



Step Three: Being Ready

Studying to Give a Thoughtful Answer to the Disciple, the Skeptic, and the Scoffer

Disciples: _____ of Christ who are looking to learn

Psalm 1:1-3 – “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Skeptics: unconvinced, confused, _____

It's easy to love things that are actually bad for us. It's easy to believe things that will actually hurt us. It is not loving or kind to encourage someone on a path of self-destruction and self harm.

I know that you think the things that you love are good and true and right – but the Bible clearly teaches many of those things are harmful and destructive sins. I wouldn't be a faithful Christian or a true friend if I didn't warn you that Jesus said that your heart is very sick, and often loves the wrong things. We need help to love the right things.

The good news is that our identity doesn't have to be wrapped up in any of our (often broken) desires! God wants us to find our true identity as bearers of His image, a child of God, and followers of Jesus Christ!

Scoffers: mocking, uninterested, _____

I'm concerned that if we encourage a bird to believe that it's really a fish, then we're just going to drown it.

I know what it's like to love things that will hurt me – and what it's like to be attracted to behaviors that the Bible says are wrong... but I've found the teaching of Jesus to be deeply Good News in freeing me from just my instincts and desires.



Step Four: Shine as a Light

Living out an Answer with our Lives

If we believe that we need God's help to Love rightly...

→ We should _____ God, not our own _____

Psalm 18:30 – “As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.”



Ready to Give an Answer

Answering the tough questions with our words and with our lives

Part 8: “Isn’t Love Just Love?”

The Text: Jeremiah 17:5-14

17:5-6 – The Parched _____ of Trusting _____

“heath” = עֵרְוָה = shrub, bush

1 Corinthians 1:20 – “Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”

17:7-8 – The Abundant _____ of Trusting in _____

Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

17:9 – The Fatal _____ in our Hearts

“deceitful” = ‘āqōb = sly, insidious, slippery, crooked, polluted

“desperately wicked” = ānaš = woefully sick, incurable / fatal

Romans 7:18-19 – “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”

17:10-11 – The _____ Eggs of Human _____

Mark 8:36 – “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

17:12-13 – Don’t Abandon the Living Waters for the _____

Jeremiah 2:13 – “For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”

17:14 – Salvation and _____ Comes from the Lord

John 4:13-14 – “Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”



Step One: Understanding Honestly Considering the Hard Questions

→ “To Be _____: Follow Your _____”

“Let your heart guide you... it whispers, so listen closely” - Walt Disney

“Break the rules, stand apart, ignore your head, and follow your heart”
- Paula Abdul

“God has destined you to soar. You have victory, freedom, and excellence on the inside” - Joel Osteen

→ “What I _____ in My Heart is what’s _____”

“There is your truth and there is my truth. As for the universal truth, it does not exist” – Amish Tripathi (best-selling author)

“If I feel like I’m X... then I am X” – the LGBTQIA+ movement

→ “It’s _____ to say that something I love is _____”

“A God worthy of your eternal love wouldn’t judge you for who you love while you’re here.”- Christina Lauren (best-selling author)



Step Two: Strengthened Belief Being Thoughtful About What We Believe

Faith ~ Reason ~ Experience

Faith: A _____ trust in the _____ of Jesus and the Bible

Trust Jesus: He warned us about the _____ in our own _____!

Matthew 15:19 – “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies”

Mark 7:21-23 – “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

Trust Jesus: We need _____ on who and how to love!

Matthew 5:46 - “For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?”

Matthew 22:37-38 - “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.”

Trust the Bible: True Love warns us against loving the _____ things!

1 John 2:15-17 – “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

Trust the Bible: Many things we _____ love are actually _____

Romans 1:26-31 – “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections (*atimia pathos* = shameful lusts)... Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God... covenantbreakers, without natural affection (*astorgos* = hard hearted, unloving even of own family), implacable, unmerciful...”

Trust the Bible: Our _____ is not in our Sin – it’s in our _____!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

John 1:12 – “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”

Reason: consider the _____ and _____

✓ Truth: is not _____ by sincerity, desire, or belief
My feelings don’t change reality

✓ True Love tells the _____
It is deeply selfish and unloving to encourage someone who is heading down a path of destruction

✓ We cannot _____ claim to follow Jesus and the Bible, and then approve of things that God says are wrong and harmful

Experience: finding it to be _____ in our own lives

→ I can naturally love things that are harmful, wrong, and bad

→ The people who love me best, help me follow Jesus not my heart