

CRAIG CASTER

QUICK VERSE

NOTES

Family Discipleship Ministries
561 N. Magnolia Ave.
El Cajon, CA 92020
Ph. (619) 590-1901 Fax (619) 590-1905
Email: info@parentingministry.org
www.parentingministry.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Comparison of Justification and Sanctification	3
Salvation.....	6
Adultery.....	9
Alcohol, Drug Abuse	13
Anger, Hot Temper	15
Anxiety, Worry	17
Bitterness, Resentment	19
Blame Shifting	21
Church, Communion of Saints	22
Death, Eternal Life	25
Divorce	27
Evil Desires, Lust	29
Fear	30
Forgiving Others	31
Gossip, Communication	35
Hate	36
Homosexuality	37
Laziness, Work	39
Lying	42
Marriage, Husband/Wife Relationships	43
Mixed Marriages/Unequally Yoked	45
Money	47
Persecution	49
Self – Centeredness	52
Self – Pity	53
Sex in Marriage	55
Sexual Immorality	56
Temptation	58
Trials	60
Waiting on the Lord	63

A Comparison of Justification and Sanctification

JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
<p>1. Justification is free. <u>Romans 5:16</u> <i>And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.</i></p>	<p>1. Sanctification is costly. <u>Luke 14:25-33</u> <i>Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it-- "lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, "saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? "Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.</i></p>
<p>2. Justification is instantaneous. <u>John 3:8</u> <i>"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."</i></p>	<p>2. Sanctification is a life-long process. <u>John 8:31</u> <i>Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.</i></p>
<p>3. Justification is by faith. <u>Ephesians 2:8</u> <i>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,</i></p>	<p>3. Sanctification is by faithfulness. <u>1 Corinthians 4:2</u> <i>Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.</i></p>
<p>4. Justification is not of works. <u>Ephesians 2:9</u> <i>not of works, lest anyone should boast.</i></p>	<p>4. Sanctification is of works. <u>Ephesians 2:10</u> <i>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.</i></p>

<p>5. Justification involves Christ's love for me. <u>John 3:16</u> <i>"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.</i></p>	<p>5. Sanctification involves my love for Christ. <u>1 John 4:19</u> <i>We love Him because He first loved us.</i></p>
<p>6. Justification concerns Christ's righteousness. <u>2 Corinthians 5:21</u> <i>For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.</i></p>	<p>6. Sanctification concerns my righteousness. <u>See #1 – Luke 14:25-33</u></p>
<p>7. Justification involves my position in Christ. <u>Colossians 2:11-14</u> <i>In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.</i></p>	<p>7. Sanctification involves my practice. <u>Colossians 3:1-11</u> <i>If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.</i></p>
<p>8. Justification considers what God has done. <u>1 Corinthians 15:3-4</u> <i>For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,</i></p>	<p>8. Sanctification considers what I am doing. <u>See #1 – Luke 14:25-33</u></p>

<p>9. Justification is God's commitment to me. <u>1 John 5:9-13</u> <i>If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.</i> <i>He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.</i> <i>And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.</i> <i>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.</i> <i>These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.</i></p>	<p>9. Sanctification is my commitment to God. <u>John 14:15</u> <i>"If you love Me, keep My commandments.</i></p>
<p>10. Justification requires obedience to one command: to believe the Gospel. <u>Acts 6:7</u> <i>Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.</i></p>	<p>10. Sanctification requires obedience to all of Christ's commands. <u>Matthew 28:19-20</u> <i>"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.</i></p>
<p>11. Justification focuses on the cross, which Jesus took up once and for all. <u>1 Corinthians 1:18</u> <i>For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.</i></p>	<p>11. Sanctification focuses on the cross, which I am to take up daily. <u>Matthew 10:38</u> <i>And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.</i></p>
<p>12. Justification is finished at the moment of faith. <u>John 5:24</u> <i>"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.</i></p>	<p>12. Sanctification is not finished until I go to be with the Lord. <u>1 Corinthians 9:24-27</u> <i>Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.</i> <i>And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.</i> <i>Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.</i> <i>But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.</i></p>

Salvation (Leading a Person to Christ)

I. Apart from Christ, we are helpless and sinful.

A. We are all sinners.

1. **We are all born in sin.**

Psalm 51:5 ~ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

2. **All have sinned through Adam.**

Romans 5:12 ~ Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

3. **Jews and Gentiles alike are sinners.**

Romans 3:9-12 ~ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

Romans 3:22-24 ~ even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

4. **We are like lost sheep whom Jesus goes out to seek.**

Luke 15:3-7 ~ So He spoke this parable to them, saying: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

5. **Even our righteous acts are as filthy rags.**

Isaiah 64:6 ~ But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

B. We are in spiritual bondage.

1. **Jesus sets us free.**

Romans 6:16-18 ~ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

C. We are alienated from God.

1. Outside of Christ we are at odds with God.

Colossians 1:21-22 ~ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--

2. Without Christ we are without hope.

Ephesians 2:12-13 ~ that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

D. We cannot save ourselves in any way.

1. By nature we are at enmity with God.

Romans 8:7-8 ~ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

2. By nature we are dead in sin and are objects of God's wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-5 ~ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

3. We are saved only by grace, through faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ~ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

4. God saves us through a rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:4-7 ~ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

II. Jesus saves us by grace, through faith.

A. Jesus suffered and died for sinners; those who believe in him will be saved.

1. All who receive Christ by faith are saved.

John 1:12 ~ But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

2. We are redeemed through the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19 ~ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Adultery

1. Adultery is out of the heart.

Matthew 15:19 ~ "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

2. No Adulterers go to heaven.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ~ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,
nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionists will inherit the kingdom of God.

3. God will judge the adulterer.

Hebrews 13:4 ~ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

4. Adultery can be avoided.

Proverbs 4:23 ~ Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:13-27 ~ Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; keep her, for she is your life.

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil.

Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on.

For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.

For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.

Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart;

For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.

Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.

5. David was depressed before he confessed his sins.

Psalms 32:3-5 ~ When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

6. Nathan called David to repent of his adultery.

2 Samuel 12:1-14 ~ Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.

"The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.

"But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

"And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!

"And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

'I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!

'Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

"Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

'For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'"

So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

"However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

7. David confessed his adultery, and God graciously forgave him.

Psalms 32:1-11 ~ Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him.

You are my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Psalms 51:1-19 ~ Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
 For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
 Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight-- that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.
 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.
 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.
 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
 Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.
 Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
 Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.
 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; you do not delight in burnt offering.
 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart-- these, O God, You will not despise.
 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem.
 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

8. God forgives the sin of adultery and frees the sinner from it.

1 Corinthians 6:11 ~ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

9. Looking on a woman lustfully is adultery; spiritual surgery is needed.

Matthew 5:27-30 ~ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

"And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

10. Keep the seventh commandment.

Exodus 20:14 ~ "You shall not commit adultery.

11. Anyone who marries a wrongfully divorced person commits adultery.

Matthew 5:31-32 ~ "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

"But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

12. Anyone who divorces his or her spouse for any reason other than adultery and marries another commits adultery.

Matthew 19:9 ~ "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

Romans 7:2-3 ~ For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.

So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

Alcohol, Drug Abuse

1. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:15 ~ *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ~ *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

2. Jesus warns against the abuse of alcohol.

Luke 21:34 ~ *"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."*

3. Don't love wine.

Proverbs 21:17 ~ He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

4. Heavy drinking brings misery.

Proverbs 23:29-35 ~ Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly;

At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.

Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.

Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:

"They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

5. Drunkenness breaks down morals.

Genesis 9:20-23 ~ And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.

Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

Genesis 19:30-38 ~ Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave.

Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth.

"Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

Anger, Hot Temper

6. Anger is not in itself sinful.

Psalms 7:11 (God is angry with the wicked.)

God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

1 Kings 11:9 (God was angry with Solomon.)

So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,

2 Kings 17:18 (God was angry with Israel.)

Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

Mark 3:5 (Jesus was angry with the Pharisees.)

And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

7. Be slow to become angry.

Proverbs 14:17 ~ A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of wicked intentions is hated.

Proverbs 14:29 ~ He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly.

James 1:19-20 ~ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

8. Seek the way of love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 ~ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

9. Hot words stir up strife.

Proverbs 15:1 ~ A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

10. A hot-tempered man creates dissension.

Proverbs 15:18 ~ A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.

11. Do not associate with a hot-tempered man.

Proverbs 22:24-25 ~ Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.

12. Control yourself.

Proverbs 25:28 ~ Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

Proverbs 29:22 ~ An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.

Proverbs 30:33 ~ For as the churning of milk produces butter, and wringing the nose produces blood, so the forcing of wrath produces strife.

13. Fits of rage belong to your sinful nature, the way of sin.

Galatians 5:19-21 ~ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

14. Good news! Through the Spirit you can overcome the sin of a hot temper.

Galatians 5:22-25 ~ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

15. Handle anger in a godly way. Do not let the sun go down on your anger.

Ephesians 4:26 ~ "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

Anxiety, Worry

16. Jesus instructs us not to worry about tomorrow; about food, clothing, etc.

Matthew 6:25-34 ~ "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

"Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"

"So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

"and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

"Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"

"For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

17. Take one day at a time, and don't borrow trouble.

Matthew 6:34 ~ "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

18. Don't be anxious, but pray.

Philippians 4:6-7 ~ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

19. Cast all your anxiety on the Lord.

1 Peter 5:6-7 ~ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

20. You can discover the secret of tranquility.

Psalms 37:3-7 ~ Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

21. Anxiety weighs a person down.

Proverbs 12:25 ~ Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.

Proverbs 14:30 ~ A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.

Proverbs 17:22 ~ A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

Bitterness, Resentment

22. Put away bitterness.

Ephesians 4:31 ~ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

23. Quit biting and devouring each other.

Galatians 5:15 ~ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

24. Bitterness belongs to the sinful nature.

Galatians 5:19 ~ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

25. Let no bitter root grow.

Hebrews 12:15 ~ looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

26. Joseph's brothers allowed bitterness to grow into hatred and murder in their heart.

Genesis 37

27. Cain's anger turned to bitterness, hatred, and murder.

Genesis 4:3-8 ~ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

28. Hatred is forbidden.

Leviticus 19:17 ~ 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

29. One who hates lives in darkness.

1 John 2:9-11 ~ He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

30. The way of a malicious man is deceitful.

Proverbs 26:24-26 ~ He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself;

When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart;

Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

31. Hatred is murder.

1 John 3:11-20 ~ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

Blame Shifting

32. Adam and Eve tried to shift blame.

Genesis 3:12-13 ~ Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

33. Some try to blame God.

Proverbs 19:3 ~ The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.

34. Do not judge others while you fail to acknowledge your own sin.

Matthew 7:1-5 ~ "Judge not, that you be not judged.

"For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

"Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.

Church, Communion of Saints

35. The Church is one.

Ephesians 4:3-6 ~ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

36. The Church is one body with many functions; each member has a purpose.

Romans 12:4-8 ~ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

37. Together, Christians constitute God's household, in which he lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 ~ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,

in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

38. Keep the unity of believers; don't follow men, but Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 ~ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

39. Gifts of the Spirit differ. Each member must use his or her gifts to serve others.

Ephesians 4:11-13 ~ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

40. Each member of the body is necessary. We need one another.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 ~ For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

For in fact the body is not one member but many.

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,

but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,

that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

41. Christ is the head of the church, his body.

Ephesians 1:20-23 ~ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

42. Attend worship services faithfully.

Hebrews 10:25 ~ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

43. Elders are God's appointed shepherds placed over the flock of Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:28 ~ "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

44. Jesus prays for the church.

John 17:6-26 ~ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

"Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

"For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

"And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

"But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

"And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

"I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

"O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Death, Eternal Life

45. The believer will dwell in God's house forever.

Psalms 23:6 ~ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

46. The death of the Lord's saints is precious.

Psalms 116:15 ~ Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

47. Those who die in the Lord are blessed.

Revelation 14:13 ~ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

48. You can have comfort concerning those who have died and are asleep in Jesus.

1Thessalonians 4:13-18 ~ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

49. Believers who have died are absent from the body, but at home with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:1-8 ~ For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

50. In life and death we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:8 ~ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

51. Believers go to the Father's house to be with him.

John 14:1-4 ~ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

"And where I go you know, and the way you know."

52. Believers are co-heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17 ~ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

53. Nothing – not even death – can separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8:35-39 ~ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

54. Jesus, the good shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep.

John 10:14-15 ~ "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

"As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

55. There will be a new heaven and a new earth in which there will be no more suffering or sorrowing.

Revelations 21:1-4 ~ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

56. Jesus died so that we may live forever with him. Encourage one another with this truth.

1Thessalonians 5:9-11 ~ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

57. All who believe in Jesus will have eternal life.

John 3:14-16 ~ "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

"that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 ~ "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

1 John 5:11-12 ~ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Divorce

58. God rebuked the Israelites for the sin of divorce and commanded them to be faithful to their covenant vows.

Malachi 2:13-16 ~ And this is the second thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; so He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

"For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

59. God hates divorce.

Malachi 2:16 ~ "For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

60. Jesus says: No divorce, except in the case of adultery.

Matthew 5:31-32 ~ "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

"But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Matthew 19:3-9 ~ The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"

And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

"and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

"So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"

He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

61. Husband and wife are bound together until death separates them.

Romans 7:1-3 ~ Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.

So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

62. Mosaic law speaks of a bill of divorcement.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 ~ "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,

"when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife,

"if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,

"then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

63. A believer may not initiate a divorce from an unbelieving spouse.

1 Corinthians 7:10-16 ~ Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.

But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.

And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.

For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

64. If the unbelieving spouse wants to depart, he or she may do so.

1 Corinthians 7:15 ~ But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.

65. The believing spouse must seek reconciliation when trouble arises.

Romans 12:18 ~ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Matthew 5:23-24 ~ "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

"leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 18:15-18 ~ "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

"But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

"And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Evil Desires, Lust

66. Eve's sin began with lusting.

Genesis 3:6 ~ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

67. Don't covet.

Exodus 20:17 ~ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

68. Don't think about how to gratify the sinful nature.

Romans 13:14 ~ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

69. Say no to ungodly passions.

Titus 2:11-12 ~ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

70. Those who fulfill evil desires are objects of God's wrath.

Ephesians 2:3 ~ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

71. Christ came to save us from lust and evil desires.

Ephesians 2:4-5 ~ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

72. Don't conform to evil desires, but be holy.

1 Peter 1:14-16 ~ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 2:11 ~ Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

73. Live by the Spirit to overcome the lusts of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16 ~ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

74. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires.

Romans 8:5-8 ~ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Fear

75. Believers need not be slaves to fear.

Romans 8:15 ~ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

2 Timothy 1:7 ~ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

76. You need not be afraid if God is your helper.

Hebrews 13:5-6 ~ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

77. The Lord is the believer's light; he need not fear.

Psalms 27:1 ~ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

78. Trust in God casts out fear.

Psalms 56:10-11 ~ In God (I will praise His word), in the LORD (I will praise His word),
In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

79. Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Matthew 10:28 ~ "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

80. Don't be afraid; God cares for sparrows, and he will surely care for you.

Matthew 10:29 ~ "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

81. Perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:18 ~ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Forgiving Others

82. We must forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:12 ~ And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

83. Forgiving others is an absolute necessity.

Matthew 6:14-15 ~ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

"But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

84. Jesus says we must forgive often.

Matthew 18:21-22 ~ Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Luke 17:3-4 ~ "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

"And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

85. Put away bitterness and anger; forgive as God forgives.

Ephesians 4:31-32 ~ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

86. The father of the prodigal son forgave him and accepted him as completely as if he had not sinned. This father represents God. Thus Jesus reveals how God treats repentant sinners.

Luke 15:20-24 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

"And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;

'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

87. Jesus commands us to forgive others.

Mark 11:25 ~ "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

88. Love keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:5 ~ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

89. Love covers (overlooks) a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8 ~ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

90. Paul tells us we must forgive and restore one who has sinned against us.

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 ~ But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent-- not to be too severe.

This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.

Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.

For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

91. Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery and treated them kindly.

Genesis 45:4-5 ~ And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

"But now, do not therefore be grieved nor angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 50:15-21 ~ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."

So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,

'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.'" Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

"Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

How To Handle It When Others Wrong You

1. Seek to communicate privately with the person who has wronged you.

Matthew 18:15 ~ "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

2. If you can't get the matter settled, take one or two with you.

Matthew 18:16 ~ "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

3. If that doesn't work, tell it to the church; seek help there.

Matthew 18:17 ~ "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

4. Bless those who persecute you.

Romans 12:14 ~ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

5. Paul tells how to overcome evil and how to react when someone wrongs you.

Romans 12:17-21 ~ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

6. Do not seek revenge.

Romans 12:17 ~ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

Romans 12:19 ~ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Proverbs 20:22 ~ Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

7. Pursue peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18 ~ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

8. Overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 ~ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

9. Imitate Jesus by suffering wrongfully, if need be; in no way should you try to get even.

1 Peter 2:18-23 ~ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

"Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth";

who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

1 Peter 3:8-9 ~ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

10. Love your enemies and do good to them.

Matthew 5:43-47 ~ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

"And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Romans 12:20 ~ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

11. Turn the other cheek; be kind to the person who has wronged you.

Matthew 5:38-42 ~ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

"But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

"If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

"And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

"Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

1Thessalonians 5:15 ~ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

12. Do not testify against your neighbor, nor seek revenge.

Proverbs 24:28-29 ~ Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, for would you deceive with your lips?

Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

13. Moses gives a practical example of what to do after someone has wronged you.

Exodus 23:4-5 ~ "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.

"If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

Gossip, Communication

92. Commit yourself to speaking only what is right and true.

Proverbs 8:6-8 ~ Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things;

For my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them.

93. Do not speak harshly.

Ephesians 4:29 ~ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

94. Listen before you speak.

Proverbs 18:13 ~ He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

95. Do not hurt your neighbor by gossip or careless talk; control your tongue.

Proverbs 11:11-13 ~ By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.

A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

Proverbs 12:18 ~ There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.

Proverbs 17:27-28 ~ He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

Proverbs 20:19 ~ He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

Proverbs 21:23 ~ Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

96. We must help stop gossip and strife.

Proverbs 26:20 ~ Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

97. Be careful. Don't speak rashly.

Proverbs 13:3 ~ He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

Hate

98. Joseph's brothers allowed bitterness to grow into hatred and murder in their heart.

Genesis 37

99. Cain's anger turned to bitterness, hatred, and murder.

Genesis 4:3-8 ~ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

100. Hatred is forbidden.

Leviticus 19:17 ~ 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

101. One who hates lives in darkness.

1 John 2:9-11 ~ He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

102. The way of a malicious man is deceitful.

Proverbs 26:24-26 ~ He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself;

When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart;

Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

103. Hatred is murder.

1 John 3:11-20 ~ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

Homosexuality

To help homosexuals, see also: *Sexual Immorality*.

104. God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah for their homosexuality. It is sin.

Genesis 18:20-21 ~ And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

"I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

105. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed on account of their unrepentant homosexuality.

Genesis 19:4-5 ~ Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.

And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

Genesis 19:24-25 ~ Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.

So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

106. The example of Sodom and Gomorrah is given as a warning for people of all ages. God holds homosexuals fully accountable for their sin.

2 Peter 2:4-10 ~ For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)--

then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

Jude 1:6-7 ~ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

107. God's wrath is revealed against all of the godlessness and wickedness of men – including homosexuality.

Romans 1:18-32 ~ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Professing to be wise, they became fools,
and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--
and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

108. Paul describes homosexuality as a wicked perversion of God's gift.

Romans 1:26-27 ~ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

109. The wicked – including homosexuals – will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ~ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

110. There is hope for homosexuals – God forgives and cleanses persons of this sin.

1 Corinthians 6:11~ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Laziness, Work

111. At the dawn of history God called man to work as his servant.

Genesis 2:15 ~ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

112. Do everything to the glory of God; perform your work in a way that glorifies him.

1 Corinthians 10:31 ~ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 ~ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

113. An industrious housewife and mother pleases the Lord and delights her husband.

Proverbs 31:10-31 ~ Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.

She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.

She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.

She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.

She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.

She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.

She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet.

She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.

Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

"Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

114. Be a faithful worker so that you will be a good witness to outsiders and not be dependent on other.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 ~ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

115. Be on guard against idleness.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-10 ~ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

116. Earn your own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:12 ~ Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

117. The ant provides a lesson for lazy, careless people.

Proverbs 6:6-11 ~ Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,
Which, having no captain, overseer or ruler,
Provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.
How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep--
So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.

118. It's a disgrace to be lazy.

Proverbs 10:5 ~ He who gathers in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

119. One who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

Proverbs 12:11 ~ He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.

120. The way of the sluggard is hard.

Proverbs 15:19 ~ The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.

121. The shiftless man goes hungry.

Proverbs 19:15 ~ Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

122. Do not love sleep.

Proverbs 20:13 ~ Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.

123. The sluggard finds excuses not to work; he rationalizes his behavior.

Proverbs 26:13-16 ~ The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!"

As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed.

The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.

The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.

124. In the parable of the talents Jesus teaches us to serve him faithfully with the talents he gives to us.

Matthew 25:14-30 ~ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

"And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

"Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

"And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

"But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

"After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

"So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

"He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

"But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

125. One who fails to provide for his family denies the faith.

1 Timothy 5:8 ~ But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

126. We must learn to work so that we may provide for daily necessities and live productive lives.

Titus 3:14 ~ And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Lying

127. Commit yourself to speaking only what is right and true.

Proverbs 8:6-8 ~ Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things;

For my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them.

128. God forbids us to lie; he wants us to speak the truth.

Exodus 20:16 ~ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Ephesians 4:25 ~ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

129. The Lord detests lying.

Proverbs 12:22 ~ Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.

130. All lying is of the devil, the father of all lies.

John 8:44 ~ "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Marriage, Husband/Wife Relationships

131. Marriage was instituted and designed by God.

Genesis 2:18-25 ~ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

132. At the heart of marriage is companionship and intimacy, which both husband and wife must promote.

Genesis 2:18 ~ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Genesis 2:24 ~ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

133. The husband is the head of the wife and the home.

Ephesians 5:23 ~ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

134. Husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the church.

Ephesians 5:25 ~ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

135. Husbands must exercise headship in love.

Ephesians 5:25-33 ~ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Colossians 3:19 ~ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

136. Husbands must treat their wives with respect and as equal heirs of God's gifts.

1 Peter 3:7 ~ Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

137. The husband must manage his own home well; he is the manager.

1 Timothy 3:4 ~ one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence

138. The husband and father is primarily responsible for training the children.

Ephesians 6:4 ~ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

139. God's design for the wife is that of a helper suitable for man.

Genesis 2:18 ~ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

140. Both husband and wife must seek to reflect the relationship between Christ and his church.

Ephesians 5:25 ~ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Ephesians 5:32 ~ This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

141. A wife is to submit to her husband, as the church submits to Christ.

Ephesians 5:22-24 ~ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Colossians 3:18 ~ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

1 Peter 3:1-2 ~ Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

142. A woman is not to exercise authority over a man.

1 Timothy 2:11-14 ~ Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

143. Husbands and wives must not fight and destroy each other.

Galatians 5:15 ~ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

144. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Matthew 12:25 ~ But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

Mixed Marriages/Unequally Yoked

145. Don't be yoked with an unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 ~ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

146. Two cannot walk together unless they are agreed.

Amos 3:3 ~ Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

147. God's people are warned against mixed marriages; unbelievers will lead them to sin.

Exodus 34:16 ~ "and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods."

148. In Ezra's time many did intermarry. This led to much sin, and Ezra confessed the guilt of God's people.

Ezra 9:1-15 ~ When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites."

"For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass."

So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished.

Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel assembled to me, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away captive, and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God.

And I said, "O my God: I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens."

"Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day."

"And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage."

"For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem."

"And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments,

"which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land, with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from one end to another with their impurity.'

'Now therefore, do not give your daughters as wives for their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons; and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.'

"And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our God have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such deliverance as this,

"should we again break Your commandments, and join in marriage with the people committing these abominations? Would You not be angry with us until You had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant or survivor?

"O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!"

149. Men of Judah intermarried and were led into deep sin. God was angry with them.

Nehemiah 13:23-27 ~ In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.

And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.

So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves.

"Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.

"Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?"

Money

150. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:6 ~ Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

151. Learn contentment, for love of money brings misery.

1 Timothy 6:7-10 ~ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

152. Keep free from love of money and be content.

Hebrews 13:5 ~ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

153. Paul learned contentment even in the most difficult circumstances of life.

Philippians 4:11-13 ~ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

154. Contentment promotes peace.

Proverbs 17:1 ~ Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.

155. Life does not consist of what one possesses.

Luke 12:15 ~ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

156. Do not allow the deceitfulness of wealth to crowd out the word.

Mark 4:7 ~ "And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

(continued on next page)

Mark 4:18-20 ~ "Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,

"and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

"But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

157. Put covetousness to death.

Colossians 3:5 ~ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

158. Do not lay up earthly treasures, but heavenly treasures.

Matthew 6:19-21 ~ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

"but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

159. You can't serve two masters at one time.

Matthew 6:24 ~ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

160. Seek first God's kingdom.

Matthew 6:33 ~ "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

161. Don't seek status, as the disciples did.

Luke 9:46-48 ~ Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest.

And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, and said to them, "Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great."

162. It's better to have a simple lifestyle than to have wealth with a lot of conflict in the home.

Proverbs 15:16-17 ~ Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.

163. Don't wear yourself out to get rich.

Proverbs 23:4-5 ~ Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease!

Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

164. Seek neither poverty nor riches.

Proverbs 30:8-9 ~ Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches-- feed me with the food allotted to me;

Lest I be full and deny You, and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.

165. It's better to have wisdom than to have wealth.

Proverbs 16:16-17 ~ How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he who keeps his way preserves his soul.

166. A good name is more desirable than great riches.

Proverbs 22:1 ~ A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Persecution

167. Why do people persecute Christians, even when they are doing good?

John 15:18-21 ~ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

"But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

1 John 3:1 ~ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

168. Cain persecuted his brother Abel because his own works were evil, while Abel's were righteous.

1 John 3:12-14 ~ not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

169. Do good to and pray for those who persecute you. Love your enemies.

Matthew 5:38-42 ~ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

"But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

"If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

"And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

"Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

170. Imitate Stephen, who prayed for his persecutors as they were stoning him.

Acts 7:60 ~ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

171. In dealing with your persecutors be wise and innocent.

Matthew 10:16 ~ "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

172. If and when you are falsely accused, trust God to lead you.

Matthew 10:17-20 ~ "But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.

"You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

"But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;

"for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

173. One need not get depressed due to severe persecution. Paul testifies to that.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 ~ We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed--

174. Those who suffer for the sake of Christ will be blessed and should count it an honor to do so.

1 Peter 4:12-16 ~ Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

175. Never be ashamed to be identified with those who are being persecuted. Rather, suffer with them, if need be.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 ~ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

176. Do not be ashamed of the gospel. Testify boldly and be ready to suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 2:3 ~ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

177. Do not be unsettled or let the devil lead you away from the faith through persecution.

1 Thessalonians 3:2-4 ~ and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

178. Jesus says that some do fall away when they are persecuted.

Matthew 13:20-21 ~ "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

"yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

179. Some compromise the gospel to avoid persecution. Don't be like that.

Galatians 6:12 ~ As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

180. Believers can keep God's Word when they are persecuted. David did.

Psalms 119:51 ~ The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law.

Psalms 119:61 ~ The cords of the wicked have bound me, but I have not forgotten Your law.

Psalms 119:69 ~ The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.

181. If persecutors threaten you, obey God rather than man, as did Peter & John.

Acts 4:18-20 ~ And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:29 ~ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

182. Paul & Silas sang hymns while they were imprisoned.

Acts 16:25 ~ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

183. Paul was willing to die for the sake of Christ.

Acts 21:12-13 ~ Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

184. Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake will be blessed.

Matthew 5:10-12 ~ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 ~ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Revelations 2:9-10 ~ "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

185. Be willing to suffer even for doing good.

1 Peter 3:13-14 ~ And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

186. Unconverted sinners will at times heap abuse on you because you no longer join them in their sin.

1 Peter 4:3-5 ~ For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles-- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Self-Centeredness

187. Love is not self-seeking.

1 Corinthians 13:5 ~ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

188. Selfish ambition brings its bitter fruit.

James 3:14-16 ~ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

189. Jesus condemned James and John for their self-seeking attitude, and he calls us all to humble service.

Matthew 20:20-28 ~ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father."

And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

"And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--

"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

190. Jesus calls us to self-denial.

Luke 9:23-25 ~ Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

191. Don't be self-centered, but think of others.

1 Corinthians 10:24 ~ Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

192. Follow Jesus' example by thinking of how to please others.

Romans 15:2-3 ~ Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

Self-Pity

193. Elijah yielded to self-pity for a time and fled to Horeb.

1 King 19:4-5 ~ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

194. God confronted Elijah.

1 King 19:9 ~ And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

195. Listen to Elijah's self-pity.

1 King 19:10 ~ So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

196. God dealt with Elijah's problem.

1 King 19:11-18 ~ Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria.

"Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

"It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.

"Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

197. Asaph, the psalmist, also fell into the sin of self-pity for a time.

Psalms 73

198. Listen to Asaph's self-pity.

Psalms 73:13-14 ~ Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence.

For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning.

199. Asaph recovered from his self-pity.

Psalms 73:15-28

200. The Lord directs us to a cure for self-pity.

Psalms 37

201. Turn from self-pity.

Proverbs 15:13 ~ A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

202. Jonah became angry and was filled with self-pity, for which God rebuked him.

Jonah 4:1-4 ~ But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

"Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Sex – In Marriage

203. Sex is God-given.

Hebrews 13:4 ~ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

204. Fulfill your duty to your spouse.

1 Corinthians 7:3 ~ Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

205. Your body also belongs to your spouse.

1 Corinthians 7:4 ~ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

206. Refrain only by mutual consent; for refraining can lead to temptation.

1 Corinthians 7:5 ~ Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

207. Find satisfaction in your spouse.

Proverbs 5:18-20 ~ Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth.

As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love.

For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

Sexual Immorality

208. Looking on a woman lustfully is adulterous.

Matthew 5:27-28 ~ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

209. Spiritual surgery may be needed to avoid immorality.

Matthew 5:29-30 ~ "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

"And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

210. Put to death sexual immorality.

Colossians 3:5-7 ~ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

211. You can overcome sins of sexual immorality.

Proverbs 4:23 ~ Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

212. Sexual sins come from the heart.

Matthew 15:19-20 ~ "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

"These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

213. The sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ~ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

214. God can cleanse you from the sin of sexual immorality.

1 Corinthians 6:11 ~ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

215. You can overcome sexual immorality through the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-18 ~ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

216. Purify yourself out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 7:1 ~ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

217. God wants all of us to avoid sexual immorality, including premarital sex, and to learn to control our own bodies.

1Thessalonians 4:3-6 ~ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

Temptation

218. Satan subtly tempted Eve.

Genesis 3:1-4 ~ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

"but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

219. The devil still prowls around like a lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8-9 ~ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

220. Satan at times comes as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 ~ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

221. At times, Satan uses others to entice us.

Proverbs 1:10 ~ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

222. God tempts no one. Each one is tempted when, by his own desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

James 1:13-15 ~ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

223. Resist the devil.

James 4:7 ~ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

224. Jesus was tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1-11 ~ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

225. Jesus won by using the sword of the Spirit, God's Word, each time.

Matthew 4:4 ~ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:7 ~ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

Matthew 4:10 ~ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

226. Jesus tells us to watch and pray, lest we should yield to temptation.

Matthew 6:13 ~ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 26:41 ~ "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

227. Every Christian should take heed, lest he or she should fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12 ~ Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

228. Put on the whole armor of God to fight against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-18 ~ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

Trials

229. Not all affliction is for specific sins. God often sends affliction to purify and strengthen our faith, for his glory.

1 Peter 1:6-7 ~ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

230. Job, a godly man, was severely tried; he lost his possessions and his children.

Job 1: 1-22

231. God at times sends trials to develop patience in us.

James 1:2-4 ~ My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

232. The psalmist was thankful for affliction, for it taught him to keep God's precepts.

Psalms 119:67-68 ~ Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes.

Psalms 119:71-72 ~ It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

233. God disciplines his children to promote sanctification.

Hebrews 12:5-11 ~ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

234. We must neither make light of God's discipline nor lose heart because of it.

Hebrews 12:5-6 ~ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

235. No discipline is pleasant, but later on we enjoy its fruit.

Hebrews 12:11 ~ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

236. To the lukewarm church Jesus declares that he rebukes and disciplines those whom he loves.

Revelations 3:19-20 ~ "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

237. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh, a continual affliction to bear. God promised him that his grace would always be sufficient.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ~ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

238. In everything God works for the good of those who love him.

Romans 8:28 ~ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

239. God will never give you more than you can bear.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ~ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

240. We cannot always comprehend God's ways, as he, in his wisdom, carries out his plan.

Romans 11:33-36 ~ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?"

"Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?"

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

241. We can rejoice in our sufferings, which produce perseverance.

Romans 5:3 ~ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

242. God blesses those who persevere under trials.

James 1:12 ~ Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

243. Paul says that he suffered under great stress so that he might learn to rely more on God.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 ~ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

244. Paul says that God always has and always will deliver him.

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 ~ who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,
you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

Waiting on the Lord

245. The Lord's Prayer is our model.

Matthew 6:9-13 ~ "In this manner, therefore, pray: our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

246. We can approach God boldly through Jesus, our high priest, who understand our needs.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ~ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

247. Cast all your anxiety on the Lord.

1 Peter 5:6-7 ~ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

248. Pray about everything instead of worrying.

Philippians 4:6-7 ~ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

249. Pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 ~ pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

250. Pray in faith.

James 1:6 ~ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

251. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful.

James 5:16 ~ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

252. God hears and answers prayer; he is near to his children.

Psalms 34:15-18 ~ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

253. Because Jesus was tried, as we are, he is able to help us.

Hebrews 2:18 ~ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

254. God answers intercessory prayer.

Acts 12:5 ~ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

Acts 12:12 ~ So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.