

Discipleship training

Steve Green

Session 2 – Grace declares
us innocent!

Which road sign best describes your journey with God at present?



Re-cap from last week

- **Most adults in Britain know a practising Christian**
- **Most adults in Britain quite like them**
- **Most adults in Britain are potentially open to the Gospel message**
- **Most adults in Britain respect Jesus and Christians more than The Church**

Summary and Implications

If our nation is to be transformed for Christ, then we are NOT pushing at a closed door. Further, this is best achieved, not by church leaders but by church members who model Jesus by their lives and actions. We need to be like Christ and not religious or too “churchy”!

What is 'Discipleship'?

μαθητής is from the Greek word "to learn"

A disciple is someone who learns from the 'Master'. A Christian disciple is someone who is continually learning from Jesus in order to be a better imitator of Christ, or more 'Christlike'.

Discipleship is the next stage after Salvation.

Once we are 'saved' what do we do next?

So Christian Discipleship may simply be defined as "Continually moving on with God"

How do we become better disciples?

- Growing in Grace
- Bible study and quiet time
- Prayer and Fasting
- Serving others (Widow, Orphan, Foreigner)
- Walking in the Spirit
- Evangelism
- Discipling others (we can only do this effectively if we are disciples ourselves)

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- **“But GROW IN THE GRACE and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18)**

How do we become better disciples?

- **Growing in Grace (6 weeks)**
 - **Freedom (Week 1)**
 - Innocence
 - Unashamed
 - Courageous
 - Humble
 - Fruitful

Summary on freedom

- If we are to grow as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (and disciple others) we need to be set free to:
 - ✓ Accept that God loves us as we are and not based on what we do (Parables of lost son and labourers in the vineyard)
 - ✓ Renounce the lies that the devil uses against us that God doesn't love us unless we 'strive' like the older brother and the workers employed first in the vineyard
 - ✓ Respond to God's love by our love for God and others and not guilt, shame, fear and pride
- **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

How do we become better disciples?

- **Growing in Grace (6 weeks)**
 - **Freedom (Week 1)**
 - **Innocence (Week 2 – Today!)**
 - **Unashamed**
 - **Courageous**
 - **Humble**
 - **Fruitful**

Who is God?



“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” (Psalm 19 verse 1, NIV)



How can we describe God?

Write down 12 key words to describe God

Watch video: Click [here](#)

How do we measure up compared with God?

- **Psalm 40:5** Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count.
- **Isaiah 55:8** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.
- **How does Jesus 'raise the bar' from the 10 commandments?**
- **What are the sins of: the world, the flesh and the devil?**
- **What is the difference between sins of commission and omission?**

Jesus is the exact representation of God (Hebrews 1:3). How does his character differ from ours?

How do we measure up compared with Jesus?

	Jesus is..	We are...
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

How do we measure up compared with Jesus?

	Jesus is..	We are...
1	Humble	
2	Generous	
3	Faithful	
4	Honest	
5	Obedient	
6	Pure	
7	Loving	
8	Self-denying	
9	Pro-active	
10	Prayerful and worshipful	
11	Courageous	
12	Trusting etc. etc.	

How do we measure up compared with Jesus?

	Jesus is..	We are...
1	Humble	Proud
2	Generous	Selfish
3	Faithful	Faithless
4	Honest	Deceitful
5	Obedient	Disobedient
6	Pure	Impure and full of lust
7	Loving	Un-loving
8	Self-denying	Self-serving
9	Pro-active	Passive and lazy
10	Prayerful and worshipful	Cold hearted in worship
11	Courageous	Fearful
12	Trusting etc. etc.	Full of worry

Crime, guilt and punishment

- For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God **(Romans 3.23)**
- For the wages of sin are death **(Romans 6.23)**
- In Roman times (Jesus' time) if someone was found guilty and sent to prison they received a 'certificate of debt'
- Why do all Adam's descendants receive a 'certificate of debt'? **(Romans 5:19)**
- In many languages 'sin' and 'debt' are the same word. Why?

How do we seek to justify what we have done wrong?

How do we try and justify ourselves before God?

- Justification by good works. What do we 'do' to try and earn God's favour? Why does this not work? (**Galatians 2:16**)
- Justification by religious background. Paul says he could have put his trust in his religious pedigree (**Philippians 3:4-6**) but, what did he conclude about this? (**Philippians 3:7**)
- Justification by comparison. What does Jesus say about this? (**Luke 18:9-14**)

How are our debts paid? How are we declared innocent?

- **Read Luke 7:36-50**
- **How did Simon the Pharisee try and justify himself?**
- **How was the prostitute actually justified? (verse 50. See also Ephesians 2:8)**
- **When the Roman prisoner had served his sentence, what did the judge write on the certificate of debt?**
- **What did Jesus say from the cross? (John 19:30)**
- **How does this deal with all of Adam's descendants? (Romans 5:17)**



**Debt
to be
paid**

US

- Imperfect
- Guilty
- Deserving of punishment

GOD

- Love
- Perfect
- Holy

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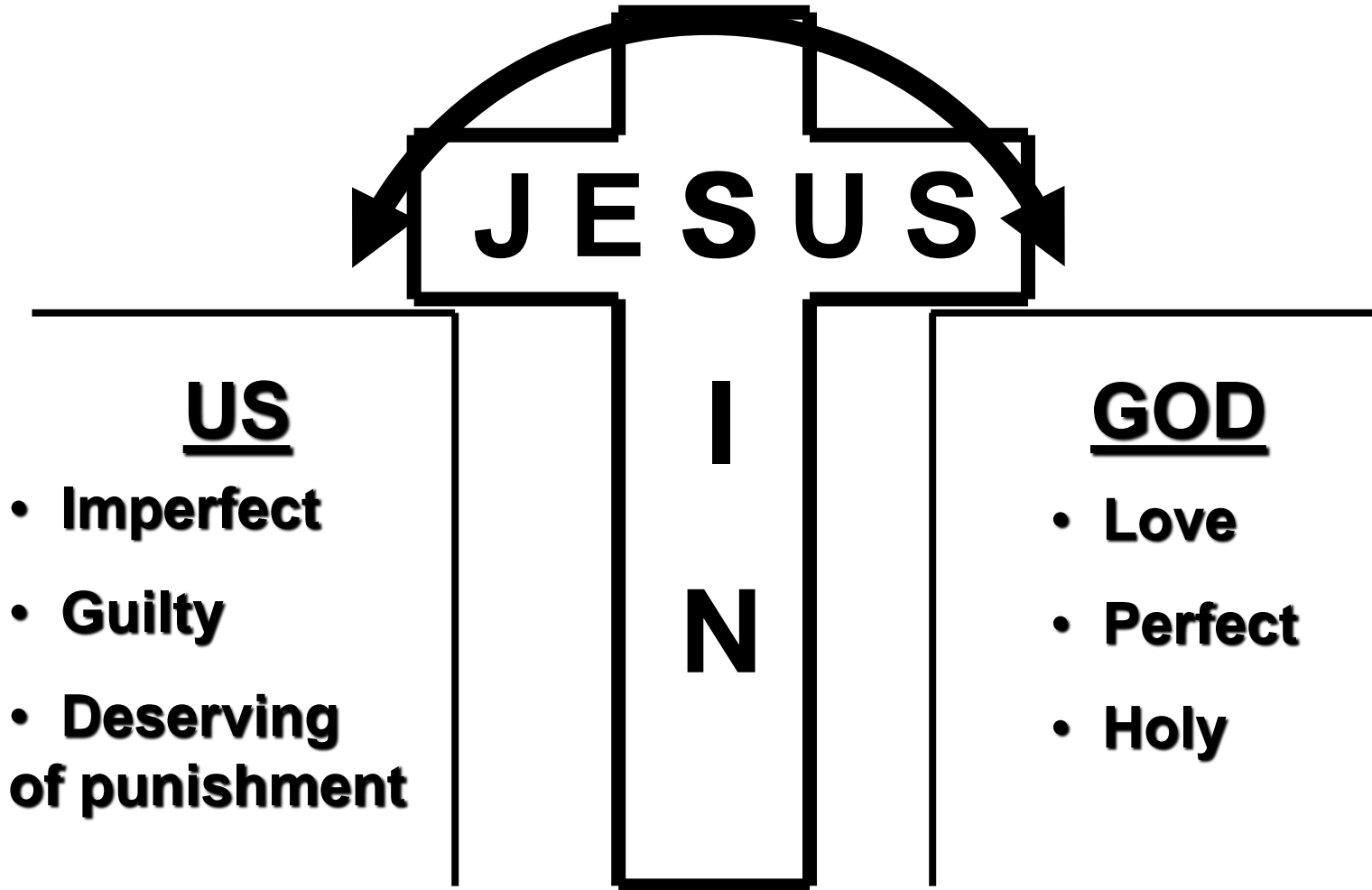
US

- **Imperfect**
- **Guilty**
- **Deserving
of punishment**

GOD

- **Love**
- **Perfect**
- **Holy**

It is finished – The debt is paid in full!



Grace declares us innocent

Dispel the devil's lies

Statement	True or False
I am only forgiven if I confess my sins really hard and cry tears over them	
Feeling guilty for my sins is the best safeguard against doing them again	
My sins are too big to be forgiven	
Guilt is a good way to motivate others to do right	

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Statement	True or False
I am only forgiven if I confess my sins really hard and cry tears over them	False
Feeling guilty for my sins is the best safeguard against doing them again	False
My sins are too big to be forgiven	False
Guilt is a good way to motivate others to do right	False

Grace declares us innocent

- “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” **(Isaiah 1:18)**
- You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl our iniquities into the depths of the sea. **(Michah 7:19, NIV)**
- There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **(Romans 8:1)**

“Your sins are forgiven...Your faith has saved you; go in peace (Jesus’ words to the prostitute at the house of Simon the Pharisee)

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The End