

Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix, AZ, Adult Ed
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Maturing toward Wholeness in the Inner Life

Session One: Establishing Jesus as Master Teacher For All of Life

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” – Jesus (Luke 6:40)

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Wholeness in the inner life is Christlikeness in the inner life.
It develops as we allow Jesus to teach us how to live.

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1 – Jesus and the Apostles spoke of a life, lived in relationship with Him, that is characterized by fulfillment, joy, victory and wholeness. It is a life:

- lived moment by moment in God’s Presence – John 17:3
- pervaded by deep and abiding peace – John 14:27
- in which purity is the norm – Matthew 5:8
- with the ability to do what Jesus said was best (obey) – John 14:15
- characterized by victory (not perfection) – Revelation 2:7,11,17; 3:21
- that matures us toward competence in responding well in whatever experiences come to us – Matthew 7:24-27

This is the condition God intended for us when He created us. – Psalm 8:3-6

2 – There seems to be a widespread feeling today that this life is unrealistic—unattainable. Many who self-identify as Christians seem to have abandoned hope of personal spiritual victory. Why?

3 – Having been created by God (1) to be like Him, and (2) to live continually in His Presence, we each made the disastrous decision to go away from Him—to seek a life of our own making that was better than life with Him.

4 – This decision resulted in extensive damage and distortion within us—in our thoughts, emotions, wills, bodies, social relationships and souls. Our inner lives have been formed in a world of wrongness in us and in those all around us.

5 – Having been formed “in” and “by” our lostness, and the lostness around us, we now must be re-formed—transformed. This is the biblical process of salvation, redemption and sanctification.

6 – This transformation is a process. It takes place as we decide, day by day, to enter into an ongoing relationship with Jesus as His apprentice in Kingdom living. The Father sent the Son to be the way through whom we can find our way back to Him. There is no other way.

7 – Jesus came to restore us to the condition God had in mind for us when He created us. For this to happen:

- our guilt must be removed
- our inner wounds must be healed
- each part of our person must be re-formed/transformed: our (1) heart (will), (2) thoughts, (3) emotions, (4) strength (body), (5) social relationships (neighbor) and (6) soul – Mark 12:28-31

We must receive a new life – 2 Corinthians 5:17

8 – Being re-formed by Christ into His likeness involves a life-long process. It has a beginning. It well may have high-points—deep experiences with God. But remember: every crisis, not followed by a process, is in danger of becoming an abscess.

9 – This process takes place as we allow Jesus to teach us how human life is to be lived. He is the wisest Teacher in all of human history. No one else even approaches being His equal. We acknowledge Him as Savior. We acknowledge Him also as Lord and Master Teacher.

We are with Him to learn from Him how to be like Him.

10 – We gradually learn how to rely upon Jesus alone:

- His cross has the power to remove our guilt.
- His teachings show us how to live in the Kingdom of God.
- His Spirit –reforms us and gives us the power to obey.

11 – In this process our will must be fully engaged. We must continually choose this. But our transformation does not take place through our “will-power”. The change agent is the Holy Spirit. But note: The Holy Spirit will not do this “to” us, or “for” us, but only “with” us.

12 – Our restoration advances as we learn from Jesus how to live moment by moment in God’s Presence. We were created for God’s Presence like a fish was created for the presence of water. Our damage and lostness were caused by our decision to go away from Him. We are healed and restored as we return to Him and live with Him.

13 – Apprenticeship to Jesus results in:

- Removal of our guilt
- Healing of our person—wholeness of the inner life
- Obedience—ability to do the things Jesus said were best
- A life lived predominately in God’s kingdom
- A life characterized by victory (not perfection)