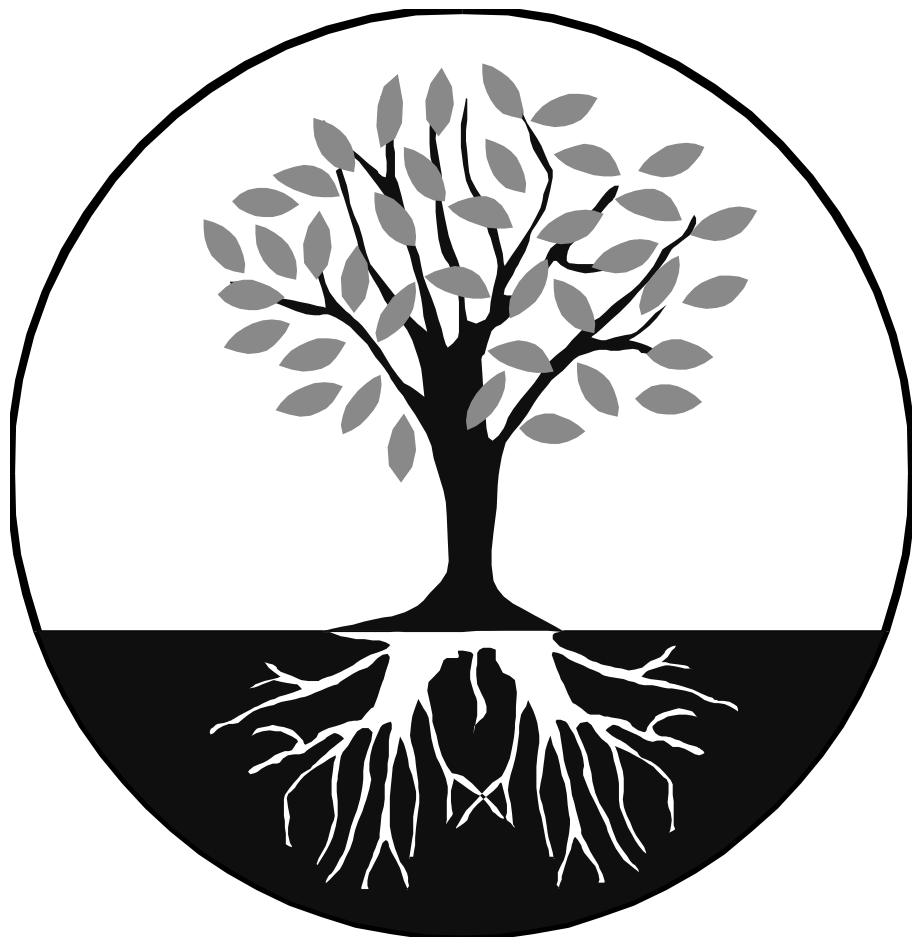


FIRMLY PLANTED



A tool for establishing you in the
basics of the Christian Life

Position in Christ

Nothing you can do will ever make God love you any more or any less!

I. Who God Is – a Right View of God.

Most Christians who consistently struggle with intimacy with God or making an impact on the world around them do not understand how to have a proper relationship with either God the Son, God the Spirit, or God the Father. Either they do not relate correctly to Christ as Savior and Lord and thus are not truly a Christian, or they do not relate correctly with the Spirit because they do not understand how to walk in the power of the Spirit-controlled life, or they do not relate correctly with God the Father because they do not grasp the Fatherhood of God and their position as a child of God.

A. God is your Father.

1. Read these verses. How is God described in each?
 - a. Matthew 6:9 –
 - b. Matthew 7:11 –
 - c. Romans 8:14-16 –

II. Who You Are – a Right View of Self.

A. You are God's child (John 1:12)

1. Privileges as a Child of God – Read the following verses. What are your privileges as God's child?
 - a. Ephesians 1:13-14 --
 - b. Ephesians 3:12 --
 - c. Matthew 6:25-34 --
 - d. Romans 8:29 --
 - e. Romans 8:38-39 --
 - f. Ephesians 1:7 --
 - g. John 5:24 --
 - h. Hebrews 12:5-11 --
 - i. John 10:10 --
2. Practice as a Child of God
Children naturally do certain things with their father.
Read these verses. What should your behavior be in regards to your Heavenly Father?
 - a. Ephesians 5:1
 - b. Matthew 6:25-27

c. Romans 8:15

e. John 14:15

d. Matthew 7:11

f. John 17:4

III. **The Lies and the Truth.**

The truth about how God views us sets us free from the lies of this world and of Satan!

- A. **The Lie:** I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.
The Truth: Because I am in Christ, I am completely forgiven for all my sin and failures. God will never be angry with me again!

Read Romans 4:8, 8:1; Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 43:25

- B. **The Lie:** I must meet the approval of certain others to feel good about myself.
The Truth: Because I am in Christ, I am totally accepted by God, absolutely pleasing to God, and approved of once and for all by God!

Read Galatians 1:10

- C. **The Lie:** I am unworthy of God's love and am estranged from God.
The Truth: Because I am in Christ, I am deeply loved by God – Christ made me worthy of God's Love!

Read 1 John 3:1; Romans 5:8

- D. **The Lie:** I am what I am; I cannot change; I'm hopeless.
The Truth: Because I am in Christ, I am a new creation, and God is changing me into the image of Christ everyday!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Christ's Presence in Your Life

One of the most striking characteristics of the Christians in the New Testament was the element of certainty in their relationship with Christ.

I. A Biblical Examination

A. Trustworthiness of God's Word

"Assurance is based on the authority of God's Word."

1. In Mark 1:15, what conditions are necessary for a person to have eternal life?
 - a.
 - b.
2. What does Numbers 23:19 say about God keeping His promises?
3. In Romans 8:38-39, what does God promise?
4. What is eternal life? (John 17:3)
5. When does eternal life begin? (John 5:24)
6. Study 1 John 5:11-13.
 - a. Where is eternal life? (v.11)
 - b. Who has eternal life? (v.12)
 - c. What is John's purpose for writing this letter? (v.13)
 - d. To whom does the promise in verse 13 apply?

B. Holy Spirit

"The Holy Spirit is the internal witness of our assurance."

1. Read Romans 8:14-16.
 - a. Who are God's children? (v.14)
 - b. What kind of spirit do we have? (v.15)
 - c. What inner proof do we have of salvation? (v.16)
2. What does 1 John 3:24 tell us about knowing that God abides in us?
3. What is one reason the Holy Spirit was given? (Ephesians 1:13-14)
4. Read Romans 8:9. Someone who does not have the Spirit in them is what?

C. Changed Life

"The proof that we have experienced a new birth and have become children of God will be demonstrated by our changed lives."

1. Examine I John 2:3
 - a. How does it describe the person who knows God?
 - b. Can a Christian continue habitually in sin? Why or why not?
2. Compare John 14:15 with John 14:21. After thinking about these verses, briefly state the relationship between loving God and obeying God:
3. Study II Corinthians 5:14-17.
 - a. What is the right response to Christ by a person who has truly experienced the love of Christ? (v. 14-15)

b. Can people live only to please themselves and be controlled by the love of Christ?

c. What does it mean to be a “new creature?” (v.17)

II. A Practical Exercise

Write out your personal testimony of how you came to trust Christ through repentance and faith. Use the outline on the next page to help you tell your story clearly.

I. MY LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

II. HOW I CAME TO REALIZE MY NEED FOR CHRIST AND TRUSTED HIM AS SAVIOR AND LORD

III. HOW MY LIFE HAS BEEN DIFFERENT WITH CHRIST

Christ-like Character

"...Christ suffered for, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps."

- I Peter 2:21

I. Definition: Character is **who** you are when no one is looking.

Character

- * who you really are
- * comes from the inside
- * what matters to God

Personality

- * who you want people to think you are
- * constructed from the outside
- * what matters to man

"As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects a man." Proverbs 27:19

II. Why be a person of Christ-like Character?

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into His likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

- II Corinthians 3:18

A. What does God say about our character?

1. Read Romans 8:29. What has God predestined us to?

2. Read I Peter 1:16. God says, "Be _____ because I am _____."

B. Why do we need to be Christ-like?

1. Read Philippians 1:27. We are to "conduct ourselves in a manner _____ of the _____."

2. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. We are to:

a. "Put _____ old self, which is being _____"

b. "Be _____ new in our _____"

c. "Put _____ new self, created to be _____."

3. Read I John 2:6. Whoever claims to _____ in Him must _____ as Jesus.

III. How to Develop Christ-like Character

A. Recognize your obstacles

1. _____ Galatians 5:19
2. _____ 1 John 2:15-16
3. _____ 1 Peter 5:8-9

B. Focus on Christ's Example. What did Jesus do?

1. Philippians 2:5-8
2. Matthew 4:1-10
3. Luke 23:34

C. Renew Your Mind.

1. Read Philippians 4:8 and Matthew 6:33. What should your thoughts be focused on?
2. Read Romans 8:5-9. How does v.6 say the mind is to be controlled?

D. Pray for God to Develop Your Character

1. Read Psalm 139:23-24. "_____ me, O God, and _____ my heart, test me and _____ my anxious thoughts. See if there is any _____ way in me, and _____ me in the way everlasting."

2. Stop now and pray this verse for your life. Write down specific areas or traits present in your life that are not Christ-like:

a) _____ b) _____ c) _____

IV. End Results

"For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." -1 Peter 1:8

- A. What is the end result of renewing your mind? Read Romans 12:2.
- B. What is the end result of living self-controlled, upright and godly lives today? Read Titus 2:12 and answer:
- C. What is the end result of letting your light shine before men? Read Matthew 5:14-16 and answer:

The Lordship of Christ

*Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, has always existed and always will.
Not all people presently acknowledge Him as their Lord, but that does not alter the reality of His Lordship. All will someday acknowledge Christ as Lord, but the privilege of submitting to His Lordship is possible now.*

I. Acknowledging His Lordship

A. Titles reveal important information about the person to whom they refer. What are Jesus Christ's titles in the following verses?

1. John 13:13

2. Acts 2:36

3. Revelation 19:16

4. Summarize what these verses reveal about Jesus Christ.

B. Jesus Christ is Lord of...

1. Colossians 1:18

2. Colossians 1:16-17

3. Romans 14:9

C. Write your own definition of the word "Lord" as you feel it applies to Jesus Christ:

D. What place should Christ hold in a believer's life? (Matthew 6:33)

E. Why should someone make Jesus Christ Lord of his or her life?

1. I John 3:1

2. Jeremiah 29:11

3. Matthew 10:29-31

F. Prayerfully meditate on the Lordship of Christ. Have you decided to acknowledge Jesus' Lordship in your life?

Yes

No

II. The Practice of Lordship

Once you have decided to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ in your life, you will prove that He is Lord by submitting to Him hour by hour and obeying Him in the daily affairs of life.

A. Take a few moments to evaluate your practice of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. A good way to determine if Christ is in control of an area of your life is to ask, "Am I willing to do whatever Christ desires in this area?" or "Will I be able to thank God for whatever may happen in this area?"

1. Name any areas which you are not allowing Christ to control.

2. What can you do in these areas to acknowledge Christ's Lordship?

B. According to Luke 6:46-49

1. What is a good way to evaluate if Christ is truly Lord of your life?

2. What is the best foundation upon which to build your life?

C. What does Romans 12:1 say you should do with your life as a Christian?

D. What three things is the person who follows Christ called to do?
See Luke 9:23:

The Action to Take

What This Means In Your Own Words

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- _____
- _____
- _____

E. What does the Lordship of Christ mean to you?

The Spirit-Controlled Life

I. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- A. The Holy Spirit is a person--The Spirit of God living in you. Read John 14:16-17 and 25-26 and count the number of times Jesus refers to the Spirit as a person: _____.
- B. Read these verses and learn what Jesus taught about the ministry of the Holy Spirit:
 - 1. John 7:37-39
 - 2. John 16:7-15
 - 3. John 14:16-17
 - 4. John 14:25-26
 - 5. John 15:26
 - 6. Acts 1:8
- C. What will be the results of a Spirit-controlled life?
 - 1. Galatians 5:22-25
 - 2. II. Corinthians 3:17
 - 3. I Corinthians 15:56-57
- D. Why can the Christian **not** live the abundant life Christ promised in his own efforts?

1. Romans 8:6-8

2. John 15:4-5

E. How can the Christian experience the abundant lifestyle that Christ promised in John 10:10?

1. Ephesians 5:15-18

2. Galatians 5:16-18

II. How To Be Controlled by the Holy Spirit

A. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 14:16-18

1. What did Jesus promise?

2. How long is the promise good for?

3. Does Jesus ever make a promise He does not keep?

B. When does a person receive the Spirit of God promised by Christ? Read Ephesians 1:13-14 and Romans 8:9.

C. What does it mean to be controlled (filled) by the Spirit? Read Ephesians 5:18.

1. Does the term "filling" mean quantity or control of the Spirit? Explain your answer.

2. How is being drunk like being filled with the Spirit?

D. Read Ephesians 4:30 and I Thessalonians 5:19.

1. What does it mean to grieve or quench the Spirit of God within you?

2. How can you tell if you have grieved the Spirit of God?

3. What sins in your life quench the Spirit and keep you from experiencing the full power of the Holy Spirit?

E. What action must be taken to be controlled by the Spirit of God?

1. I John 1:9

2. Romans 12:1-2

3. Colossians 2:6

Important: *Remember these principles and promises.*

1. God has promised to answer our prayer of faith if we ask anything according to His will. (I John 5:14-15)
2. It is His will that we be controlled by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
3. God has promised to fill you with the Holy Spirit if only you ask in faith. (Luke 11:13)

The Word

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" -Matthew 4:4

I. The Importance of God's Word

"Most Christians remain in spiritual infancy, but God desires for us to reach full maturity - God's Word is the food we must intake in order to grow up."

A. It is necessary for personal growth. Read Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 5:12-14 and 1 Peter 2:2. God's Word is the _____ we need to grow.

B. It is necessary for effective Christian living.

Read II Timothy 3:16. Scripture is profitable in four main ways:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a) _____ | c) _____ |
| b) _____ | d) _____ |

C. It keeps us from _____. (Psalm 119:11)

II. The Hand Illustration

A simple illustration of the five ways to intake God's word is a HAND. Let's look about each finger.

A. The pinky stands for HEARING God's Word.

1. Read Romans 10:17. Faith comes from _____ the message of Jesus Christ through his _____.

2. Read I Thessalonians 2:13. Why did Paul thank God for these people?

3. Read Proverbs 4:20-22. What is the result of listening to God's Word?

B. The ring finger stands for READING God's Word.

1. Read Revelation 1:3. Blessed is the one who _____ and _____.

2. Read Nehemiah 8:8. How did they read?

C. The middle finger stands for STUDYING God's Word.

1. Read Acts 17:11
 - a. Why were the Bereans honorable?
 - b. How often did they examine the Scriptures?
 2. Read Ezra 7:10. Ezra _____ himself to the _____ and _____ of God's Word so he could _____ its decrees in Israel.
 3. Read II Timothy 4:13. What did Paul want brought to him? Why is this important?
- D. The index finger stands for MEMORIZING/MEDITATING on God's Word.
1. Read Psalm 119:11. What keeps us from sinning?
 2. Read Psalm 1:2-3. How can we be like the tree, bearing fruit by streams of water?
 3. Read Joshua 1:8. How often are we to meditate? Why are we to meditate?
- E. The thumb is the most important part of the hand because without it we cannot hold onto God's Word. It stands for APPLICATION of God's Word.
1. Read John 14:21. Not only do we need to have God's word to show our love for him, we must also _____ it.
 2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What is He saying about obeying God?
 3. Read James 1:22. Do not merely _____ to the Word and so deceive yourselves, _____.

III. The Results of Bible Intake

- A. Prosperity and success Joshua 1:8

B. Kept from sin, purity Psalm 119:9-11

C. Equipped for good works 2 Timothy 3:16-17

D. Not ashamed 2 Timothy 2:15

God has given us an incredible privilege to be able to communicate with Himself through His Word and through prayer. Begin now to take advantage of these great resources and discover a life of intimacy with God and impact on the world.

Prayer

"Prayer is indeed the Christian's vital breath and native air" -J. Oswald Sanders

I. Jesus' Example of Prayer

A. Consider Jesus' Lifestyle of Prayer

1. Read Mark 1:35. Very early in the _____, while it was still dark, _____ got up, left the _____ and went off to a _____, where he _____.
2. Read Luke 5:16. Jesus _____ often.
3. Read Luke 6:12. Jesus _____ all night.
4. Read John 17. This is a prayer that Jesus prayed the night before his death. Who did He pray for?

vs. 1-5 Jesus prayed for _____.
vs. 6-19 Jesus prayed for His _____.
vs. 20-23 Jesus prayed for the _____.

B. Consider Jesus' Pattern for Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

How does the prayer begin? Why is this important?

Which requests are God-centered? (v. 9-10)

Which requests are man-centered? (v. 11-13)

In what specific ways can this pattern for praying help you pray?

II. The Basic Elements of Prayer

The basic elements of prayer can be remembered by the word "ACTS," which is composed of the first letters of the following words. Write a brief definition for each:

Adoration -

Confession -

Thanksgiving -

Supplication -

III. The Practice of Prayer

- ### A. What conditions make for effective prayer?

1. Matthew 21:22 -
 2. John 15:7 -
 3. John 16:24 -
- B. What conditions hinder prayer?
1. Psalm 66:18 -
 2. James 4:3 -
- C. What are the key characteristics of effective praying?
1. I Thessalonians 5:17
 2. Luke 18:1
 3. Colossians 4:2
 4. James 15:16

Decide on a plan for your prayer life, such as the enclosed prayer sheet and the A.C.T.S. suggested pattern for prayer, so that you can first meet with God daily and then bring your requests before him. (Psalm 5:3)

III. Results of Prayer

- A. Read Jeremiah 33:3. What happens when you pray?
- B. Read James 5:16. What happens when you pray?
- C. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What happens when you pray?

"We cannot learn about prayer except by praying."

- J. Oswald Sanders

"The great people on earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer or those who can explain prayer; but I mean those people who take time to pray. They have not the time, it must be taken from something else."

The Church

God has created only two institutions on this earth, marriage and the church. He holds both in the highest regard. In fact, the church is defined as “the living body of Christ”, of which Christ is the head. To live a fruitful Christian life, we must understand God’s purpose for church and our role as a part of it.

I. Defining the Church

Who or what is the church?

A. The Body of Christ

The church is also called the _____ .
(Colossians 1:18,24)

Who then is the body of Christ? In Ephesians 4:11,12 we find it is all of God’s _____ .

B. God’s Family

The church is also referred to as _____ .
(1 Timothy 3:15)

God tells us that true disciples, or followers of Christ, are His children - in His household. (See Hebrews 3:6, John 1:12,13, Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 3:7)

The Church, therefore, is every true _____ of Jesus Christ.

II. The Purpose of the Church

How does it work?

- A. The first primary function of the church is the **edification** (building up) of the body.

The book of Acts gives of the best picture of a healthy local church body. Read Acts 2:42-47. Record the different aspects of the “body-life” mentioned in 2:42:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. A closer look at fellowship

The goal of fellowship is _____. (Ephesians 4:13, John 17:23, Romans 15:5)

We are to be one in _____ and _____. (Philippians 2:2)

We are to _____ ourselves to the leadership of the church (Hebrews 13:17) and to _____ as well. (Ephesians 5:21)

B. The other primary function of the church is the **evangelization** of the lost world.

1. Jesus' last instructions before he died on the cross are found in Matthew 28:18-20. What was their assignment?
2. Jesus' last instructions to the church is found in Acts 1:8. What was the church's mission?

III. You and the Church

A. One body, Many Parts -- Your Part

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Summarize this passage in a simple sentence or two.

2. Every believer has one or more spiritual _____. (Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Cor. 12:4) You should discover yours and _____ it to serve others. (1 Peter 4:10)

B. Finding the right church

You should find a church that:

1. Teaches sound _____. (2 Timothy 4:3,4 and Titus 1:9, 2:1)
2. Effectively reaches _____ with the gospel (Colossians 4:4-6, Acts 5:42, 1 Thessalonians 1:8)
3. Engages in true _____. (Ephesians 5:19-21)
4. Ministers to the _____. (James 1:27)

Fellowship

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity."

- Psalm 133:1

I. What is Biblical Fellowship?

- A. Read I John 1:3.
 - 1. What was the author's purpose for proclaiming what he had seen and heard?
 - 2. With whom did he have fellowship?

- B. "Fellowship" is derived from the Greek word "koinonia," which means "sharing in common." As you examine the verses below, determine what you can share with others.
 - 1. Read I Peter 1:22

 - 2. Read Galatians 6:2

 - 3. Read Galatians 6:6

- C. In the first century church in Acts 2:44-47, you can see fellowship at its best.
 - 1. What were they devoting themselves to?

 - 2. All those that had believed were together and had all things in common. What specifically did they have in common?

 - 3. What was the result of that kind of fellowship?

- D. Read II Corinthians 6:14-15
 - 1. Can a Christian have biblical fellowship with a non-Christian?

 - 2. In light of this verse, what should your relationship with non-Christians be based upon?

II. The Purpose of Fellowship - Edification

- A. Encouragement and Stimulation

1. Study Hebrews 10:24-25
 - a. As Christians, what are we to take time to “stimulate each other” to?
 - b. How can you do this to Christians around you?
 - c. What is your responsibility to the body of believers at your church?
2. Examine Hebrews 3:13. How often should Christians encourage one another?
 - a. Why is that so important?
 - b. Do you consistently encourage other believers?

B. Accountability

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:21 and Ephesians 5:21. Who are we answerable to as Christians?
2. Read Galatians 6:1-2 and Luke 17:3,4. What are our responsibilities to those living in sin?
3. Read Proverbs 13:18 and Proverbs 15:31. How should we receive correction from a brother or sister in Christ?

III. Fellowship Killers

- A. Selfishness - Philippians 2:3-4
- B. The Tongue - James 3:1-12; Ephesians 4:29
- C. Not Forgiving - Matthew 18:21-22; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

“... then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”
Philippians 2:2

Evangelism

"We are driven to action daily with the knowledge that three billion people do not know our Savior. Our passion in life, our unquenchable desire, is to take God's love to them."

- Gordon Aeschilman

We have been given the greatest cure known to mankind. Jesus Christ has given us the cure for sin by paying for our sin and giving us a relationship with Him. Imagine that you had the cure for AIDS, one of the world's deadliest diseases. Would you keep it to yourself? Would you use it for your own healing and nobody else's? Or would you share it with the world and let them experience life again? As bad as AIDS is, SIN is worse. 80,000 people each day die without knowing Christ!

I. Definition of Evangelism:

"Sharing the gospel (Ephesians 6:19-20; Mark 16:15) in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) and leaving the results to God (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)."

II. Why Share the Gospel?

A. There is a need.

1. Read II Thessalonians 1:8-9. What will happen to those who "do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus"?

2. Read Matthew 9:36. What are two conditions of people who do not know God? _____ and _____.

B. There is a command.

1. Read Romans 10:14. What is the implied command from this verse?

2. Read I Corinthians 9:16. Is sharing the gospel and option for Christians? _____

3. Read Acts 1:8. What did Christ say we would do?

4. Read Matthew 28:19. What does God command us to do?

C. There are examples.

1. Jesus

- a. Read John 4:7-15
- b. Who is Jesus sharing with?
- c. What is unique about who He is sharing with?

2. Philip

- a. Read Acts 8:26-31
- b. Who is Philip sharing with?
- c. In v. 31, the Ethiopian eunuch has a need. He says he needs someone to “. . . _____ it to me.”
- d. Why is this important?

3. Paul

- a. Read Colossians 1:28-29
- b. There is a key word in verse 28. Paul says, “We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching _____ with all wisdom, so that we may present _____ perfect in Christ.”
- c. According to this verse, who are we to tell about Jesus?

4. Paul

- a. Read I Thessalonians 2:7-8.
- b. What two things did Paul share with the Thessalonians? Why are both important?

5. The Church

- a. Read Acts 5:42
- b. When did the apostles proclaim the good news?
- c. Where did they proclaim it?
- d. What do you learn from their example?

III. The Results of Sharing the Gospel of Christ

- A. The world will _____ you. (John 16:33)

- B. You will please _____. (I Thessalonians 2:4)
- C. You will receive personal joy and fulfillment. (I Thessalonians 2:19-20)
- D. _____ will come to know Christ. (Acts 2:41,47)

IV. What could keep you from sharing the Gospel of Christ?

Here are three common areas that keep believers from sharing the gospel:

<u>Man's Reaction:</u>		<u>God's Response</u>
Fear	II Timothy 1:7-8
Pride	Romans 1:16
Persecution	II Timothy 3:12

List other reasons you may be kept from becoming effective and consistent in evangelism: