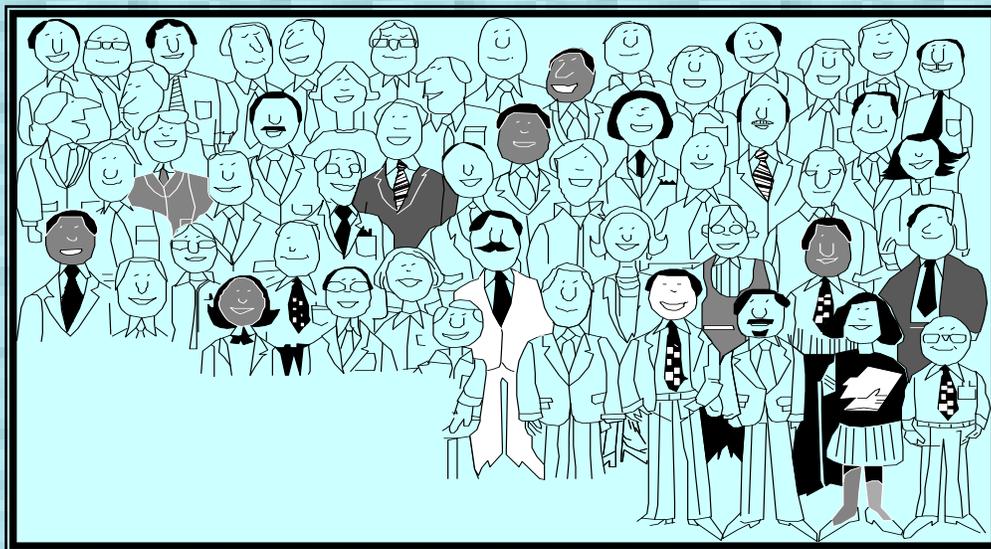


A Study on

Basic Human Needs



Prepared by
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A Study of

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

12 Lessons

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Preface

The Creation of man by God was unique—he was made in the image of God, Himself (Genesis 1:26-27). Man's creation was designed so that they would share and enjoy many things in common, but differences as well (Acts 17:26-28). The things that we share in common make it easy to identify with one another better and gives the ability to help one another.

Man and the Animal world have a common creator, as well as some things in common. However, there are vast differences! Animals act by instinct—reacting to outward conditions according to the desires which God has placed within them. While man has intellect, sensibility, emotion, volition (a will, choice), he also has basic needs that need to be satisfied for his well-being physically, emotional, mentally, socially, spiritually, etc. What is significant about man is his ability to evaluate his needs, choose to fulfill them or not, and as well, to fulfill them either correctly or incorrectly. When these needs are fulfilled correctly, man is acting righteously (according to God's Will). When they are fulfilled incorrectly, man is acting sinfully (going against God's Will).

This study is about the common basic needs that all men have and the need to choose to fulfill them, not only in the best way, but the way that is righteous (Romans 6:16). Man's study of himself has come up with a great number of felt needs. Our study will be limited to some of the more basic ones that are easily recognized. By looking at these, it is easier to understand why people act as they do, and to be able to see the motivation behind our actions.

Everyone wants to find happiness and it is the constant search of mankind. We believe that man's greatest happiness comes from fulfilling his needs correctly. The Bible is God's Divine Revelation to man to give guidance in his decision-making-process (John 10:10; 1 Timothy 4:8; 2 Peter 1:3). It is coming to know and to follow these teachings that promises us happiness and well-being (John 13:17; Proverbs 1:7). Thus, optimum happiness and mental health should come from full knowledge and obedience to God's Will. Forgiveness of our mistakes helps us to continue in the way of happiness.

*--Paul E. Cantrell
2003*

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Basic Human Needs

Physical Needs

Matthew 6:31-32

Need of Safety—Security

Romans 8:28

Need of Love—Sense of Belonging

Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 5:33; Titus 2:4

Need of Self-Esteem—Self-Respect

1 Peter 2:5; 1 John 3:1

Need of Play—Laughter—Humor

Proverbs 15:13; Ecclesiastes 3:4

Need of Information

John 17:3; 2 Peter 3:18

Need of Understanding—Wisdom

Ephesians 3:3-5; Proverbs 3:13-18

Need of Beauty—Aesthetics

1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; Proverbs 31:30

Need of Self-Actualization

Philippians 3:8-11; Matthew 5:48; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Lesson One

“Recognizing Basic Human Needs”

INTRODUCTION

1. All humans have needs.
 - a) We seem to be created with them.
 - b) And/or develop them as we mature into adulthood.
 - c) Researchers, over the years, have come up with a list of what they consider “Basic Human Needs.”
 - Some deal with our very survival.
 - Some deal with the enrichment and enjoyment of life.
 - That which gives satisfaction, meaning, purpose, well-being, and contentment to living.
 - Needs are not necessarily isolated from other needs—may overlap or affect each other.
2. God shows this to us also—by providing ways for these needs to be satisfied.

DISCUSSION

I. LISTING OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS—WITH SCRIPTURE EMPHASIS

A. Physical Needs

- 1) This is one of the more obvious needs of humans.
- 2) God’s recognition is also as obvious. Matthew 6:31-32; 1 Timothy 5:8
- 3) Wide range of needs—food, clothing, shelter, etc.
- 4) If certain human needs are not met—we die!
- 5) Quality of our existence depends upon how well these needs are met.

B. Need of Safety—Security

- 1) Most of us are fully aware of this need as well.
- 2) However, the way some people act, you might be caused to doubt it.
- 3) Many of our laws are to help give this sense of safety—security.
- 4) God’s recognition is again obvious. Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 5:7
- 5) Religiously—this sense of safety—security has been carried to an extreme position. *“Once saved, always saved.”* (Jn. 10:26-29)

C. Need of Love—Sense of Belonging

- 1) Children demonstrate this so obviously—the need to be accepted.
- 2) Adults are not far behind.
- 3) This is one of the great values of the Human Family—to satisfy such needs as this.
- 4) God’s Recognition of this. Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 5:33; Titus 2:4
- 5) The expressions:
 - a) *“God loves you.”*
 - b) *“I love you.”*
 - c) *“We all love you”*—illustrate the need!

D. Need of Self-Esteem—Self-Respect

- 1) As a human being, I am worth something.
- 2) I have a need to feel good about myself.
- 3) I need to be able to respect myself.
- 4) God recognizes this also. 1 Peter 2:5; 1 John 3:1;
- 5) Designed to encourage such. 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:33
- 6) *“Stop feeling sorry for yourself.”*
- 7) *“I am so bad I don’t deserve this.”*

E. Need of Play—Laughter—Humor

- 1) *“You are too serious—lighten up!”*
- 2) The great value of laughter seems to be obvious to all of us.
- 3) Why? Maybe we need this change from seriousness occasionally.
- 4) We need recreation—some play time—rest—relaxation—change.
- 5) *“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.”*
- 6) God recognizes this need also. Proverbs 15:13; Ecclesiastes 3:4

F. Need of Information--Knowledge

- 1) Knowing things makes conversation possible—beginning point!
- 2) The need to know involves our survival as well as our happiness.
- 3) Mankind has a sense of curiosity that is craving to be satisfied.
- 4) God emphasizes this need to know also—He has given us His Word.
John 17:3; 2 Peter 3:18; Psalm 119:72

G. Need of Understanding—Wisdom

- 1) To have head-knowledge, but not understanding, is not desirable. (Proverbs 1:22; Psalm 119:104)
- 2) The need is to get understanding from what you learn.
- 3) This leads to wisdom—knowing how to use your understanding.
- 4) The need for this should also be obvious to a thinking person.
- 5) God’s recognition is clearly stated. Proverbs 3:13-18; Ephesians 3:3-5

H. Need of Beauty—Aesthetics

- 1) *“How can those people stand to live in that terrible mess.”*
- 2) We are given sight to enjoy our beautiful universe—our earth.
Ps. 19:1—*“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”*
- 3) We appreciate outward beauty about us—in people also.
- 4) We have a need to feel beautiful or handsome.
- 5) Millions of dollars are spent in such an effort.
- 6) God’s recognition of this need—but the more important aspect of it.
1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; Proverbs 31:30

I. Need of Success---Self-Actualization

- 1) The need to attain, succeed, or accomplish.
- 2) The need to become all I am capable of becoming.
- 3) This would involve the Religious emphasis in one’s life as well.
- 4) God’s recognition in the form of a challenge. Matthew 5:48; Philippians 3:8-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

II. HUMAN NEEDS MUST BE SATISFIED CORRECTLY?

A. Satisfied Human Needs can bring happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning, purpose, well-being, contentment into our life.

- 1) While we may function fairly well when one or more of our needs are not met sufficiently.....
- 2) Yet, the desired end is to have our needs met fully.
- 3) The whole person's needs—Physically, Emotionally, Socially, Spiritually.

B. These human needs must be satisfied correctly to bring the greatest joy into our lives.

- 1) Illustrate:
 - a) Mankind has need of food to satisfy his physical hunger.
 - b) To work for it—to buy it—or have it given is okay.
 - c) But to steal it is the wrong way to satisfy the need. (Eph. 4:28)
- 2) Illustrate:
 - a) Mankind has sexual needs to be fulfilled.
 - b) It is correctly fulfilled in marriage.
 - c) It is incorrectly fulfilled outside of marriage—regardless of what others say or do. (Hebrews 13:4)

CONCLUSION

1. We all have needs to be fulfilled.
 - a) They should be recognized.
 - b) They should be understood.
 - c) They then, should be satisfied correctly.
2. How we deal with these needs can make a big difference in our lives.
3. It can show our maturity—but also it can determine our eternal destiny.

Lesson Two

*“Finding Fulfillment for our
Basic Human Needs”*

INTRODUCTION

1. 1st lesson:
 - a) A listing & discussion of Basic Human Needs.
 - b) Illustrated practically & scripturally.
 - c) We tried to show God’s recognition of these needs in Scripture.
 - d) Emphasized—We must fulfill our needs correctly.
2. Why be concerned about fulfilling our needs?
 - a) Because our physical lives depend upon such.
 - b) Because our spiritual lives depend upon such.
 - c) Because our happiness and contentment depend upon such.

DISCUSSION

I. THE OUTCOME OF FULFILLING A NEED

A. Fulfilling these needs will bring such things as:

- 1) Pleasure
- 2) Contentment
- 3) Happiness
- 4) Peace within....etc.

B. To illustrate:

- 1) A person is hungry.
 - a) He eats a sufficient amount of food.
 - b) He feels full, satisfied, contented.
- 2) A person compliments you on your looks, clothes, hair, actions, etc.
 - a) You are appreciative!
 - b) Why? They have satisfied one or more needs that you have!
 - c) Such as: Self-esteem, love-belonging, etc.

C. Illustrate Biblically:

1) Matt. 5:1-12

- a) Happy or blessed—in what way?
- b) Their needs will be fulfilled.
- c) Notice the outcome given in each:
 - **“Shall be filled” (v. 6)**
 - **“Great is your reward in heaven” (v. 12)**
 - Here, a greater need (Eternal Life) will be fulfilled when a lesser need is not fulfilled (No preservation of human life).

2) Matt. 6:30-33

- a) Promised fulfillment of needs.
- b) God not only recognizes needs—but sees to fulfillment.

c) But, we have an obligation first!

3) Prov. 25:21-22

- a) Supply your enemy's need....
- b) Help make him your friend.

D. Degrees of fulfillment.

- 1) Progression:
 - a) Total void of pleasure
 - b) Degrees of deprivation
 - c) Minimal
 - d) Partial
 - e) Moderate
 - f) Adequate
 - g) Optimal fulfillment
- 2) Our desire would be optimal fulfillment—but not totally necessary!
- 3) We often have to compromise or accept somewhat lesser degree.
- 4) Matt. 5:12—Persecution—loss of life—Great is your reward!
- 5) Phil. 4:10—Rejoiced greatly—optimum!
- 6) Phil. 4:18—Have all—abound—full

E. Cycle of fulfillment.

- 1) Satisfaction of a need is continual—to some degree or another.
- 2) Not a one-time thing!
- 3) Illustrate:
 - a) *"I told you once that I loved you, and if I ever change my mind, I'll let you know."*
 - b) Why doesn't that make you feel good???
 - c) A need must be satisfied over and over and over again!
- 4) Biblically
 - a) Matt. 6:9-11
 - Give us this DAY
 - Our DAILY bread
 - b) Matt. 4:4
 - Man needs more than just physical food.
 - He needs spiritual food.
 - Inferred—continued need to learn—fill our souls with God's Word.
 - c) We are a "NEED MACHINE" that needs "QUARTERS" put in it all the time to keep it operating smoothly.

E. Humans are dependent upon each other for "Need fulfillments."

- 1) Extreme statements:
 - a) *"I don't need anyone!"*
 - b) *"Nobody likes me!"* (May expect everyone to like him)
- 2) Humans need humans to fulfill our Basic needs.
- 3) Biblically:
 - a) Gen. 2:18, 22
 - b) 1 Cor. 12:25
 - c) Human family
 - d) Family of God

II. OUTCOME OF UNFULFILLED NEEDS

A. In General:

- 1) Terms to express concept:
 - a) Unfulfilled, unhappy, discontent, miserable, something missing.
- 2) But feelings & terms to be used can go deeper:
 - a) Bring on pain, hurt, discomfort, sadness, fear, anxiety, etc.
 - b) These all could be signs of unfulfilled human needs.
- 3) We may even use such terms as: Stress, frustration, anger, hopeless-ness, confusion.

B. Illustrate:

- 1) Hate may arise when someone interferes with a need being fulfilled. (1 Jn. 3:15)
- 2) Jealousy may surface when we are afraid someone will take away a thing or person that we perceive necessary to our need fulfillment. (Gal. 5:19-20)
- 3) Envy is not having my need fulfilled, but seeing others that are having them fulfilled. (Gal. 5:21)
- 4) Selfishness is when I rush in to fulfill my needs without consideration of others' needs. (Phil. 2:4)

C. Unfulfilled needs are where many of our problems come from.

- 1) Marriage problems can easily be traced to unfulfilled needs.
- 2) In the Home, At Work, At Play—even in the church—problems can be traced to unfilled needs.
- 3) Usually—trouble may not be over some big thing—but little things.
- 4) We need each other to help satisfy or fulfill our needs.
- 5) Unfilled needs over a period of time add up to big problems.

III. SOME NEEDS ARE MORE DOMINANT AT CERTAIN TIMES THAN OTHERS.

A. There are variations in the strength of our needs.

- 1) Some needs are obviously more dominant than others.
- 2) But even the less dominant may have their time for dominance.

B. Illustration:

- 1) We are not hungry all the time—but hunger can be dominant.
- 2) The need for play, laughter, humor may be more important at certain times than others.

C. Illustration:

- 1) Acts 13:2-3
- 2) They placed the need for food secondary to the spiritual need to fast and pray.
- 3) This is an indication of maturity.

D. Illustration:

- 1) Philippians 3:7-8
- 2) Paul's willingness to give up the normal fulfillment of needs for something greater is obvious here.
- 3) Philippians 4:11-13

E. Illustration:

- 1) Some times we are forced to go hungry—not by choice.
- 2) How well we deal with this indicates our maturity and faith in God.

CONCLUSION

1. It is desirable to understand:
 - a) That we are better people, generally, when our needs are met.
 - b) That unfulfilled needs tend to put pressure on us to act or react.
 - c) That unfulfilled needs leave a void, dissatisfaction, unhappiness, hurt, anger, loneliness, etc.
 - d) But God has made us creatures of choice to deal with life's situations.
 - e) And He has given us His Word as a help in these situations.
2. How we deal with unmet needs can determine:
 - a) Our happiness—as well, reveal our maturity level.

Terms that Identify Unfulfilled Human Needs

Physical Needs

Food—Hungry, malnutrition, starvation

Water—Thirsty, dehydrated

Air—Can't breathe, suffocating, choking, asphyxiation

Rest, Sleep—Tired, worn out, fatigued, exhausted

Activity, work, play—Need to get out and do something

Body elimination—Constipation

Minerals, vitamins—Deficiency

Sex—Need a mate

To be warm—Chilled, cold

Need of Safety-Security—Afraid, fearful, scared.

Need of Love—belongingness—Lonely, alienated, estranged, unloved,
hated, friendless, no roots, no family.

Need of Self-respect—Worthless, useless, not needed, blue, blahs,
depressed, suicidal

Need of Play, Laughter—Sad, nothingness, bored

Need of Information—Dumb, stupid, ignorant

Need of Understanding—Educated feel, idiot

Need of Beauty—Uncultured

Need of Self-Actualization—Cheated, unfulfilled, left out in life, lost,
Unsaved, condemned.

By Bob Rigdon

“Discovering Yourself” pp. 42-43

Lesson Three

“Challenges to Fulfilling Our Needs”

Introduction

1. We have been created with basic needs in our lives that are calling for fulfillment.
 - a) When these needs are fulfilled, they give happiness, contentment, pleasure, peace, etc.
 - b) Failure to have these needs fulfilled can bring on unhappiness, discontent, lack of pleasure, lack of peace, etc.
2. But we recognize that all of our needs are not satisfied like we would like.
 - a) Thus, we are faced with the challenge of what to do.
 - b) Do we find a correct way to satisfy our needs?
 - c) Do we satisfy our needs any way we can, regardless of the consequences?
 - d) Or, do we act like mature adults and forego them for a time?
3. God has not only created us with needs, but:
 - a) He has also shown us how to fulfill them correctly.
 - b) And, at times, to forego their fulfillment for something greater.
4. This lesson—Scriptural ways of proper need fulfillment.

DISCUSSION

I. WRONG WAYS OF NEED FULFILLMENT.

A. At the Expense of Others.

- 1) Example:
 - a) Our self-esteem is low—not being satisfied by others.
 - I make a decision:
 - I will put others down, so I can feel superior.
 - I will brag (boast) about myself, my knowledge, my ideas, my actions—and show them up.
 - b) Unfortunately, that need isn't really satisfied that way.
 - It only hurts others—and leaves us somewhat empty.
 - Because—fundamentally, it is others who help correctly build our self-esteem or worth.
- 2) Scriptures that help us see that!
- 3) Matt. 7:12—***“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”***
- 4) 1 Cor. 8:8-13
 - a) We are encouraged by God:
 - To fulfill our needs with consideration of others.
 - To fulfill them without doing harm to them.

B. At the Expense of Our Conscience.

- 1) Example:
 - a) We have physical sexual needs.

- b) To satisfy this outside of proper marriage is wrong.
 - Because it undermines our self-esteem.
 - Because it destroys our relationship with God.
 - 2) Scriptures that help us see this:
 - a) 1 Cor. 6:18-20
 - b) Heb. 13:4
 - c) 1 Cor. 7:1-5
 - d) 1 Tim. 4:2—“*...having their conscience seared with a hot iron.*”
- C. At the Expense of a Greater Need.**
- 1) Example:
 - a) I have a need for recreation—play—relaxation.
 - b) I’ve worked hard all week.
 - c) I can fulfill that need by going to the lake on Sunday.
 - d) But I feel guilty—knowing that I have neglected to meet and worship with God’s people.
 - 2) Scriptures that help us see this:
 - a) Acts 5:28-29
 - b) The greater need Spiritually was to obey God.
 - c) Priorities are often called for in our lives.

II. PROBLEM AREAS IN NEED FULFILLMENT.

A. Having a wrong value system.

- 1) To think that it is wrong to think well of one’s self.
 - a) God balances this out.
 - b) He warns of the danger of pride. (Jas. 4:6)
 - c) And then tells us how valuable we are. (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
- 2) Thinking that sexual intercourse in marriage is sinful, dirty.
 - a) Heb. 13:4

B. Caught between two opposing groups.

- 1) One group thinks it is fine to get drunk.
- 2) The other believes it is wrong.
- 3) Want to please both groups, but have to make a choice.
- 4) 2 Cor. 6:14-18
- 5) It is important that we satisfy our needs within a correct value system.

C. Over-fulfillment of a need.

- 1) Illustrate:
 - a) We are hungry—we eat—feel full—satisfied—content.
 - b) But, if we over-indulge—we say we are “Stuffed, feel sick, feel like throwing up, miserable.”
 - c) Thus, we lose the sense of fulfillment or pleasure.
- 2) Biblical recognition:
 - a) Gluttony or over-indulging in food or drink.
 - b) Need for self-control emphasized. (Gal. 5:23)
 - c) Prov. 13:25—“*The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.*”

- 3) Illustrate:
 - a) A person compliments you about something.
 - b) It pleases you—satisfies a need or needs.
 - c) But he does it again, and again, and again.
 - d) My need(s) are over-fulfilled—loses its value or desirability.
- 3) Biblical recognition:
 - a) Rom. 12:10
 - b) But, not to over-do it.
 - c) Danger of “Flattery.”
 - d) Prov. 15:23—“*A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is.*”
 - e) Prov. 20:19—“*He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.*”
- 4) Once a need is sufficiently met—the person feels satisfied.

II. HOW TO HANDLE A NEED NOT BEING MET.

A. Strive to reach out and serve others.

- 1) Matt. 20:26-28
- 2) Provides a real benefit to others.
- 3) Gives strong satisfaction to certain basic needs.

B. Use Humor.

- 1) Face up to the fact of the need.
- 2) Talk about it in a humorous way.
- 3) Tends to relieve—satisfies other needs.

C. Turn to something pleasurable.

- 1) Games, sports, hobbies.
- 2) Find satisfaction with other needs that help to deal with ones not fulfilled.

D. Anticipate future fulfillment of need.

E. Try to keep a mature outlook.

CONCLUSION

1. We need to see some things about ourselves:
 - a) Why we feel as we do;
 - b) Why we react as we do;
 - c) Why our needs are not being fulfilled;
 - d) Why we have a void, dissatisfaction, unhappiness, hurt, anger, loneliness, etc., in our lives.
2. But it is important that we deal with unmet needs with guidance from God.

Lesson Four

“Physical Needs”

INTRODUCTION

1. In this lesson we will begin studying more in detail each of the Basic Human Needs.
2. Probably, the more obvious area of our needs is the Physical.
3. Some of our physical needs have to do with our very survival physically!
4. These needs, at times, have caused men to:
 - a) Steal, take by force, or even to kill to satisfy them.
 - b) There is no telling how many wars have been fought to satisfy one or more physical needs.
5. For some:
 - a) Satisfying physical needs come fairly easy;
 - b) While with others....survival is a stark reality and brutally exhausting.
6. Whether our survival physically is an easy one or hard—all need to have their physical needs satisfied.....correctly!

DISCUSSION

I. LISTING OF PHYSICAL NEEDS

A. Food

- 1) Man obviously needs food for survival. (Matt. 4:4; Prov. 30:8-9)
- 2) God has designed that man have sufficient food, but to work for it. (Gen. 3:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:10)
- 3) God doesn't want us to be overly concerned about our physical needs. (Matt. 6:25, 31-32)
- 4) He has promised that these needs will be supplied, if we put His Kingdom and Righteousness first in our lives. (Matt. 6:33)

B. Clothing

- 1) We need sufficient for weather conditions and for modesty.
- 2) God indicated such with Adam and Eve. (Gen. 3:7, 21)
- 3) He is concerned that this need is satisfied correctly. (1 Tim. 2:9-10)
- 4) God is more concerned about dressing up or clothing the inner person. (1 Pet. 3:1-6; Isa. 61:10)
- 5) He doesn't want us to worry about sufficient clothing. (Matt. 6:28, 30)
- 6) He has made the man primarily responsible for seeking that these needs are supplied to the family. (1 Tim. 5:8)

C. Shelter

- 1) Man needs a place out of the weather that is comfortable and safe.
- 2) A part of providing for one's own (1 Tim. 5:8) would be a place to live...that could be called “home.”
- 3) Man tends to put more emphasis on a place here, rather than in Eternity. (John 14:1-3)

D. Family

- 1) A father, mother, brothers, sisters, children, etc.
- 2) God has designed man to get married, have children, establish his own home. (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18, 24-25)
- 3) The family has been designed by God to satisfy, not only many physical needs, but other needs as well.

E. Friends

- 1) Because God has made man a sociable being, man seeks to develop relationships with other humans.
- 2) Jesus spoke about being a friend to his disciples. (Jn. 14:18; 15:15)
- 3) But to be Jesus' friend, we need to keep His commandments. (Jn. 15:14)
- 4) To have friends, we need to be a friend. (Prov. 18:24)
- 5) The need for friends becomes very obvious in the lives of all.

F. Work

- 1) We need work—it is a blessing for us. (Eccl. 5:18-19)
- 2) It is God's design for man to fulfill a basic need in his life. (Gen. 1:29-30; 2:15)
- 3) God desires that man work. (1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:10)
- 4) Not only is work a satisfying of a need within man, but helps to supply the other physical necessities of life.

G. Physical Activity

- 1) Man is designed to be active.
- 2) He generally does well, prospered, feels better from physical activity. (1 Tim. 4:8)
- 3) But God is more concerned for us to exercise ourselves unto godliness that brings greater rewards here and hereafter. (1 Tim. 4:7)

H. Rest and Sleep

- 1) Man is so designed that he needs both rest and sleep.
- 2) Without it, he soon begins to have health problems and eventually death.
- 3) The very creation of night and day seems to suggest this basic need.
- 4) It is said of God, Himself, after creation that He rested from His labors. (Gen. 2:1)
- 5) Upon recognition of this basic need, God offers to man a rest that is greater than the physical. (Heb. 4:4-6; Rev. 14:13)

I. Body Care

- 1) Eating, sleeping, activity....but also, elimination, cleansing, general care.
- 2) The husband is told to care for his wife as he does for his own body. (Eph. 5:28-29)
- 3) One of the great blessings God offers to man in eternity is a new body that doesn't have all of these needs. (1 Cor. 15:42-44)

J. Sexual

- 1) A part of man's make-up is the physical desires or impulses that are

automatic.

- 2) His body is designed, not only for reproducing, but for pleasure or satisfaction. (Gen. 1:27-28; 1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- 3) This need is seemingly more complicated than some of the other physical needs.....and more will be said in this area.

II. GENERAL THOUGHTS ON FULFILLING SEXUAL NEEDS

A. The need for Satisfaction

- 1) God designed marriage—husband/wife relationship—bringing children into the world.
- 2) To enhance this concept, He has placed within humans basic drives or urges.
- 3) It is normal to feel a need for sexual satisfaction...as it makes itself known in our mind and body.
- 4) Need to differentiate between need for sexual release and indulging in lust.
- 5) These desires are generally different between the male & female.
- 6) God wants both to recognize their need to be unselfish in the giving of themselves to each other. (1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- 7) Marriage has been designed as the place for the satisfying of these desires. (Heb. 13:4)
- 8) Dissatisfaction or frustration can result from:
 - a) Ignorance of one's sexual nature;
 - b) Ignorance of sexual nature of one's mate;
 - c) Bad early training;
 - d) Frigidity or impotency;
 - e) Selfishness or false pride;
 - f) One's value system;
 - g) etc.
- 9) It is extremely important for the social & moral institutions (churches, schools, family) to instill proper values in the minds & hearts of people—especially husband and wives—in the fulfilling of these needs.

B. Directions for correct fulfilling of sexual desires.

- 1) 1 Cor. 7:1-5
 - a) Husband & wife to satisfy need for each other.
 - b) Selfishness needs to be avoided.
 - c) Realize that giving of pleasure to another brings pleasure to the giver. (Acts 20:35)
 - d) Need to take pride in giving pleasure to mate.
 - e) Husband needs to recognize the differences and be less demanding of his wife.
 - f) There needs to be thoughtful, considerate, compassionate sexual communication.
- 2) 1 Cor. 6:15-20
 - a) Sexual relations outside of marriage is sinful, wrong, a sin even against one's own body.
 - b) We glorify God with our bodies by being obedient to His will.

- c) All sexual deviation is trying to find satisfaction incorrectly.
 - Fetishism: Sexual arousal and gratification only from inanimate objects.
 - Pedophilia: Sexual relations between an adult and a child.
 - Transvestism: Sexual gratification from wearing the clothes and adopting the role of the opposite sex.
 - Voyeurism: Inability to obtain sexual satisfaction except by looking at nude people.
 - Sadism: Sexual gratification from inflicting pain upon one's sexual partner.
 - Masochism: Sexual gratification from experiencing pain personally.
 - Exhibitionism: Sexual gratification from exposing one's genitals.
 - Incest: Sexual relations between close relatives.
 - Bestiality: Human to beast sexual relations.
 - Rape: Sexual intercourse with another person (not the marriage partner), without that person's consent, by force.

C. Human sexuality is quite complex!

- 1) It includes:
 - a) The Biological
 - b) Physical
 - c) Hormonal factors
 - d) Social norms
 - e) Cultural dictates
 - f) Religious principles
 - g) Unique individual differences
- 2) It should include true love and affection from one's mate.
 - a) Such can bring joy and even ecstasy.
 - b) As well as great satisfaction of a basic need.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Unfulfilled physical needs can bring their challenges....as well as problems.
- 2. It is important that God's people make every effort to fulfill such needs in a righteous way...that is good for all!
- 3. 1 Thess. 4:3-7

Lesson Five

“Need for a Sense of Security”

INTRODUCTION

1. A example:
 - a) An Eskimo and his son goes out to provide for their needs.
 - b) They come back with a bear, two large seals, and a barrel of fish.
 - c) It was no pleasure cruise, but a struggle for the bare necessities of life.
 - d) They do not have to worry about a new car, dental bills, health insurance, or education for their children.
2. A example:
 - a) An executive works for an oil company.
 - b) He makes good money—lots of benefits.
 - c) But he is challenged to:
 - Provide a new sports car and expensive clothes for his daughter;
 - Pay high insurance premiums;
 - Pay high taxes;
 - Put out lots of money to keep up his expensive home.
 - d) And always lurking in background....loss of his job.
3. Economic Security is a need facing all of us....in various forms.
 - a) It is basic to our well-being: physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.
 - b) Jesus realizes this and tries to reassure us, as His children, that we have His promise of such. (Matt. 6:24-30, 33)

DISCUSSION

I. THOUGHTS ABOUT ECONOMIC SECURITY

A. What is meant by the expression?

- 1) To have sufficient to meet our bills and live comfortably.
- 2) To be financially secure in our future.
- 3) To be able to retire comfortably in our older age.
- 4) To pay our own way—not be a burden to anyone.

B. Extreme measures to have economic security.

- 1) Working day, night, week-ends, overtime, etc., just to build up more than is needed for our future.
- 2) Business men spending every effort to find ways to make profits soar.
- 3) Playing the stock market to get quick & big gains.
- 4) All of this tends to leave God, the church, and living godly out of one's life.
- 5) Money becomes our God....our idol. (Col. 3:5)
- 6) We come to love money that brings all kinds of problems into our lives....physically, mentally, and spiritually. (1 Tim. 6:10)

II. NEED TO HAVE A HEALTHY ATTITUDE TOWARDS ECONOMIC SECURITY.

A. Be aware of and avoid extreme attitudes. (1 Tim. 6:10, etc.)

B. Realize that true greatness does not depend upon finances.

- 1) Some of the most honored men & women have been from poor, humble, backgrounds.
- 2) Look at Lazarus and the Rich Man (Lk. 16:19-31)
 - a) What counted in death?
 - b) Who succeeded in the eyes of God?
 - c) Who was the greatest in the day of Judgment?

C. Realize that possessing of things do not offer the satisfaction they advocate.

- 1) Quote: "That which you own will eventually own you."
- 2) When we gain objects, we have to maintain and protect them.
- 3) The more we have, the more problems.
- 4) Instead of contributing to our pleasure, they tend to take away from such.
 - a) We wind up spending our time: Oiling it, Mowing it, Painting it, Repairing it, Cleaning it, etc.
 - b) We almost become slaves to our things!
- 5) Jesus said that possessing possessions is not the real value in life. (Lk. 12:15)

D. Emphasize our stewardship over things God has given us.

- 1) We are managers, not owners of things. (1 Cor. 4:2)
- 2) We are to acquire it and manage it to please our Lord.
- 3) We need to be wise and faithful stewards. (Matt. 25:21)

E. Realize that only God can give true security!

- 1) Matt. 6:33; Prov. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:17; Phil. 4:19
- 2) Need to learn to depend and trust in God's care.

F. Realize that accumulation of things is insufficient reason for living.

- 1) At the end of my life, there needs to be something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses, lands, machines, stocks, and bonds.
- 2) Unless I can look back upon:
 - a) A loving family;
 - b) A consistent investment in the lives of people;
 - c) An earnest attempt to serve God who made me;
 - d) My life will make very little sense!
- 3) Eccl. 12:14

III. OUR PART IN ECONOMIC SECURITY

A. Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness!

- 1) Matt. 6:33; Ps. 37:25
- 2) Our first emphasis must not be on material things.
- 3) Security comes from placing our emphasis upon the Spiritual.
- 4) We commit our lives to God's promised care.
- 5) We keep ourselves right with God:
 - a) By dealing properly with sin in our lives;
 - b) By securing God's continual forgiveness;
 - c) By staying on speaking terms with God;

- d) By walking in the light day by day. (1 Jn. 1:7-10)
- e) By pray and supplication. (Phil. 4:6-7)

B. Work and earn our living!

- 1) This is God's plan. (Eph. 4:28)
- 2) Quote: "*God helps those who help themselves*" is largely true.
- 3) God never endorses laziness. (Prov. 6:6-11; 2 Thess. 3:10)

CONCLUSION

- 1. We all need and want economic security.
- 2. Even after all we can do, we still can lose it all overnight!
- 3. The only real security is to trust in the living God!

Lesson Six

“The Need for Love”

INTRODUCTION

1. We are dealing with the 9 Basic Human Needs that we all experience.
2. When these needs are met:
 - We are happier, more contented, and at peace.
 - It brings about a sense of well-being.
 - The home and the church are made much better.
 - And the nation is made much better.
3. Unfilled needs or incorrectly filled needs can:
 - Bring grave problems in all of these areas;
 - Bring such emotions as hate, anger, fear, anxiety, envy, jealousy, etc.;
 - Bring on physical and emotional irregularities.
4. We want to discuss one of these needs in this lesson: **“The need for Love.”**
 - a) Understood in the sense of having a sense of belonging.
 - b) A sense of being wanted—that someone cares!
5. Problem—The word “love” can be used in various ways!
 - a) We need to make a distinction in what we mean by love.
 - b) The Greeks had words to indicate these differences.
 - c) Eros, Storge, Philia, Agape.
 - d) Each of these words play a vital role in fulfilling human needs.

DISCUSSION

I. WORDS FOR LOVE DEFINED:

A. Eros

- 1) Not used in New Testament
- 2) Word carried over into our language: Erotic, Eroticism.
- 3) It deals with sexual interest, arousal, or fulfillment.
- 4) “Passionate feelings which desires the other person for themselves.”
- 5) “Seeks to satisfy a strong urge or need within, with a certain person.”

B. Storge

- 1) Used in N.T.
 - a) Rom. 1:30-31—astorgos—“without natural affection” (unloving)
 - b) Rom. 12:10—philostorgos—“kindly affectioned”
 - c) 2 Tim. 3:2-3—astorgos—“without natural affection” (unloving)
- 2) “That feeling that draws ‘blood relatives’ together even when **Agape** or **Philia** are not present.”
- 3) The natural bond!

C. Philia

- 1) Used many times in N.T.
 - a) Tit. 2:4—Philia—“To love....husbands....children.”
 - b) Rom. 12:10—Philostorgos—“Kindly affectioned”
- 2) Defined:
 - a) “Affection, delight in the presence of another, a warm feeling, tender affection, closeness.”
 - b) Friendship or companionship usually involved.
 - c) “It is something spontaneous and not something under control of one’s will.”
 - d) “Cannot be commanded—other than to put yourself in a frame of mind or circumstances that helps to promote such.”

D. Agape

- 1) Used rarely by the Greeks in their writings.
- 2) Used many times in the N.T.
- 3) It is more clearly defined by it’s use in the N.T.
- 4) Defined:
 - a) “Godly love”
 - b) Not affection or sexual feelings—Not an impulse of feelings.
 - c) It is an exercise of the mind or the will.
 - d) “I will try to think, speak, and act towards another in a way that is best for them, not for me necessarily, regardless of my feelings for or about them.”
- 5) Commanded by God. (Jn. 13:34-35)

II. FULFILLING NEEDS THROUGH LOVE.**A. *Storge’s role.***

- 1) “The family connection.”
- 2) God condemned the Gentiles—“They were without natural affection.”
 - a) Family bonding was not there.
 - b) There needs to be close family ties for the good of all.
 - c) “*As goes the family, so goes the nation.*”
 - d) Might say this of the church as well!
 - e) The home must foster this feeling of family.
- 3) Illustration:
 - a) A family may fuss and fight with one another, but be together against an outsider.
 - b) A Married child might drive a distance to be with parents, but argue with them while there.
 - Then, do the same next month or next year.
 - Why? Storge—family connection.
 - Storge does not guarantee that Philia will be there.
- 4) Storge & Philia combined.
 - a) Rom. 12:10—“Kindly affectioned with brotherly affection”
 - b) God wants His people to have a similar sense of family, but he tied Philia with it!!(Born into same family)**

- 5) It may be important to realize—must not try to force Storge on non-blood relatives—could create a problem.
 - a) But both Philia or Agape can be involved.
 - b) This is illustrated in adoptive children.
 - c) And may explain why they want to search for their real parents—it is a strong urge—unless killed.

B. Philia's role:

- 1) **Friendship, companionship, affection that comes naturally—not forced or coerced.**
- 2) This can develop naturally in a family that creates the proper atmosphere for Philia to grow.
- 3) A need to form habits of showing affection early with children.
- 4) Parents show affection—Philia not eros—before their children!
- 5) When Storge and Philia are combined and practiced in the home, it will be strong.
- 6) Danger—the hot and cold of Philia at times.
 - a) “I no longer love my husband or my wife.”
 - b) Philia has waned between them. Why? **(Solution)**
 - c) Need to do those things that helps Philia to come back naturally.
 - d) Do what you did at first to bring it on—Court your wife anew!!
 - e) Illustration:
 - “I no longer love my husband.”
 - “I want to get a divorce.”
 - “He has hurt me, and no longer loves me.”
 - “What should I do?”
 - Do the things that created Philia in the first place!
 - Outdo him in doing good to him.
 - Do to him what you would want done to you. (Agape)
 - f) Even in this situation—Agape is still present in some instances.
 - g) Agape can help to bring back Philia.

C. Agape's role:

- 1) **Agape—The love of God for those who did not deserve it.**
- 2) Agape—That which desires the good, even of one's enemies.
- 3) Agape—To do good, not evil, to others even if they do not deserve it.
- 4) This love is primarily of the mind—the will!
- 5) It is the one that can rebuild Philia in a marriage or home.
- 6) It is the one that can stabilize a home in any situation.
- 7) It can carry a family through the rough times—become stronger!

D. Eros' Role:

- 1) **Eros needs to be between a husband and wife.**
 - a) Unfilled desires can bring disaster—Break-up of home, unfaithfulness of one or both, divorce, etc.
 - b) Constant bickering and arguing—even in front of children.
- 2) Eros needs to have Philia & Agape to make the sexual act totally satisfying for both.
 - a) Seeking to please one another.

- b) Do for your mate what you would like done for you.
- c) This may be ecstatic at one time when all combines.
- 3) Philia with Eros is the best definition of Romantic love.
 - a) The mysterious force that all normal people long for and seek after.
- 4) To reduce love to Eros (sexual) can lead to homosexuality.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Proper understanding of love in its over-all picture can certainly help to fill this need.
- 2. Especially, where each of these areas are worked at.
- 3. 1 Cor. 8:1—***“Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”***

Lesson Seven

*“The Need for Self-Respect: A Balance Between
Two Extremes”*

INTRODUCTION

1. We are studying about “Basic Human Needs.”
2. These needs are different: ***In Intensity and In order of importance.***
3. Some needs are vital to our physical existence.
4. Some needs are vital to our mental health.
5. Some needs are vital to our spiritual well-being and destiny.
6. This lesson will be looking at the ***Need for Self-Respect.***
 - a) Of the 9 basic needs listed—this need is ranked 4th in importance.
 - 1st—physical needs.
 - 2nd—safety-security.
 - 3rd—love—sense of belonging.
 - 4th—Self-Respect.
 - b) This ***need*** deals with the concept of ***Human Dignity!***
 - c) Various terms used:
 - Self-Respect
 - Self-Esteem
 - Self-Worth
 - Self-Regard
7. Interesting quotes:
 - a) “Self-respect is a basic sense of one’s own value, not vanity or false pride, but a proper sense of self-regard—a conviction that one is a self-worth being.”
 - b) “Equal in importance to the need for love is the need that we are worthwhile both to ourselves and to others.”
 - c) “Humans who are seeking for their identity are seeking the fulfillment of these two needs: love and self-respect.”
 - d) “Clinicians are well aware in a general way that many of the disturbed patients who come to them for treatment feel themselves to be incompetent and socially rejected.”
 - e) “If we do not fulfill our need to feel worthwhile, we will suffer as acutely as when we fail to love and be loved.”
 - f) “Pathologic loss of self-esteem is characteristic of clinical depression.”

DISCUSSION

I. TWO EXTREME POSITIONS IN HOW WE VIEW OURSELVES:

A. Self-Depreciation.

- 1) Terms:
 - a) “*I’m no good.*”
 - b) “*I can’t get anything right.*”
 - c) “*All I am good for is to be used by others to be put down.*”

- d) *“I’m awful, sinful, bad, terrible.”*
- 2) Exo. 4:10-14
- a) *“Why me, Lord, I’m no good at speaking!”*
- b) Why did Moses so view himself?
- He had been educated in the best that Egypt had to offer.
 - He was being groomed for leadership in Egypt.
 - Circumstances & his choice brought him very low.
 - He is not important any longer as he once was.
 - He is now a lowly shepherd in the desert.
- c) Why would God choose someone like him?
- d) God sharply rebuked Moses!
- 3) Matt. 25:24-30
- a) *“I am not capable of handling this money—I might lose it.”*
- b) But each was given the amount that they were capable of handling.
- c) He depreciated himself.
- d) In doing so, he condemned himself.
- 4) Observation: *“Trying to escape duties, obligations, or responsibilities is not humility nor holiness—but sin!”*
- B. Conceit or Pride.**
- 1) Terms:
- a) *“Nose in the air”*
- b) *“Stuck up”*
- c) *“Stuck on himself.”*
- d) *Arrogant, haughty.*
- 2) Rom. 12:10
- a) To think too highly of one’s self.
- b) Praising one’s self.
- b) Pride is often used in a good sense:
- *“Take pride in one’s self.”*
 - *“Son, I am proud of you.”*
- 3) Luke 14:7-11
- a) Wrong—Choose the best places
- b) Right—Choose the lowest place.
- c) Let others sing your praises.

II. PROPER VIEW OF SELF:

A. We need to avoid extremes!

- 1) Depreciation of self or conceited view of self.
- 2) These can lead to all kinds of problems in the Home, Church, Work, and community.
- a) Break-up of homes comes back to these extremes.
- b) Divisions in church can be attributed to such. (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
- *“I am of Paul, Cephas, Apollos, Christ....”*
 - Poor view of self—having to identify with important people—even if it causes division.
- 3) Low view of self can cause us to do strange things—ridiculous things.

- 4) Even to committing suicide!
- B. We need to properly evaluate ourselves.**
- 1) 2 Cor. 13:5—“**Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.**”
 - 2) Do we have the right view of ourselves?
 - 3) Also, Do we have the right view towards others?
 - a) 1 Pet. 2:17—“**Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**”
 - b) Matt. 22:39—“**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**”
 - c) Eph. 5:33—“**Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**”
 - d) Our view about ourselves can affect our views of others.
- C. Proper self-worth is emphasized in Scripture.**
- 1) Gal. 6:1-4
 - a) “**You who are spiritual**”—Proper self-worth.
 - b) “**considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**”
 - Humility
 - But not depreciation.
 - c) “**bear one another’s burdens**”
 - When we help another...we feel good about ourselves!
 - d) “**if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**”
 - Puffed up—haughty—too high a view of self.
 - Improper view—will bring problems—not help situation
 - e) “**Let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.**”
 - If we help another—feel good about ourselves.
 - We have a proper basis for “boasting” or “rejoicing.”
 - 2) Matt. 20:26-27
 - a) To be 1st or to be great—need to serve others!
 - b) When we humble ourselves before God—He exalts us! (Jas. 4:10)
 - c) Phil. 2:5-11
 - Jesus came to serve—humbled himself—proper view of self.
 - He was highly exalted!
 - Is there anything wrong with being exalted?
 - Only if we exalt ourselves!
- D. Allow others to praise our efforts.**
- 1) Instead of singing our own praises, be sure we let others do that!
 - 2) Prov. 27:2—“**Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.**”
 - 3) Graciously accept the honor & praise of others!

CONCLUSION

1. Self-Respect:
 - a) Is Right!
 - b) Is neither conceit nor self-depreciation.

Lesson Eight

*“The Need for Self-Respect:
How Destroyed and Built”*

INTRODUCTION

1. We are looking at the Basic Human Need of Self-Respect, Self-Esteem, Self-Worth, Self-Regard, or Human Dignity.
2. In lesson 7 we looked at a balance between two extremes.
 - a) Extreme of self-depreciation—illustrated by Moses and the one-talent man.
 - b) Extreme of Conceit or Pride—Rom. 12:3 and Luke 14:7-11.
(Other passages listed that condemns pride in its various forms)
 - c) And then we looked at the correct view of self.
 - a) Avoiding the extremes by proper view. (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
 - b) Properly evaluating ourselves in light of God’s Word. (2 Cor. 13:5)
 - c) The need to love others as ourselves. (Matthew 22:39)
 - d) The Need for the husband to love his wife as himself. (Eph. 5:33)
 - e) Need for proper self-respect emphasized: Gal. 6:1-4; Matt. 20:26-27; Phil. 2:5-11
 - f) And then—let others praise us—accept such graciously.
3. In this lesson:
 - a) How Self-Esteem is undermined by others.
 - b) How God helps us to build proper Self-Esteem.
 - c) What We can do to help build proper Self-Esteem.

DISCUSSION

I. HOW SELF-ESTEEM IS UNDERMINED BY OTHERS.

A. By a failure to treat people with dignity.

- 1) Jn. 8:1-11
 - a) Religious leaders did not show respect for this woman.
 - b) But Jesus did—as a human being needing self-respect.
 - c) Jesus showed love (agape) to her.
 - d) ***“Neither do I condemn you—go and sin no more.”***
 - e) He did not condone her sin, but loved the sinner—respect!
- 2) Husbands & wives say & do things to each other that degrades.
 - a) Eph. 5:33—Treat with proper love & respect.
 - b) 1 Peter 5:7—Honor—respect.
- 3) By Parents berating and putting down their children.
 - a) Eph. 6:1-4
 - Parents should be respected!
 - But so should parents respect their children!
 - Col. 3:21

- How many sons or daughters have been “driven” into sin, instability, or mental illness by parents who undermine their Self-Worth!
- 4) Undermining Respect of Leaders in the Church.
 - a) 1 Thess. 5:12-13
 - b) Heb. 13:7, 17
 - 5) Undermining Respect for Governmental Officials.
 - a) Rom. 13:1-7
 - b) 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - 6) All of these areas of relationships can be affected by wrong words and actions toward others.

B. Survey of Graduate Students that illustrate attitudes & actions that help to undermine Self-Esteem. (Handout)

II. GOD’S EFFORTS TO HELP BUILD OUR SELF-WORTH.

A. By His offer of a Relationship with Him.

- 1) That we can actually become children of God. (Jn. 1:12; 1 Jn. 3:1)
- 2) We can be joint heirs with Christ. (Rom. 8:17)
- 3) Everlasting Life with Him. (1 Jn. 5:11)

B. By His offer of Forgiveness.

- 1) Remission of all our sins & transgressions. (Acts 2:38)
- 2) A new start—in newness of life. (Rom. 6:4)
- 3) Gave His Son to make this possible. (Jn. 3:16)

C. By the terms He uses to describe us in His sight.

- 1) Saints. (1 Cor. 1:2)
- 2) Holy Priesthood. (1 Pet. 2:5)
- 3) Chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation, His own special people. (1 Pet. 2:9)

D. By helping us realize who we are and to whom we belong!

III. WHAT WE CAN DO TO BUILD OUR OWN SELF-ESTEEM.

A. By a successful work ethic & experience.

- 1) Work definitely plays a major role in all of our lives.
- 2) Thus, it can play a big role in helping to determine our self-worth.
 - a) We need to feel that our efforts are worthwhile and appreciated.
 - b) To do what we are not only capable of doing, but gain respect from others as well.
- 3) Eph. 4:28
- 4) Proverbs 31—The worthy woman earned her families’ respect by her work ethic.
 - a) Prov. 31:11—*“The heart of her husband safely trusts her.”*
 - b) Prov. 31:28—*“Her children rise up and call her blessed.”*
 - c) Prov. 31:28—*“Her husband also, and he praises her.”*
 - d) Prov. 31:39—*“But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”*
 - e) Prov. 31:31—*“Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.”*
- 5) Have you noticed:

- a) When society tries to devalue the woman's role in the home, she will naturally turn to outside work to satisfy the need of Self-Worth.
- b) The job of the male is especially critical in helping to build his self-worth.
- c) The shame when he does not provide for his own is pointed out in Scripture. (1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess. 3:10)
- d) Why does a rich man still labor?
 - He doesn't need the money.
 - There must be a need being satisfied—psychologically.
 - Eccl. 2:10, 24; 3:13; 4:4; 5:19; Prov. 14:23
- e) Spiritually—1 Cor. 15:58

B. By living up to one's moral values.

- 1) This is where our conscience and sense of guilt plays a role.
 - a) We cannot violate our conscience without adverse effects.
 - b) Quote: *"Guilt has normal psychological and social functions, but special intensity or absence of guilt characterizes many mental disorders, such as depression and antisocial personality."*
 - c) Quote: *"Society could not exist without the internal restraints which guilt places on us."*
 - d) Our conscience is trying to help us do what we believe is right and to avoid the wrong.
 - e) Too strict a conscience can lead to anxiety or depression.
 - f) Too loose a conscience can lead to over-indulgence in wrong.
 - g) There needs to be a balance.
- 2) Guilt needs to be dealt with correctly.
 - a) Parents need to teach their children:
 - The value of conscience.
 - The value of guilt.
 - How to properly deal with guilt.
 - A balanced approach to guilt—not extremes.
- 3) Scriptures that deal with conscience:
 - a) Rom. 2:14-15
 - Some lived up to their conscience.
 - Such helps us to feel good about our self and our relationship to God.
 - b) Acts 23:1
 - Paul lived in all good conscience, but still sinned!
 - Conscience is not an absolute guide, but a reliable guide to what one has been taught or learned.
 - Paul had a good self-image because he did not go against his conscience in persecuting Christians..
 - c) 1 Tim. 4:1-2
 - Conscience seared—no longer dependable for guidance.
 - As a results, look what they were doing:
 - Departed from the faith;

- Giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons;
- Speaking lies in hypocrisy.

- Would you say they have a good, healthy, self-image?

- 4) When we go against God's value system:
 - a) This is called sin. (1 John 3:4)
 - b) We then experience guilt...until:
 - We rectify the situation;
 - Or, sear our conscience.
 - c) Our self-respect is lowered until we properly deal with our actions.
 - d) Happiness comes from living up to our value system (God's system). (1 Tim. 4:8)
 - 5) **MENTAL HEALTH** is where our needs are satisfied sufficiently and in a way that there is no sense of guilt.
 - 6) Rom. 4:7-8
- C. Accepting Discipline from others or from ourselves.**

- 1) **Mentally healthy people** have a proper view of themselves.
 - a) Where does it come from?
 - b) Why do they have such?
 - From their successful work ethic & experiences.
 - From their living up to their moral values.
 - And also...from discipline in their lives.
- 2) Discipline helps us to:
 - a) Make plans for our life that brings happiness & contentment.
 - b) Make the right choices in life.
 - c) Bring ourselves into the control of God's will.
 - d) Look at Joseph:
 - In spite of not having his needs properly satisfied....
 - He made the right choices.
 - He had his life in control of God's will.
 - He had to feel good about himself.
 - e) Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 9:27: ***"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."***
 - He had every reason to have a good self-image.
 - What made it a proper self-image—he gave the glory to God.
- 3) Concerning self-discipline:
 - a) When do we feel good about ourselves:
 - When we are lazy, indolent, unconcerned about things that need to be done;
 - Or, when we are busy accomplishing those things that need our attention?
 - b) Normally, self-respect and happiness comes from bringing ourselves into line!
 - c) Matt. 7:21; 2 John 9
 - d) When do we fuss at ourselves? (When we get out of line).
- 4) Concerning discipline of children:

- a) Extreme harshness may cause children to be undisciplined.
 - b) But too much laxness may cause the same thing.
 - c) Balance is called for.
 - d) Grace needs to be given to self and others.
 - e) It is God's grace that brings us all back into line!
- 5) We need to accept discipline from others:
- a) God does it for our good. (Heb. 12)
 - b) Parents do it for our good, generally. (Heb. 12)
 - c) Government does it for our good, generally. (Rom. 13)
 - d) Employers do it for our good, generally. (Col. 4:1)

CONCLUSION

1. We need to avoid those things that undermine our self-worth.
2. We need to read often those statements from God that are designed to build up our proper self-worth.
3. We need to recognize our part in building a correct self-image:
 - a) Successful work ethic and experiences.
 - b) Living up to our moral values (God's values).
 - c) Exercising of discipline in our lives—from self and others.
4. What about your self-esteem?
 - a) Do you feel blue, down, always tired, the spark is gone, hopeless, why try, or depressed?
 - b) Or, do you feel good about yourself, feel capable, "I have meaning in my life," etc.
5. Proper self-esteem comes from putting God first in our lives. (Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 6:33).
 - a) It is a continuous need in our lives.
 - b) When this need is not filled correctly:
 - c) We are "blue, down, depressed, chronically tired, the spark is gone, hopeless, sad, pessimistic, self depreciating."
 - d) We can also become short-tempered, angry, irritable, critical, and abusive.
6. When this need is filled correctly:
 - a) We can be "satisfied, contented, happy, confident, energetic, optimistic, needed, worthwhile, glad to get up, world is a good place, etc."
 - b) Most of all—We can be right with our God!

**85 WAYS THAT MEN AND WOMAN SHOW DISRESPECT
FOR EACH OTHER!**

(The following items were submitted by 100 graduate students in Brother Rigdon's classes)

1. Using filthy language, dirty jokes.
2. Not being courteous, opening doors, helping carry things, etc.
3. Not realizing women take things more seriously than men.
4. Being selfish with time—doing what he wants when he wants to.
5. Not respectful of how the wife spends money, not realizing how hard it is to make ends meet.
6. Not taking the wife out to eat, forgetting birthdays, anniversaries, gifts, special occasions.
7. Dipping or spitting in my presence.
8. Belching.
9. Not pulling a chair out for me at the table.
10. Making comments about the attractiveness of other women.
11. Not including me in the conversation with others.
12. Putting women down.
13. Not wearing a shirt to the table.
14. Keeping hats on inside a building.
15. Making flirty comments to other women.
16. Smoking without asking.
17. Late for appointments, meals, etc.
18. Not taking time to clean up, shave, etc.
19. Being overly polite—gentleman to extreme.
20. Honking horn for me to come out of house.
21. Not helping get the children ready.
22. Not showing affection.
23. Criticize my appearance.
24. Spending money only on his wants.
25. Budgeting my money—all of it.
26. Not appreciating meals—cooking—house being clean.
27. Not being sensitive to mood swings.
28. Making fun of driving ability.
29. Being unsympathetic when ill.
30. Not being helpful when I am under stress.
31. Not listening.
32. Depreciating my family.
33. Not appreciating my skills.
34. Not encouraging my hobbies—skills—etc.
35. Lack of openness.
36. Contradiction of my stories, etc.
37. Never takes out the garbage.
38. Never replaces toilet paper or light bulbs.
39. Throws clothes on floor.
40. Doesn't clean up his mess.
41. Doesn't go to church with me.
42. Never baby sits.

43. Won't talk about certain things.
44. Downing me.
45. Watches TV all the time.
46. Won't allow me to show my feelings.
47. Plays games with me—never serious—always a joke.
48. Not supportive in public.
49. Never asks my opinion or advice.
50. Never notices what I am wearing.
51. Ignores me—gives me the silent treatment.
52. Always running others down.
53. Compares me with his mother.
54. Never volunteers to help—I have to ask—that is demeaning.
55. Expects the impossible.
56. Not appreciative of my sexual response or needs.
57. Will not lead or take responsibility.
58. Leaves the child raising to me.
59. Spends all his time on his job.
60. He will not keep the checkbook.
61. He will not pay the bills for me.
62. Takes me for granted.
63. Brings home guests without calling.
64. Takes sides with the children.
65. Laughs at me or won't laugh with me.
66. Exploitive of our sexual relationship.
67. Badgers me.
68. Will not treat my friends nice.
69. Won't speak to me in the morning.
70. Doesn't keep me informed about mutual things.
71. Can't disagree without shouting—getting made.
72. Being smart-aleck, calls me by hurtful labels, names; he thinks they are cute.
73. Always a "I told you so."
74. Always giving precedence to children's needs.
75. "Using" husband—no real love or concern.
76. Henpecks.
77. Treating me as a child.
78. Tries to put me on a guilt trip.
79. Makes mountains out of molehills.
80. Will not permit me time alone.
81. Nags.
82. Cries or pouts to get their way.
83. Not interested in my job.
84. Overly suspicious.
85. Will not defend me ever.

Lesson Nine

*“The Need for Knowledge”***INTRODUCTION**

1. We are looking at Basic Human Needs.
 - a) 6th on the list is the Need for Knowledge.
 - b) The need for Ideas, Concepts, Facts, etc.
2. Do you question such a need?
3. Then, look at expressions that we use:
 - a) *“Curiosity killed the cat!”*
 - b) *“You are too curious, too nosy!”*
 - c) *“Ignorance is bliss!”*
 - If ignorant, no responsibility—so, don’t need to know?
 - Lack of knowledge can be fatal!
4. Why are we so wrapped up in the Internet....world wide web?
5. Why have language—need to know?
6. Why have writing, books, etc.—need to know?
7. Why do we call people dumb, stupid, ignorant, etc.???

DISCUSSION**I. HOW DOES KNOWLEDGE COME?*****A. It comes through our 5 basic sense organs!***

- 1) Sight, Hearing, Smell, Taste, Touch.
- 2) By our bodily organs, we perceive external objects & actions.
- 3) God created these organs—Why have them?—to Know!

B. Example:

- 1) You hear a person speaking and you answer them.
- 2) You feel hunger contractions in your stomach—you get food.
- 3) You see a car coming at you—you move out of the way.
- 4) You taste soured milk—spew it out.
- 5) You smell gas—you turn off the stove.
- 6) All of these—and thousands like them are made possible through the cooperation of our sense organs—KNOWLEDGE!
- 7) We would be unable to function in our world without such knowledge
- 8) The importance of our senses cannot be over-rated.
- 9) Our very existence depends upon such.

C. The need for Spiritual Knowledge is just as critical!

- 1) Look at Scripture emphasis:
 - a) Jn. 6:44-45
 - b) Need to know we are saved.(Rom. 8:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Jn. 2:29)
 - c) Need to know that we are right with God daily. (1 Jn. 1:7)
 - d) Need to know that we have hope of everlasting life. (1 Jn. 5:11, 13)

- 2) Our happiness here and hereafter depends on satisfying a basic human need to know!
 - a) The Word of God has been given to satisfy this need.
 - b) 1 Tim. 3:15
 - c) 2 Tim. 3:16-17

II. FUFILLING OUR NEED TO KNOW.

A. Secular knowledge.

- 1) Great libraries in the past (Alexandria, Egypt).
- 2) Great Philosophers of Greece.
- 3) Books, magazines, TV, Movies.
- 4) Scientific studies has given us a great mass of knowledge about:
 - a) Ourselves
 - b) Our world
 - c) Our universe
- 5) Our society is able to function easier by this accumulation of knowledge.
 - a) We call this civilization.
 - b) Education—learn—live better.
- 6) Knowledge opens the door to many things—otherwise closed to us.

B. Spiritual knowledge.

- 1) God has designed that His Word be preached into all the world. (Mk. 16:15-16)
- 2) He wants it spoken, so people can hear it.
 - a) Rev. 2:7
 - b) Jas. 1:22
- 3) Also, he wants it read. (1 Tim. 4:11-13)
- 4) His Word has been preserved to fulfill the need to know.
- 5) Men have provided aids to help us to know.
- 6) God designed the church to make known His Word. (Eph. 4:11-16)

III. UNDERMINING OUR NEED TO KNOW.

A. By others.

- 1) *“Keep the masses ignorant, and you can control them.”*
 - a) This has been done through the centuries.
 - b) Especially true religiously. (2 Pet. 2:1-2; Gal. 1:6-9)
 - c) An effort to educate the masses has been of more recent origin.
 - d) Both the Reformation and Restoration Movements were made possible by putting the Bible into hands of the masses.
- 2) *“The Pen is mightier than the sword.”*
 - a) This came out of the struggle for knowledge.
- 3) Lk. 11:52 (Matt. 16:19)

B. By ourselves.

- 1) By not having a love for truth. (2 Thess. 2:12)
- 2) By closing our eyes, ears, & heart to truth. (Matt. 13:13-15)
- 3) By not seeking to honor God. (Jn. 5:44)
- 4) By being dull of hearing. (Heb. 5:11)

- 5) By preferring fables to truth. (2 Tim. 4:1-4)
- 6) By neglecting it. (Heb. 2:3)
- 7) By an evil heart of unbelief. (Heb. 3:12)
- 8) By allowing our hearts to be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. (Heb. 3:13)
- 9) By choosing to remain ignorant. (Rom. 10:3; 11:25)

IV. THE OUTCOME OF FILLING THIS NEED.

A. Materially:

- 1) The height of civilization has come from accumulated knowledge.
- 2) Scientific, Biological, Astronomy, etc.—all have given us great help and physical blessings.
- 3) The medical field in particular.
- 4) Transportation, TV, Telephone, Electricity, etc.—Results of an accumulation of knowledge.
- 5) We are the recipients of those who sought to fulfill the need to know.

B. Spiritually:

- 1) John 17:3—Eternal Life.
- 2) John 8:32—Truth—made free.
- 3) 1 Jn. 1:7—Walk in light, not darkness.
- 4) Rom. 10:3—Walk in God's righteousness, not our own.
- 5) 1 Jn. 3:1—Have a relationship with God.

CONCLUSION

1. The need to know is in everyone.
2. If for no other reason than SURVIVAL!
3. But spiritually—it is imperative!
4. Do you know:
 - a) God
 - b) His Son
 - c) His Word
 - d) His Church
 - e) His Salvation
 - f) His Heaven?
5. You can—if you will seek to satisfy the “Need to Know” correctly!

Lesson Ten

“The Need for Understanding”

INTRODUCTION

1. We are looking at Basic Needs of human beings—Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual.
2. Various Needs, when satisfied correctly, give satisfaction, pleasure, a sense of well-being to man.
3. A study on the Need for Understanding can be approach from two standpoints:
 - a) Man needs to feel he is Understood and accepted by others.
 - b) But man also needs understanding and wisdom to satisfy his life.
4. While the first above could easily come under the need to “Belong” or “Be Loved,” the second could also come under the need to “Know.”
5. We will look at both concepts in this lesson.

DISCUSSION

I. MAN NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED!

A. This is often referred to as Sympathy and/or Empathy.

- 1) It is putting one’s self in another’s place.
- 2) To walk where he walks.
- 3) To experience what he experiences.
- 4) To better perceive his world and be able to share it.
- 5) To understand what he is going through and experiencing.
- 6) To accept him in spite of differences. (Jas. 2:1-9)

B. This is one of the Great Truths of Christianity!

- 1) Deity came down and partook of our humanity (John 1:1, 14)
- 2) He lived among us and shared our human conditions. (Matt. 1:23)
- 3) He experienced temptations as we did. (Heb. 4:15-16; Matt. 8:17)
- 4) He wants us to know & understand that He has been where we are.
- 5) Jesus was far more accepting of people than the religious leaders of His day—and was resented for it. (Matt. 11:28-30; 9:11-13; etc.)
- 6) The apostle Paul came to share this same outlook. (1 Cor. 9:19-22)

C. All of us need to be understood and accepted in spite of our weaknesses and sins—race, color, religion, etc.

- 1) Wives and Husbands need it.
- 2) Parents and Children need it.
- 3) Friends and Neighbors need it.
- 4) This is reason why God calls upon us to:
 - a) Love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:339)
 - b) Wives, Husbands, Parents, Children to love one another (Eph. 5:33; 6:1-2)
- 5) The more correct understanding we have of people, the easier it is to accept them.

II. THE NEED TO GAIN WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING.

A. Several terms are closely tied together in our vocabulary:

- 1) Knowledge
- 2) Instruction
- 3) Understanding
- 4) Wisdom

B. Insight about these from Scripture:

- 1) A person can have knowledge, but not the understanding and wisdom to make the best use of such.
- 2) Instruction & Wisdom are used together. (Prov. 1:3, 7)
- 3) But so is Understanding & Wisdom. (Dan. 5:14; 1 Kgs. 4:29)
- 4) And all three are used together in Prov. 23:23, along with Truth.

C. How do we know this is a basic Human Need?

- 1) Because men highly prize such.
 - a) The Greeks sought after wisdom. (1 Cor. 1:22)
 - b) Solomon requested such from God. (1 Kgs. 3:9; 4:29; 7:14)
 - c) Men have prided themselves on their understanding & wisdom.
- 2) Because God exalts such.
 - a) He draws a sharp contrast between His Wisdom and man's. (1 Cor. 1:25; 2:1-8)
 - b) He challenges us to seek after His Wisdom as the chief thing. (Prov. 4:7; 16:16)
 - c) He wanted his Covenanted people to become a wise and understanding people. (Deut. 4:6; Isa. 11:2)
 - d) The depths of God's Wisdom is extolled. (Rom. 11:33; Jer. 10:12; 51:15)
- 3) Because of the value to men's lives.
 - a) It helps us to make good decisions. (Heb. 5:14)
 - b) It helps us to be respected. (Prov. 13:15)
 - c) It helps us to get along with people:
 - To live in peace with them. (Jas. 3:17-18)
 - To hold our peace. (Prov. 11:12)
 - To be slow to wrath. (Prov. 14:29)
 - To be of calm spirit. (Prov. 17:27)
 - To walk upright. (Prov. 15:21)
 - To build our house. (Prov. 24:3)
 - Gives life. (Eccl. 7:12)
 - Makes our face to shine. (Eccl. 8:1)
 - d) It helps us to be strong and courageous. (Eccl. 9:16)
 - e) It helps us to face the struggles in life with assurance of God's care and the future. (Prov. 16:22; 2:11)
 - f) It shows we love our souls. (Prov. 19:8)

III. GOD'S WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING?

A. Where can it be found?

- 1) Comes from God. (James 3:17; 1:5; Eph. 1:17)

- 2) Exemplified in Jesus. (Col. 2:3; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30)
- 3) Made known through the Gospel. (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:1-7, 13)
- 4) God wants us to understand & possess His Wisdom. (Phil. 1:12; Eph. 5:17; Prov. 4:5, 7)

B. How can we secure it?

- 1) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of it. (Prov. 1:7)
- 2) To seek after and value it above silver and gold. (Prov. 2:1-5; 16:16)
- 3) Willingness to be instructed & corrected. (Prov. 3:5; 29:15)
- 4) Be lowly. (Prov. 11:2; 13:10)
- 5) Pay the cost for it. (Prov. 23:23)
- 6) To give our hearts to knowing it. (Eccl. 1:17)

C. What about those who do not possess it?

- 1) Referred to as foolish. (Prov. 10:2)
- 2) Causes us to despise others. (Prov. 11:12)
- 3) Cause us to be immoral. (Prov. 6:32)
- 4) Leads to death (eternally). (Prov. 10:21)

CONCLUSION

1. God wants us to have His Wisdom & Understanding in our lives. (Prov. 2:2)
2. He wants us to worship & serve Him in such. (Ps. 47:7; 1 Cor. 14:15)
3. He wants our eyes to be enlightened by such. (Eph. 1:18)

Lesson Eleven

*“The Need to Feel Useful”*Introduction

1. Illustration:
 - a) A woman excitedly hurries to mailbox to meet postman.
 - b) One of her letters brightened her face.
 - c) She hurriedly opened it and exclaimed, *“They accepted it!”*
 - d) *“They accepted my song...I have always wanted to write something that would live on.”*
2. Mankind has a basic need to feel useful, worthwhile, purposefulness.
 - a) To feel good that he has lived.
 - b) To feel that his life counted for something while here.
 - c) If not met....life can be a bore!
3. Many people are bored with life!
 - a) With the routine of an 8 hour a day job that is not challenging.
 - b) It is the same thing over and over....day in and day out.
 - c) Monotonous tasks of washing dishes, fixing lunches, washing clothes, etc.
4. Prolonged feelings of boredom can warp our outlook on life.
 - a) We can become sour and uninteresting.
 - b) We need to be challenged to do things that are significant.
 - c) Meaningfulness gives us real zest and interest in life.

DISCUSSION**I. THE NEED TO FEEL USEFUL ILLUSTRATED.*****A. Illustration:***

- 1) Doctor saw Mrs. Mason sitting on front porch.
- 2) *“Good morning, Mrs. Mason....How are you feeling?”*
- 3) *“Not so well.”*
- 4) *“What’s your trouble?”*
- 5) *“I don’t know. I guess I’m just wearing out. Nothing to do.*

Children are all gone. There is nothing to occupy my mind. I’m just a burden, I suppose.”

- 6) The Doctor immediately realized the situation:
 - a) He called her family and told them the situation.
 - b) He advised them to use her in some meaningful way.

B. “Life can be beautiful!”

- 1) But it can never be beautiful unless it is filled with meaning.
- 2) It is the difference between significant living & empty living.

II. HOW CAN WE FILL THE NEED IN OUR LIVES TO BE USEFUL?***A. Make a significant contribution to society.***

- 1) Many are involved in such.
- 2) Engineers span great gorges or build great buildings.

- 3) Athletes try to win and set new records.
- 4) Artists strive for a masterpiece.
- 5) The world is waiting for those who can contribute such.
- 6) The opportunities are unlimited for usefulness.
- 7) Lk. 12:48—***“For unto whomso ever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”***

B. We need to be realistic!

- 1) The majority of us may never make a great contribution.
- 2) We are the ones that take care of the routine jobs of life.
- 3) *“A man cannot give what he hasn’t got.”*
- 4) We cannot give the world a masterpiece, if we do not have the ability.
- 5) We need to make the smallest things meaningful in life.
- 6) 1 Cor. 10:31—***“Whether therefore you eat, or drink or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.”***
 - a) What a challenge!
 - b) What could make any activity more meaningful than to do it to glorify God.
 - c) Even the smallest job becomes a mission for Christ!
- 7) 1 Cor. 3:9; Col. 3:23-24; Eph. 6:5-8; 5:22.

C. We need to realize that we can contribution by encouraging others.

- 1) Encouragement may make a big difference in a person’s life.
- 2) It could bring about a significant contribution to society.
- 3) Illustration:
 - a) A young man got a job of driving trucks.
 - b) A neighbor friend saw a greater potential in him, and so encouraged him to go to college.
 - c) He became an engineer.
 - d) Came up with a special project—A heavy-Duty Earth moving Machine.
 - e) All road builders use it now.
 - f) It has made our super highways possible.

III. MAN FINDS HIS GREATEST USEFULNESS IN SERVING GOD.

A. Contributions of men are worthy, needed, and helpful.

- 1) Things done only for this life will pass away.
- 2) Things done for eternity last forever.
 - a) Giving food to someone is good, needed, and necessary.
 - b) But the greater gift is a saving knowledge in Christ
- 3) Physical things make our lives count for something.
 - a) But spiritual things count for all eternity.
 - b) There is no greater usefulness that to help save a soul from eternal death.

- 4) Contrasts:
- a) Learned educators:
 - Several degrees....large store of information.
 - Devote themselves to teaching such.
 - But if they do not know and impart God's truth, they have not given the greatest contribution.
 - b) Medical doctors:
 - Devoted years to special study of human body.
 - He has a good grasp of the body's functions, etc.
 - But if they do not know the Great Physician, they cannot show their patients how to live eternally.
 - c) Men of Science:
 - They amass accurate knowledge about our universe.
 - They help send men to the moon.
 - But they are not able to help man to get to heaven without serving God.
- 5) God has given this great useful task to His people. Mk. 16:15-16

CONCLUSION

1. Man needs to feel useful, worthwhile, and that his life is not wasted.
2. And God has provided the greatest of all usefulness—reaching the lost!
3. What kind of contribution are we making?

Lesson Twelve

“The Need for Successes in Life”

Introduction

1. Illustration:
 - a) A young boy overheard this statement: *“If a man’s not a success by the time he’s thirty-five, he’ll never be one.”*
 - b) He understood success as being wealthy from the statement.
 - c) However, years later, he learned:
 - *There is no age limit to success.*
 - *Success is not measured by the size of a man’s bank account*
 - *A sense of success is important to man.*
2. Success is important:
 - a) To one’s physical and mental health.
 - b) It tends to bring the best out of a man.
 - c) Success fills him with normal, healthy attitudes.
 - d) People who never move forward in life are seldom happy.
 - e) Nothing more pitiful than a person standing still or going backwards.
 - f) Continual failure can be disastrous.
 - g) Discouragement sets in---has a defeatist attitude.
 - h) One can become hard to live with.
 - i) Can develop problems physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.
 - j) Man was made to go forward, not backward.
 - To grow, develop, mature.
 - If so, our personalities take on a vibrant sparkle.
 - Progress is basic to all life.
 - k) Successful people are usually more interesting.
 - They are usually optimistic and inspirational.
 - They face tomorrow with more confidence.
3. In the church:
 - a) It is not the busy person who grips, complains, and criticizing.
 - b) He is too busy doing something worthwhile.

DISCUSSION

I. SUCCESS USUALLY LEADS TO GREATER SUCCESS

A. Success lays the ground work for greater accomplishments.

- 1) Success is like a ladder:
 - a) Start at bottom and climb to top.
 - b) Each rung is a success in life.
 - c) When you have more successes than failures...you go up.
- 2) If you have more failures than successes—danger of discouragement.
- 3) Illustration:
 - a) 4th grade girl was having problems in classroom.

- b) Given an I. Q. Test....she had low averages.
- c) The materials were too much for her.
- d) Thus, continual discouragement.
- e) When she reworked her classes...made better grades.
- f) Her whole outlook changed for the better.
- g) Her need for success was met.

B. *It is hard to be enthusiastic about the future when one has not been successful in the past.*

- 1) Failure dims our outlook over a period of time.
- 2) Illustration:
 - a) Group of 10-14 year old children with average I.Q.
 - b) They had never learned to read.
 - c) They were so discouraged....no hope for them.
 - d) Biggest task....convince them they can succeed.
 - e) Once done, they began to make progress.
- 3) Failure kills incentive and ambition.
 - a) Don't mind hard work when we can succeed.
 - b) But who wants to work hard for failure.
 - c) To work without results is like aimless marking of time.
- 4) Our emotional health depends upon a sense of succeeding.

C. *Others can help give this feeling of success*

- 1) Two men were very much alike in jobs, families, & backgrounds.
- 2) But had two different wives.
 - a) One wife constantly encouraged her husband.
 - b) Gave him a feeling of being a successful father & husband.
- 3) The other constantly reminded her husband:
 - a) Of what they didn't have;
 - b) Did not give him a feeling of being successful.
- 4) After a few years....there was a big difference in the two men.
 - a) One had a feeling of being successful.
 - b) The other had a sense of defeat.

III. THE RIGHT KIND OF SUCCESS IS IMPORTANT.

A. *They need to be worthwhile successes.*

- 1) The Rich Fool illustrates this (Lk. 12:15-21)
 - a) He succeeded in gaining a great amount of wealth.
 - b) His success gave him a sense of satisfaction.
 - c) But was he successful in the right things?
 - d) Vs. 20-21—***“Thou fool, this night your soul shall be required of you: then whose shall those things be which you have provided? So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”***
- 2) Matt. 6:19-21

B. *Material and earthly things can only give a limited sense of satisfaction.*

- 1) Reason—We recognize that the spiritual is the greater.

- 2) If we do not succeed in obtaining eternal life...we have succeeded only in the smaller things.
- 3) Without succeeding in finding God (Heb. 11:6), there will still be an emptiness and dissatisfaction.
- 4) Mk. 8:36—*“For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”*
- 5) 1 Jn. 2:17—*“The world passes away, and the lust thereof; but he that does the will of God abides forever.”*

C. *Eternity can be the only true measurement of success.*

- 1) Judgment Day becomes the true test of success.
 - a) As the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus illustrates.
 - b) The Rich man:
 - Had everything
 - Home, servants, fine clothes.
 - Lived off the fat of the land.
 - c) Lazarus:
 - Dependent beggar for physical existence
 - Health broken...poverty-stricken.
 - Dogs licked his sores.
 - By standard of the world, a failure!
 - d) Eternity’s view of their lives:
 - The rich man was in torment beyond imagination.
 - Lazarus was in a place of rest, beauty, desirable place.
 - e) Who was truly successful?

IV. EARTH-CENTERED SUCCESSES WILL DECAY

A. *It is short-lived in most instances.*

- 1) An athlete sets a world record.
- 2) The crowd cheers him...popular—admired.
- 3) Another comes along and beats him—what then?
- 4) One may shine with dazzling brilliance and then shortly afterwards someone else has taken the spotlight.

B. *Spiritual Successes do not fade.*

- 1) Dan. 12:3—*“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.”*
- 2) In a fireworks display...a rocket has its time of glory.
 - a) It passes....another takes it place.
- 3) But when they are quiet....look and see the stars.
 - a) They continue shine in their brilliance.
 - b) Just as the godly shall shine forever in their brilliance.

CONCLUSION

1. Godly men and woman are often hidden by the material successes of men.
2. But in the final analysis, who are the truly successful?

