

BELIEVER BASICS 101

Session 6

A Christian and Their Character (Leader's Version)

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Session Plan

- Opening Prayer and Review Memory Verse (5 min)
 - Principles of the Lesson (30 min)
 - Putting it Together (20 min)
 - Practice Assignments and Closing Prayer (5 min)
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Opening Prayer

Memory Verse

“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” Phil 1:27 (NASB)

Principles: Read 1 Peter 1:17-2:25

1. The Christian's Character Conducts itself as a **SOJOURNER** (1:17-21)

- a. As Sojourners we act now in anticipation of judgment (rewards for service), (17)
 - i. How do these two passages tell us to view our time on earth?
 - ii. What rewards would you rather have?
 - iii. *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. 2 Cor 5:10-11*
- b. As Sojourners we act now in anticipation of salvation (18-21)
 - i. How were we redeemed?
 - ii. How did our forefather live their lives in light of the future?
 - iii. What can you learn from their lives?
 - iv. *By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ...13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they*

desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. Heb 11:8-16

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2. The Christian's Character Conducts itself in SINCERITY (1:22-2:3)

- a. In sincerity we love our fellow Christians (22)
 - i. How are our souls "purified"?
 - ii. *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. 1 John 4:15-21*
- b. In sincerity we have been born again (23-25)
 - i. What does it mean to be "born again"?
 - ii. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5*
- c. In sincerity we put away our former life and its sin (1-3)
 - i. What must be put aside?
 - ii. What must be pick up?
 - iii. How does one grow in salvation?
 - iv. *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor 7:1*
 - v. *"Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy." 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done." Rev 22:11-12*
 - vi. *Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 2 Tim 2:21-23*

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3. The Christian's Character Conducts itself in SACRIFICE (2:4-8)

- a. Through sacrifice God is building us into a holy family, a holy priesthood (4-5a)
 - i. Who's house do believers belong?
 - ii. What nation do you now belong to?
 - iii. *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.* Rev 20:6

- b. Through sacrifice we offer to God service as thanksgiving (5b)
 - i. Who are God's priests?
 - ii. What do God's priests do?
 - iii. *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* Romans 12:1-2

- c. Through sacrifice Jesus became our High Priest and example (6-8)
 - i. How do people stumble over the Messiah, our High priest?
 - ii. *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Heb 4:14-16

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4. The Christian's Character Conducts itself in SPEECH (2:9-10)

- a. Through speech we speak of God's mercies by God's mercies (9)
 - i. What nation are you now born-again into?
 - ii. Who's message do we speak?
 - iii. How are God's Holy priests to speak?
 - iv. What are they to speak?
 - v. *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence,* 1 Peter 3:15
 - vi. *For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.* 2 Cor 4:5-6

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5. The Christian's Character Conducts itself in SANCTIFICATION (2:11-12)

- a. In Sanctification (separation from sin) we abstain from fleshly desires (11)
 - i. How are you to know what sin to separate yourself from?
 - ii. How do you know what God expects of you?
 - iii. *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please . 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality , impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions , 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal 5:16-21*

- b. In Sanctification (separation from sin) we aspire for good behavior and deeds (12)
 - i. What areas in your life do you need God's Spirit to work on?
 - ii. Who are we to model our lives after?
 - iii. *22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Gal 5:22-24*

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6. The Christian's Character Conducts itself in SUBMISSION (2:13-20)

- a. In submission we obey laws as long as they do not command us to sin (13-17)
 - i. What does it mean to submit?
 - ii. *Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Romans 13:1-4*

- b. In submission we obey our leaders (employers, parents, etc.) (13-17)
 - i. Is submission optional, why or why not?
 - ii. *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. 5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart . 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not*

to men, 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. Eph 6:1-8

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7. The Christian's Character Conducts itself in SUFFERING (2:21-25)

- a. Through suffering we follow Christ's example of sinlessness (21-24)
 - i. *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Phil 3:7-11*
- b. Through suffering we follow Christ's example of obedience to God (25)
 - i. *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." Matt 16:24*
 - ii. *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matt 11:28-30*
 - iii. *To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9*

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Putting it Together

How can I personally...

1. Have a *Sojourner's* mindset? (1:17-21)

2. Show *Sincerity* in love for fellow Christians? (1:22-2:3)

3. *Sacrifice* for the cause of Christ? (2:4-8)

4. *Speak* to others about Jesus? (2:9-10)

5. Grow in *Sanctification*/separation from sin? (2:11-12)

6. Grow in *Submission* to my masters and leaders? (2:15-20)

7. Stay steadfast through *Suffering* as a Christian? (2:21-25)

Practice Assignments

1. KEEP Reading and studying God's Word every day.
2. KEEP Praying each day.
3. KEEP telling others about what Jesus has done for you and what He is doing in your life.
4. Keep participating in the worship service and in other ministries of the church.
5. Join and participate in another Bible Study Class.

Closing Prayer