't please God...so He deals with it irrespective of the person involved
- ❑ **Colossians 3:23-25** Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.
- ❑ Consequences: *edikeo*: payment for wrong done
- ❑ Freedom from condemnation does not mean freedom from the ramifications of sin
- ❑ **Galatians 6:7-8** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption...

FORGIVENESS

- ❑ **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- ❑ Forgiveness does not mean removal of consequences
- ❑ **Romans 13:12-14** The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.
- ❑ **2 Samuel 12:13-15** Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. However...."

PUTTING ASIDE....

- **1 Peter 2:1-3** Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.
- **Malice:** *kakia*: evil, intentional trouble-making
- **Deceit:** *dolos*: a decoy, guile
- **Hypocrisy:** *hupokrisis*: two faced; false pretense
- **Envy:** *phthonos*: jealousy, usually of things
- **Slander:** *katalalia*: intentional evil speaking
- **James 1:21-22** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

HOLINESS TO LOVE

- ❑ As we yield to the Spirit, sanctification ensues in meaningful ways
- ❑ The resulting desire for holiness facilitates our ability to love others as God desires
- ❑ **1 Thessalonians 3:11-13** Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

ABOUT LOVE

- **John 13:34-35** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
- Love: *agapao*: to love in a social/moral sense that puts the best interest of another before your own
- Agape love is more an action than an emotion
- **Romans 12:9-13** *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

A NEW NATURE

- ☐ **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- ☐ Creature: *ktisis*: product; formation
- ☐ New: *kainos*: refreshed or renewed
- ☐ **Colossians 3:9-10** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—
- ☐ God made man in His image; sin skewed the image
- ☐ But when we receive Christ, God begins the renewal process for our image that is becoming more like who we were originally created to be

NO LAZY CHRISTIANS

□ 2 Thessalonians 3:6-11 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. Even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.