

New Testament

ROMANS

Greek Exegesis

Lesson 30
Romans 8:5-11

I The Introduction Romans 1:1-17

II The Doctrine of the Christian Faith Romans 1:18 - 11:36

Romans 1:18 - 3:20

The Indictment: The Doctrine of Condemnation

Romans 3:21 - 5:21

The Imputation: The Doctrine of Justification

Romans 6:1 - 8:39

The Impartation: The Doctrine of Sanctification

The Four Spiritual Laws of the Believer

Law One

Romans 6:1 - 7:12 The Law of God

It's purpose: Not meant to produce life but to make sin known

Laws Two and Three

Romans 7:13-25 The Law of Sin

The Law of the Mind

Law Four

Romans 8:1-39 The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus

Understanding
the Phases
of Christian Growth

PHASE I

characteristic: carnal or fleshy

**Both religious people and spiritually born-again people
can have the characteristics of this category.**

This phase is a natural condition for the one who is spiritually born-again because the first spiritual condition at salvation is a babe in Christ.

According to the Bible, a babe in Christ needs the milk of the Word of God and not solid food.

I Corinthians 3:1-4

- 1) And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual *ones*, but as to fleshy *ones*, as to babes in Christ.
- 2) I gave you milk to drink, and not solid food, for you were not yet able, but neither yet now are you able.
- 3) For you are yet fleshly. For where among you *is* jealousy, and strife, and divisions, are you not fleshly and *are you not* walking according to man?

Hebrews 5:11-14

11) Concerning whom the discourse *is* much, and difficult in interpretation to speak, since you have become dull with respect to hearing.

12) For indeed while being indebted to be teachers on account of the time, again you have need that someone should teach you what *are* the elements of the beginning of the words of God, and you have become having need of milk, and not of solid food;

13) for every one partaking of milk *is* without experience *in the* Word of righteousness, for he is *an* infant.

14) And the solid food belongs to mature ones, ones having discernment of both good and evil, on account of the practice of having had their senses exercised.

The Christian in this phase is dominated by human understanding of the teaching of Scripture and is not able to handle the depth of the meaning of the Scripture.

**The first thing a newborn Christian looks for
is a belief system that he or she agrees with.**

This provides a security system for the new believer.

The believer in this phase approaches the Bible as a handbook of principles to live by that appeals to the effort of the human nature.

Therefore the believer in this phase is attracted to teaching that follows this line of thinking.

The emphasis in this phase is living or practicing or applying the principles from the Bible by his or her human effort rather than trusting the Spirit of God to perform them.

Unfortunately, most Christians live and die in this phase of growth and never progress in their spiritual maturity.

Also, unfortunately, many pastors and ministers will not advance and progress out of Phase I.

PHASE II

characteristic: awareness

The Process

A believer enters this growth phase when the Holy Spirit begins to make the believer aware that some things in the believer's belief or theological system are not true according to the Bible.

This awareness comes from the Holy Spirit revealing God's truth.

It does not come from a human understanding and wisdom or a human education system. It takes the Spirit of God to reveal things of God as we studied in I Corinthians 2:7-14.

The Content

Phase II is characterized by the awareness that the Bible is teaching two primary things upon which all understanding of the Scriptures is based:

**The Bible is presenting and promoting
the ability and glory of God.**

**The Bible is presenting and promoting
the inability and corruption of man.**

Even though a believer will eventually understand these from the Bible, the implications and applications of these truths are not realized until Phase III.

The Content (continued)

Phase II believers constantly commit what is called *crossover*.

Crossover takes place when a believer understands intellectually, and admits that it takes the total ability of God's Spirit to do God's Word, but then presents the application of Scripture as something to be performed by the human nature rather than for God's Spirit to fulfill.

Most in the ministry commit crossover today.

The complete truth of God's Word is not understood and applied correctly until the believer passes into Phase III.

PHASE III

characteristic: breakthrough

In this phase - by the revelation of God's Spirit - a breakthrough takes place when the whole truth about God's ability and man's inability is fully realized from the two primary teachings of the Bible:

The Bible is presenting and promoting the ability and glory of God.

The Bible is presenting and promoting the inability and corruption of man.

Phase III is reached when not only does the believer know and understand that it is God's grace and God's ability that does God's work, but also has the realization that man - or the human being - is incapable of doing anything of or for God.

A Christian cannot be a true representative of the truth of God's Word until he or she has reached a point when the two primary teachings of Scripture are not only understood but also realized and applied to every verse and teaching in the Bible.

To come to this realization, a believer must learn from the Word of God these basics:

1) John 3:6

That which has been produced from out of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been produced from out of the Spirit is spirit.

**The flesh (or human) produces only the flesh (or human).
The Spirit produces Spirit.**

I Corinthians 2:10

But God revealed *them* to us through His Spirit, for the Spirit is searching all things, even the depths of God.

God's Spirit is the only One who can produce the spiritual things of God.

2) Ezekiel 36:24-27

And I will put My Spirit within you and I will have caused you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do *them*.

God's Spirit fulfills God's Word.

3) Romans 7:18

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.

The flesh (or the human) is governed by the Law of Sin and Death.

4) Isaiah 64:6

And we, all of us, have become like the unclean thing, and all our righteousness like a filthy rag. And we, all of us, wither like a leaf, and like the wind our iniquities carry us away.

5) Zechariah 4:6

And he answered and said to me, saying, This is the Word of Yahweh to Zerubbabel, saying, Not in strength, and not in power, but in My Spirit has said Yahweh of Hosts.

6) John 3:30

It is necessary for that One to increase, but for me to decrease.

This brings us to the Basic Principles of Discipleship

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone is desiring to come after Me, let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross, and let him follow Me."

This requirement reveals why a person will not relinquish his or her system of belief and the human effort to do God's work.

It is easier to be faithful and committed to a church and church system than it is to be faithful and committed to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Agape - Love

The Concept

I John 4:7-8

Galatians 5:22

Romans 5:5

The Command

Matthew 22:37-39

The Fulfillment

Ezekiel 36:27

Matthew 22:37-39 ESV

³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.

³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39 NKJ

³⁷ Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.

³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39 NAS

³⁷ And He said to him, **You shall love** the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment.

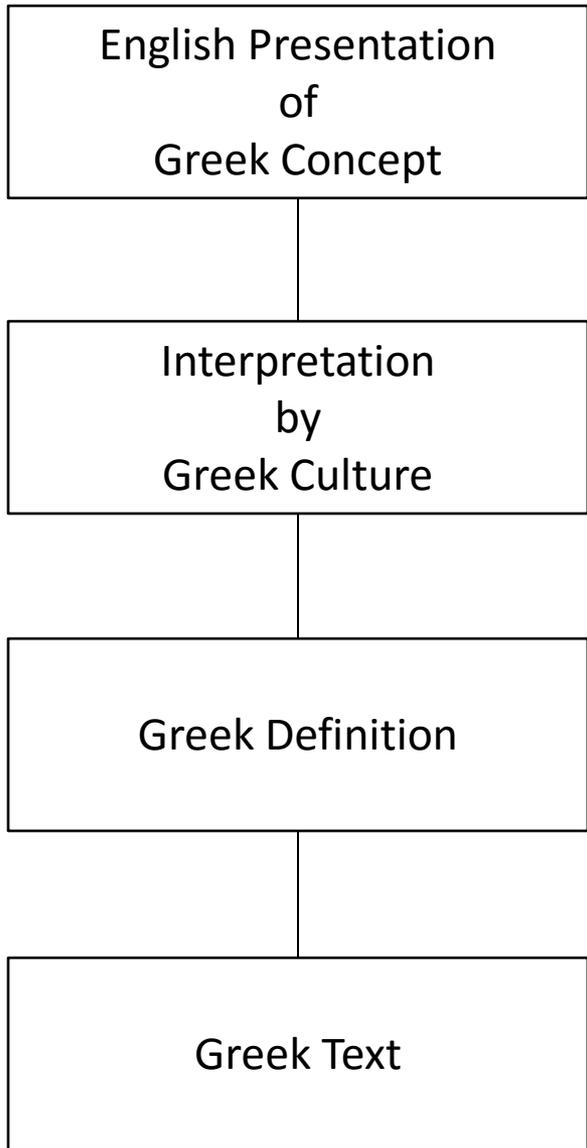
³⁹ The second is like it, **'You shall love** your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39 NIV

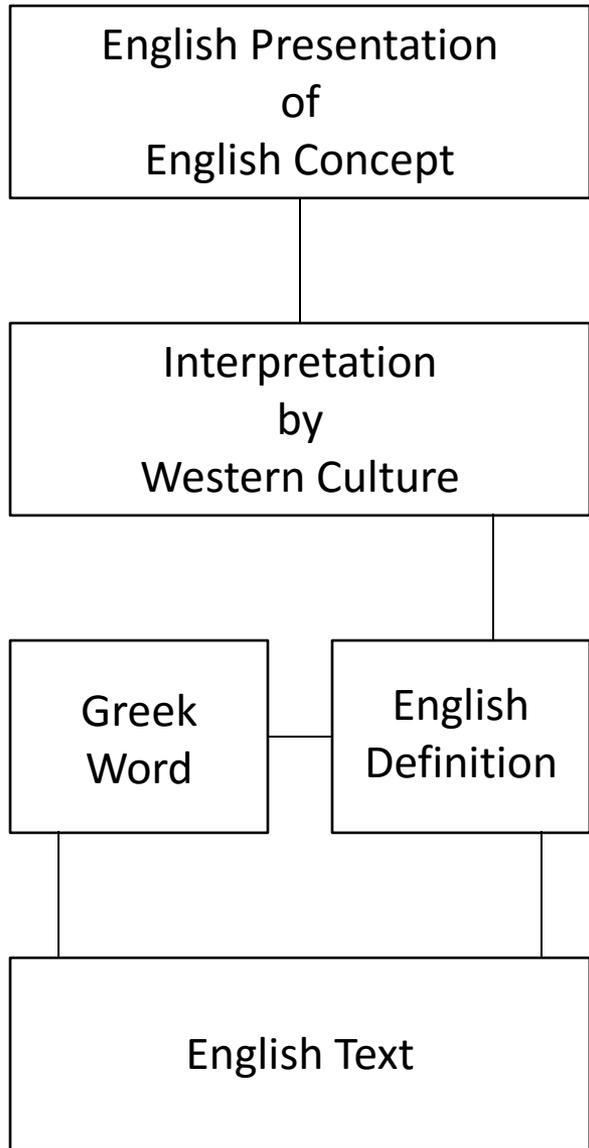
³⁷ Jesus replied: **Love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like it: **Love your neighbor** as yourself.



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I Corinthians 11:1

Become imitators of me, according as I also *am* of Christ.

I Corinthians 4:16

I encourage you, therefore, become imitators of me.

Philippians 3:17

Become fellow-imitators of me, brothers, and consider the *ones* walking this way, according as you have us *for a* pattern.

I Peter 5:5-6

⁵ Likewise, younger ones be subject to *the older ones*; and all being subject to one another, bind on humility, because God resists "Proud ones, but He is giving grace to humble *ones*".

⁶ Therefore, be humbled under the mighty hand of God, in order that He may exalt you in time;

- 1) God gives strength to the ones who are weak.**
- 2) God brings trials to make us weak, so that we might depend on His strength**
- 3) Paul learned this as recorded in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is being perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will most gladly rather boast in my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ might dwell upon me.

¹⁰ On account of which I am taking pleasure in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in difficulties, on behalf of Christ. For when I should be weak, then I am powerful.

4) The Lord Himself will be our strength

Isaiah 12:2

Behold, God is my salvation! I will trust and I will not be afraid, because my strength and song *is* Yah Yahweh; and, He will be salvation for me.

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

5) The Lord will never strengthen or empower the human nature of the believer.

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