

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS & LIFE LESSONS

—1} **1 John 1:5–10** 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is Light**, and **in Him there is no darkness at all**. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 **If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.** 9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 10 **If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.**

—Am I more aware of the sins of others than I am of my own sins?

—How often do I/we tend to laugh or joke about sin? Do we shrug off any concern about sin, or fail to take it seriously?

—To avoid being drawn into sin,

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—Confess =

—2} Sin is

Persuasive =

Routine =

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—3} Legalism deceives us =

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License fools us into thinking

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—4} Justified & Sanctified =

—Am I living a life that

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**QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION
& SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
FOR MARCH 12 THRU 18, 2023**

—Here are some quotations that are intended to provoke some initial discussion about what’s being presented in this study.

—*“Only at the cross do we see the love of God without ambiguity. Here is God’s farthest reach, His most ambitious rescue effort. God personally came to our side of the chasm, willing to suffer for us and with us. At the cross His love burst upon the world with unmistakable clarity. Here at least we have found solid reasons to believe that there was a genuine connection between God and man.”* —**Erwin Lutzer**

—“We do need to guard against making absolutes out of personal standards that are not specified in Scripture, or assuming that others are sinning if they don’t adopt our standards about issues that may not be traps for them. But why are we so prone to defend choices that take us right to the edge of sin, and so reluctant to make radical choices to protect our hearts and minds from sin?” —**Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth**

—*“We are much more concerned about someone abusing his freedom than we are about his guarding it. We are more afraid of indulging the sinful nature than we are of falling into legalism. Yet legalism does indulge the sinful nature because it fosters self-righteousness and religious pride. It also diverts us from the real issues of the Christian life by focusing on external and sometimes trivial issues.”*

—**Jerry Bridges**

—“Is it more wrong to allow what God prohibits, or to prohibit what God allows? This is actually a trick question because both alternatives are equally wrong. Either alternative would put me in the position of the Lawgiver. God allows only Himself the prerogative to determine holy standards.” —**Bryan Chapell**

—*“The bondage that liberates is a bondage to righteousness, a bondage to the will and ways of God, a bondage that claims as its Master and Lord the One whose holy and merciful character is now reproduced in us and through us. Our freedom to be what we were created to be consists, then, in our bondage to God and in nothing else.”*

—**Bruce Ware**

—“Sanctification is the triumph of humility over remaining pride.”

—**John MacArthur**

—“Holiness is not something we are called upon to do in order that we may become something; it is something we are to do because of what we already are.” —**Martin Lloyd-Jones**

—“Everything will be summed up in Christ. That means that all things will be brought under Christ’s direct authority. Christ has accomplished everything necessary to fulfill God’s plan of salvation. The order of nature shall be restored, and justice will prevail throughout the whole universe... Restoration does not negate the doctrine of hell but instead necessitates it.” —**Erwin Lutzer**

—“What if, from God’s viewpoint, the greatness of sin is determined by the greatness of the One against whom it is committed? Then the guilt of sin is infinite because it is a violation of the character of an infinite Being. What if, in the nature of God, it is deemed that such infinite sins deserve an infinite penalty, a penalty which no one can ever repay?”

—**Erwin Lutzer**

—Please carefully read & observe Romans 7:1–25 and list what you find to be the main ideas and key words in this passage.

—After carefully observing Romans 7, what are some personal thoughts that come to your mind about:

—What is the purpose behind why God gave the Law?

—Why is it important that we understand the relevance of God’s Law, even though it wasn’t given to specifically provide salvation from sin?

—Everyone faces a battle with sin & temptation. How is this related to spiritual warfare? Our life lessons expressed the idea that sin is both deceptive and dangerous. Notice what 2 Corinthians 11:3 & 12–15 say about deception. How can we avoid being duped, deluded, deceived, and doubtful about God’s goodness toward us?

—What are some personal strategies or steps we can take to win our struggles with sin, temptations, and peer or cultural pressures?

—If God’s Law is impossible for us to fully obey, how should we view it as a benefit and a blessing? How should we understand & acknowledge the Ten Commandments?

—How much influence does moral relativism have on our society? How much impact does it have on the Church? Why is this a problem?

—How often does guilt impact our relationships with other people? How can we know whether feelings of guilt are a nudge from the Holy Spirit, —or— an accusation from spiritual warfare? How should we respond to our feelings of guilt?

The LIFE LESSONS given (on page one of this handout) might provide some interesting discussion. These questions relate to them:

—1} How often should we confess our sins to God in a specific way? How could this be beneficial? How often should we discuss our struggles with sin with other people? How is this beneficial? What risks are involved in telling others about our sinful actions?

—2} How much does legalism (strict rules & regulations to please God) impact our lives? Any examples?

—3} How much does license (feeling like God’s grace allows us to do whatever we please) impact our lives? Any examples?

—4} How have some sins that used to be shocking become normal & acceptable in our culture? How is this a challenge to our faith?