



## 2020 3Q Making Friends for God: Lesson 9 Developing a Winning Attitude

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read first paragraph, “The more we study...” No question about it God’s love is infinite and it is absolutely true that His forgiveness is infinitely deeper than any sin—but was the problem with sin ever a problem with God’s forgiveness? If Jesus didn’t die would God be unforgiving toward sinners? If Jesus didn’t die would God refuse to forgive, or be prohibited by some law from forgiving?

No—what is the issue—it is not one of God forgiving, it is one of our hearts, minds, attitudes distrusting God, living in fear, preferring selfishness, doubting His goodness. In other words, we simply won’t believe that God forgives outright, and we insist that our sin requires some legal payment made to God in order to get God to forgive. This is a lie.

Our sin problem is a problem in us, a problem of character, a problem of being out of harmony with God and His design for life; it was **never** a problem with God. God didn’t need something done to Him to get Him to forgive—we needed something done to us to get us to trust God, open our hearts to Him for healing and to repent!

The lesson says, “No one was beyond His love.” It is true God loves everyone and never stops loving anyone—but does that mean everyone responds positively to His love? Does the fact that God loves everyone and there is nothing we can do to get God to love us more or get Him to love us less mean that His love wins everyone to salvation? Again, the problem isn’t God’s love, His love is infinite and freely given to all people, but not all believe it, want it, or value it.

What does sin do to the sinner? It sears the conscience, hardens the heart, warps the mind and destroys the faculties that respond to love and truth—thus though God’s love is infinite and never ceases, some people change themselves so much they become immovable in sin and no amount of truth or love will win them. King Herod would be an example of a person who destroyed their faculties that respond to truth and love; and this is why Jesus didn’t respond to him during His trial. Nothing Jesus did or said would have had any positive impact—yet Jesus still loved Him.

Regarding Developing a Winning Attitude, which is the title for the lesson this week, let’s examine Ephesians 4:17-32 in detail, from the NIV84:

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. **What makes their thinking futile? What is the basic premise of the world? Me-first, power over, the ends justify the means, fear-driven survival of the fittest, might makes right, imposed law and enforced obedience. The methods of the world are futile why? Because no amount of externally imposed might and power can heal hearts and minds, in**



fact it makes it worse. The way that seems right to the world only leads to death. So, this type of thinking leads to religious views and practices that are legal in order to bring a sense of security, diminish the fear—but it is a false security, a delusion or illusion depending on how deeply one believes it. The appeal of the penal legal views with its various list of rules gives the self a sense of control—

- As long as I can figure out the right doctrines and make a pledge to accept them
- As long as I can identify the right rituals and perform them in the right way
- As long as I can know the right rules and keep them—or accept that Jesus kept the rules for me and thus claim that I have perfect legal rule keeping in my record in heaven
- If I do all of this, then whenever fear and guilt assail me I can feel safe because I believe the truth, have performed the right rituals, obey the right rules and have the legal payment applied to my account.
- A false security because all of that can be done without any change of heart, without any renewal of character. Not only does the penal legal lie which infects Christianity lead to this false security, it actually prevents real transformation because it simultaneously teaches that God is the source of legally inflicted punishment and death and He is the one from whom we need an intercessor to protect us. Thus, this theology obstructs our trust and reconciliation with God.
- It is only by rejecting imposed law, returning to design law that we can understand the truth of our condition and God's amazing sacrifice to provide us remedy, and thus trust Him for our healing and thereby experience a new heart via the indwelling Spirit.

18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. What separates them from God? Darkness of understanding, which is caused by what? Lies—about God, about sin, about salvation—which are rooted in what? The lies about God's law—misrepresenting it as imposed law with imposed punishments. So, even if they are religious, which essentially all were, their religiosity was legal, seeking to appease their gods, to do works, to get payments, to do penance, to propitiate wrath, to turn away the anger of their gods. In other words, none of them knew God because they operated upon a false paradigm that warped their understanding of reality itself. This is the same process that infected Christianity and led to the Dark Ages—darkness covering the people, yet the people remained religious. And such darkness about God, even though people remain religious leads to the hardening of hearts—why? Because it is self-centered, it is feared-based, it is not based upon truth and love.

19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. Not being reconciled to God, having accepted a false paradigm of legality, a punishing god, leads to increased guilt, shame, searing of the conscience and this leads to self-indulgence, get for self, advance self, gratify self. Either through direct pleasure seeking or through self-medicating, i.e. intoxicating self to numb a guilty conscience that the false religiosity can't resolve. Pornography rates and substance abuse rates are no different whether one identifies as Christian or not. Barna research found that 57% of pastors and 64% of youth pastors admit to struggling with porn.



(<https://www.barna.com/the-porn-phenomenon/>) Why? Because penal legal theology cannot heal hearts from fear and selfishness, only increases guilt and reduces a sense of wellbeing.

Happiness is a by-product of healthiness in all domains. Healthiness is only possible in harmony with the laws of health—in all domains—physical, mental, spiritual, relational. This is only possible in harmony with the laws God built His universe to operate upon. To the degree we are in violation of the God’s design laws, we are unhealthy, and this undermines our happiness. Many people when unhappy, say struggling with guilt or shame, rather than seeking to identify the cause, the place where they are out of harmony with God’s design and seek God to change their lives to live in harmony with His design, which would bring happiness, instead, in their unhappiness substitute pleasure seeking and thus live indulgent lives that worsen their health and cause more unhappiness leading to more sensual living.

20 You, however, did not come to **know** Christ [**Messiah—Savior—Rescuer—Remedy—Healer**] that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its **deceitful desires**; 23 **to be made new in the attitude of your minds**; 24 and to put on the new self, **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**. What is being described? What does it mean to “know Christ”? Does it mean to know about—to know the right facts, the right doctrines? Does that mean facts or doctrines are irrelevant? No, it means we must know the truth about Jesus, but we must also know Jesus, which goes beyond the truth of facts. For instance, a person may know the fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and not actually know Jesus. Jesus said in the last days many will come to Him professing to be His followers, but He never knew them. Conversely, a person may be a follower of Jesus and actually know Him and love Him and be like Him in character, but not know all the facts like where He was born.

Knowing Christ leads to what? Is this a legal process being described? Let’s read the passage again: Is the Apostle describing that we must remember all the bad deeds, confess them, claim the legal payment of Jesus’ blood to our account in heaven, and then believe we are declared to be righteous even though we are not righteous? No! That is the lie that keeps good people trapped in miserable and destructive cycles of sin.

When we know Jesus, we are won to trust and we open our hearts in trust and invite Him in. We ask for His renewing agency, the Holy Spirit to remove the destructive desires that deceive us (our feelings *can* lie to us) and to have new desires, motives, attitudes that come from Jesus and are imbued into us by the Holy Spirit. We become new creatures in Christ and we become like God i.e. godlike in fact. This is actual righteousness, holiness, transformation of character, not some legal fictional declaration of righteousness while we remain unrighteous.

True righteousness by faith is this transformation of the heart motives and attitudes that comes through trust in Jesus. There is nothing legal going on, it is all actual, genuine, healing, transformational. Thus, our life histories of sin, the deeds we have committed in the past, they never change, what changes is our hearts and minds. We become NEW people.



King David, through all eternity future, will still be the father of Solomon, why? Because he had an affair with Bathsheba and murdered Uriah, those historical facts never change. Those historical facts do not get erased from history. When we get to heaven every intelligent being there will know David's history. But his history of bad deeds doesn't matter—why? Because David repented and had a change of heart—thus He is healed in character, actual, real righteousness, holiness, at-one-ment with God in reality. This is the true message of salvation!

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and **speak truthfully** to his neighbor, for we are **all members of one body**. What does this mean—members of one body? Would it mean the same as there is neither Jew or Greek but we are one in Jesus? Would it mean there is neither black or white or Asian or Hispanic but in Jesus we are one human race? Would it mean that we are to speak truth that in God's kingdom all lives matter and reject the racially divisive messages that suggest some lives matter more than other lives? The world doesn't know Jesus. The world wants to divide, Jesus wants to unite!

26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. What does this mean? Do we find a lot of anger being manifested in our society today? Is a lot of it being manifested after the sun goes down, every night riots in certain cities with violence? Is this how Jesus would act? Do you realize this is not the way of the genuine Christian who is being renewed in his mind to have the attitude of Christ?

Does that mean we are not to have anger? It all depends of the type of anger and the focus of the anger. There is a difference between righteous anger and sinful anger:

- **Righteous anger** is always motivated by love for people and focuses on destroying the disease of sin in order to heal and save people
- **Sinful anger** is motivated by selfishness and focuses on punishing, hurting, or destroying people, while perpetuating sin and selfishness

Here is a simple example: Doctors have righteous anger toward pathogens (measles, polio, Ebola, Corona) and diseases (cancer, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, etc.). They seek to destroy all disease and pathology in order to heal and save people. But doctors do not have anger toward sick and dying patients.

Of course, doctors do get angry at activities that spread disease, especially when it is purposeful—HIV-infected individuals who spread the disease with dirty needles or unprotected sex. But doctors still love the addict or prostitute who is spreading the disease. It's just that, while seeking to cure those currently infected, doctors also want to prevent the spread of the disease to protect all who are not yet infected.

Doctors also offer remedies for HIV and methods to stop its spread, but when a person refuses to take the remedy and to use methods that prevent infecting others, doctors get angry not only at the disease, but they also get angry at the refusal of the person who rejects the treatment.



And how much greater the anger when the person who refuses lifesaving treatment is the doctor's own son or daughter?

Why are the doctors angry in such situations? Because they love the dying person and know they can save them, if the terminal individual would only let them.

This is righteous anger—never seeking to harm the person, but always motivated by love to heal and save, even when a person refuses healing and chooses paths that destroy themselves and others. This is the anger that God expresses:

As the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice offering healing and restoration, do not reject the true Remedy and darken your minds as you did in the rebellion in the desert, during the opportunity to partake of God's cure, where your fathers broke my heart by trying their own remedies and rejecting the truth which I brought and for forty years patiently tried to heal them. That is why I was so angry with what happened to that generation, and said, 'Their minds continually reject the healing truth, and they refuse to practice my ways of health and live.' So I granted them their persistent choice and said, 'Since they refuse the truth—the Remedy I freely offer—they will never be able to enter my rest and get well'" (Hebrews 3:7–11 *The Remedy*).

Selfish anger, however, is not motivated by love for others, nor is it angry at the suffering that sin is causing others. Rather, selfish anger is an anger about the wrongs we experience—done to us or to what we value—not for love for others. Examples of this include:

- Anger at not getting our way
- Anger at having our ideas challenged or refuted
- Anger at having our projects and pursuits interfered with
- Anger at having our self-promotion thwarted or name maligned
- Anger at being assaulted, injured, robbed
- Anger at having been embarrassed
- Anger of envy—someone else getting what we have wanted
- Anger of perceived unfairness, someone else has more than we do, or gets privileges we believe we deserve, or perhaps we do deserve
- Anger when someone questions our authority, disobeys, or disrespects us
- Anger at having not lived up to the family standard

And this type of anger can be projected out of the self onto proxies—we can see others in our environment who approximate our plight and we unconsciously project our own selfishness out onto them and then get angry at their plight, mistreatment, injury and vent our anger on the perceived exploiters—deceiving ourselves that because we are angry about another person's mistreatment we are not selfish—we are loving and it is okay then to seek to punish the wrongdoer.

**28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer**, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. **If people were**



applying the attitude of Christ, would they steal, riot, destroy property? Or would they get busy working in their communities to build up, not tear down? Does God want Christians to support movements that use the methods of the world to achieve their ends—even if the goal is a righteous goal? Why or why not?

**29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths**, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **Is lying wholesome talk? What about gossiping or rumor spreading if the rumor is true? What about slander, speaking unkind? What about if it is for the purpose of ensuring your candidate wins the next election—is it godly and righteous to speak unkind things of the opposing candidate if it helps you win the election? What if it is true but not relevant to the ability to carry out the office, is okay then to bear tales? When I speak of politics getting one's candidate elected through such methods were you thinking of human governments? But, could all of this apply to the church as well? Have you ever seen a major political race (whether for government office or church office) in which both sides only spoke wholesome things that built up the opposing candidates?**

Is there a difference between speaking clearly about the differences in policy, methods, vision, goals, plans, beliefs, doctrines, and attacking a person?

Did Jesus speak clearly the truth about God's kingdom, law, methods, goals, plans and expose the distortions that others were teaching? Did Jesus ever slander others and expose their personal sins? Or did Jesus actually protect the reputations of His enemies—remember the people who brought the woman caught in adultery?

Do you recognize these differences in methods and are you able to apply the information to your decision making and practices?

**30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. What grieves the Holy Spirit? Rejecting His agency, i.e. holding to lies, resisting truth, and clinging to selfishness and resisting love. Thus, note what the Apostle says next:**

**31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:17-32 NIV84 Can you see why the genuine Christians in our society do not align themselves with movements that fail to love every human being as an equal? Why genuine Christians won't align with movements that use methods of violence, deceit, slander, that incite fear, hostility, that coerce and intimidate and force their way?**

Do you see how the devil is manipulating society right now by inciting wrong, abuse, misconduct and inspiring people to be outraged by it and then tricking them into pursuing the righteous goal of eliminating evil by the practice of his methods of force, violence, coercion. But this only spreads more evil, incites more violence, and hardens more hearts.



We are not to participate in such activities. We are to come out and be separate. We are to understand that the only God-ordained use for human governments is to restrain evil, to hold in check people that overtly seek to exploit and harm others. There is no role for human governments to promote righteousness because righteousness is a heart issue and human governments have no power to heal hearts—human governments can only injure, harm, and damage hearts.

So what is a winning attitude? Having an attitude like Christ!

## SUNDAY

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The lesson states, “The last place the disciples expected to find hearts receptive to the gospel was in Samaria.” Why?

What was the basis of the disciple’s belief about who was reachable for God’s kingdom? Did they have biases that nationality, genetics, gender or race increased or decreased one’s viability for the kingdom of God?

Where did they get such ideas? Why didn’t they know better? Were the disciples used to studying Scripture for themselves and coming to their own conclusions—or had they been conditioned by their culture to believe what the leaders of their society told them?

What about today? In our society, are we teaching people how to think for themselves, how to examine the evidence, understand the design laws of God, how reality works, to discern truth and come to their own conclusions? Or are we teaching people to surrender their thinking to those in authority—whether teachers at university, church leaders, governmental leaders, or media personalities?

Who is God trying to reach with the gospel? What role does genetics, race, nationality, gender play in God’s plan, who is savable by God? These elements are meaningless to whether someone is part of God’s kingdom or not—what actually matters? Heart attitude—is one like Jesus, what law is written in the heart and mind, truth, love and freedom, versus lies, fear & selfishness, and coercion.

Are we able to accurately judge who is reachable for God’s kingdom?

What is our responsibility for others? Present the truth in love, treating every person with value, but leaving them free—so if they reject the truth we move on, we don’t demand they accept it. This is one of the problems in society today—there are movements afoot that no longer want to leave others free to believe differently than they do. There are movements afoot that want to punish those who believe differently or practice differently. This is a violation of the law of liberty and will always result in love being damaged and destroyed, more rebellion, and if freedom isn’t restored the loss of individuality.



This is Satan's goal—to destroy love, to incite conflict and rebellion, and to destroy individuality. He wants people to be helpless, passive, incapable of thinking for themselves.

Some of the movements going on right now are so emotionally, economically, relationally abusive—i.e. unwilling to leave others free—that many people are being intimidated and are slowly losing the ability to discern, to think for themselves. They are starting to become shadows of others, thinking through the lens of the mob.

I have patients who are in relationships with abusive spouses, some physical abuse, but most are emotionally abused—if they don't do what their spouse wants or think the way their spouse wants, then the abusive spouse will: yell, criticize, name-call, get angry, slam doors, mock, reject, ignore, embarrass, withhold money, withhold affection, cancel dinner or other activities. And the abused spouse rather than speaking truth in love and leaving their spouse free to pout and act out, instead begins to think “Oh I can't say that my spouse won't like it and will get angry and may cancel dinner.” And over time they actual start thinking like their spouse, not because they believe it is right, but because they have surrendered their individuality and go along to avoid hostility and emotional assault.

The dominated spouse eventually stops speaking the truth and accepts the lies being told by the abusing spouse.

This is EVIL and is Satan's method to destroy individuality and occurs because the truth is not on the side of the abuser.

This is exactly what is happening in society today with the cancel culture. They cannot achieve their goals with reasoned presentation of the truth to persuade to a better way, so instead they use rage, name-calling, hostility, abusive language, verbal and physical assaults, cancel events etc. to create fear to get people to surrender individuality and stop speaking the truth in order to avoid the temper tantrums of those who don't like the truth and all parties are injured by this process.

We must never surrender our individualities to others. We must never accept and go along with lies merely to avoid upsetting someone's feelings. It is true we don't need to seek out those we know have no interest in the truth and throw the truth in their face—Jesus didn't do this and instructed if people don't want to hear the truth go to others who do. But, we must never stop presenting the truth just because some will scream and accuse of being insensitive etc.

## **MONDAY**

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Read first two paragraphs, “Our attitudes often determine...” There is much truth in these two paragraphs, and I constantly pray that God will continue to heal my heart and help me have an ever increasingly winsome attitude and method in my presentations.



Our attitudes, how we present the truth is important. Imagine you are hungry and someone brings you your favorite meal—perfectly cooked—on a beautiful silver platter, would it be appealing? How about they bring the same exact meal, cooked the same way to you on a garbage pail lid? Is it as appealing?

So presentation, attitude, does make a difference, no doubt, but is this the ultimate truth? My question is, is a person's demeanor, attitude, style of presenting more important than their character, heart, motives and the message itself? As we mature, can we see past the presentation to the actual heart, character and message?

I have patients, who I have gotten to know very well, and they have good hearts; they really care about people, but because of their background, some of them have ways of interacting that are blunt, direct, abrasive—they seem outwardly to be harsh. Some of them are from a different cultures, but others have Asperger's Syndrome in which they merely don't have the neurological hardware to recognize social cues and thus seem abrasive, but in their heart they are not mean-spirited. Sadly, many of these good-hearted people get misjudged because they are often abrupt and come across as rude.

If any of you remember the TV show *Bones*, the lead character Dr. Temperance Brennan was like this—good-hearted but many people were offended by her directness.

Conversely, the best con artists are the most socially enjoyable and friendly. In fact, the community pedophiles, the ones who exploit other people's children, are often the persons everyone in the community likes.

This is also true in public figures. We don't know the hearts of actors, athletes, politicians, we only know their public persona, their public demeanor—but we don't actually know them. Yet, so many people seem to get caught up into judging these public figures character based on communication style and public demeanor, i.e. public persona and end up supporting and identifying with those who have good social skills, but being hostile to those with poor social skills.

Consider Bill Cosby—what was his public reputation before the actual evidence presented in a court of law?

Our challenge is to be mature people who have developed, by practice, the ability to discern right from wrong (Heb 5:14) and not jump to conclusions, especially about someone's heart or character without actually corroborating evidence—and allegations are not evidence.

Read the third paragraph, "The woman in Matthew 15..." thoughts? What do you understand is happening here?

How do we get stronger at something? We must exercise, whether muscles or abilities—what about faith? If our faith is to grow stronger do we need exercise it?

When a coach gives their athletes exercises to do, even if those exercises stress them, cause them pain, make them sweat, are hard to do, is the coach for or against the athlete?



What if a coach told a group of athletes that because they came from poor homes, or homes with only one parent, or they had a history of abuse that any such athlete was given a pass and didn't have to do laps, lift weights, run drills, or study the playbook. They could just show up for the games.

If the coach said, "you have had such a hard life at home that I don't want to stress any more by demanding that you do the same drills, learn the same playbook, lift the same weights as the other athletes, that would not be fair to you; it might discourage you, so you can go home while the other students are required to stay and do the hard work" What would you say about such a coach?

What about it if isn't a coach but it is a teacher or social worker telling students the same thing regarding academics?

Jesus didn't play these games with the Canaanite woman. He loved her and wanted her to grow and to strengthen her faith, so He stressed her faith so she could exercise it so that her faith would grow stronger. What an amazing loving God we serve!

Do you see how design law—how reality works, brings such clarity to stories like this?

## TUESDAY

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The lesson makes the point that being friends alone with those who don't know Christ will not win people to Christ, but unfriendliness can turn people away from Christ.

Is there a difference between friendship and friendliness? What is the difference?

Do friends risk losing the friendship to protect their friend? The old adage, friends don't let friends drive drunk. But, someone being friendly may not take this stand because they don't want to deal with the potential conflict. Does this dynamic have application in society today?

Is there any caution to forming friends with people who don't know Christ? What is the caution?

Read second paragraph, "The apostle Paul..." thoughts?

What is the difference between a compliment and flattery?

Consider this historic quote from the book *Eternity Past* writing about the war between God and Satan:

God could employ only such means as were consistent with truth and righteousness. **Satan could use what God could not—flattery and deceit.** It was therefore necessary to demonstrate before the inhabitants of heaven and all the world that God's government is just, His law perfect. Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of



the universe. The true character of the usurper must be understood by all. He must have time to manifest himself by his wicked works. EP 14.2

What is the difference between a compliment and flattery?

- A compliment is sincere praise or commendation based on fact and reality intended to affirm and validate
- Flattery is insincere praise not based on fact and intended to mislead, entice or deceive

Why must time be given for Satan to manifest his character and methods? Why couldn't God just tell everyone that Satan was wrong?

Can lies be effectively removed from people's minds with declarations alone, or does evidence have to be revealed?

Since God's laws are design laws, deviations from His design laws will always reveal, over time, destruction, pain, suffering and death. Only in harmony with God and His laws is their health, happiness and life.

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph, "In these two passages..." The two passages are Romans 15:7 and Ephesians 4:32, we have already read Ephesians 4:32, so let's read Romans 15:7:

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."  
(NIV84)

So, we are to accept others just as Christ accepts us. Is the acceptance we have with Jesus unconditional acceptance, or are there conditions? What are the conditions?

Here is one historic view:

**The condition of our acceptance with God is a practical separation from the world.** The Lord calls upon us as a people, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate," "and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." The world may despise you because you do not meet their standard, engage in their dissipating amusements, and follow their pernicious ways; but the God of heaven promises to receive you, and to be a Father unto you. "Ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18. Counsels on Health 51.1

Will Jesus accept us into fellowship with Him if we refuse to be separated from sin, selfishness, lies, and the methods of the world? Why not—doesn't Jesus love us enough to accept us?



He loves us enough to refuse to accept us in a state that will ensure our destruction. He cannot heal and save us if we refuse to let go of fear, selfishness, lies, and sin. We don't have to rid *ourselves* of the sin—for we cannot do so, but we have to be willing for Jesus to separate us from the sin. We must surrender ourselves to Him for healing, cleansing, renewal. If we go to Jesus and say, that we want to be accepted but we do not want to be freed from sin, there is nothing He can do for us until we choose Him over sin.

So the lesson gets it right in the last paragraph, “Jesus’ attitude was not, ‘Do whatever you please. It’s all right. I still accept you,’ His attitude was, rather, ‘No matter what you have done, I am willing to forgive you and provide you with power to change.’”

This is the reality—healing and transformation, not mere legal accounting.

So, what should our acceptance of others be—unconditional or conditional?

I see this all the time, in families with someone who insists on living destructive lifestyle—it could be an addiction that they refuse to get into recovery for, or it could be merely a constantly negative critical and fault-finding attitude toward others. But regardless, these destructive individuals will often present to their families demanding acceptance without condition and if boundaries are set the destructive one accuses the one setting the boundary of not loving them, of not being kind, or Christlike or forgiving—and will manipulate the kind-hearted person into a position where they are exploited over and over again.

Consider you had a relative who worked for the city sewer system and was in and out of the sewers all day long. At the end of their shift they are covered in foul-smelling waste and, without cleaning themselves up they come over to your house and demand to sit down with your family and eat dinner. What would you do? Would you let them? What, if when you said, “Hey we would love to have you eat with us, but you need to go home and clean up first,” they respond with the allegation that you are being judgmental, critical, unaccepting, unkind, and don't love them?

Some people come into our lives with foul attitudes that create foul atmospheres; we are not required to accept people without condition, in fact to do so is often unloving and harmful. To give feedback that you love them, but they need to clean themselves up before you let them around your family is not unChristlike it is godly.

Read third paragraph, “And yet...” What does it mean to be accepted by faith?

It isn't about history, it is about current reality. Example of having gastroenteritis as a child....

## **THURSDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “Jesus did not neglect...” this is so well said, Well done quarterly!



The Christian experience that heals is the one that leads to our Creator, the Builder of reality whose laws are design laws which are the basis of life. It is in a trust relationship with Him that we are transformed to live in harmony with Him and His design for life.

Bottom green section, read, “If someone were to ask you, ‘Why are you a Christian?’ how would you respond, and why?”

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Saturday, October 3, 2020!** Come and Reason will be presenting a live in-person event at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga TN! **Healing the Mind and Transforming the Character in a Broken World** is one-day event and will be packed with presentations by Timothy R. Jennings, Katie McPherson, Ben Bost and Kent Delhousaye. Join us to learn principles and strategies to heal the mind and heart from fear and habits that overrun our lives You’ll want to book your spot soon before the event is sold out-- lunch is included in this great price! Click [here](#) for more information.

**October 9-10, 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH

**November 6-7, 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>