

POD Teaching Session 3 Module C

Living the Victorious Christian Life

Learning Objectives:

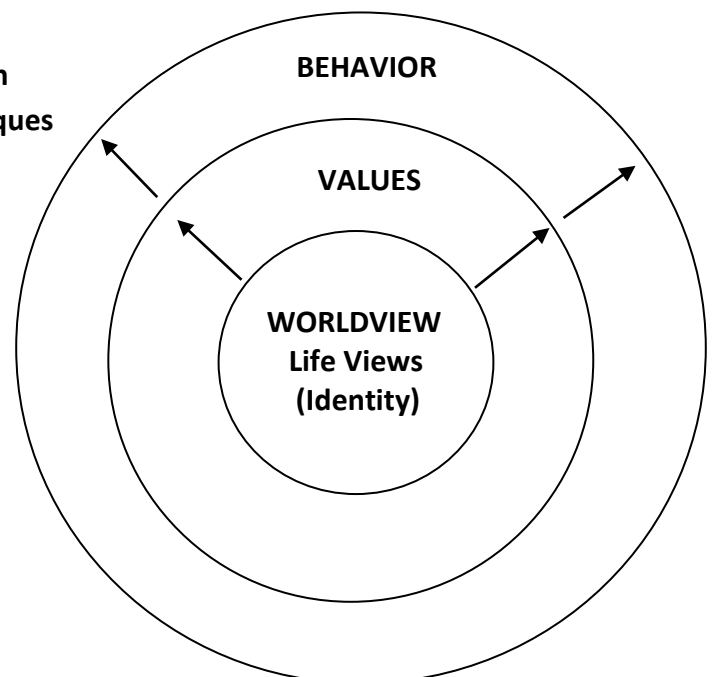
- Learn that how we perceive our “Identity” influences our behavior.
- Learn the three levels of faith.
- Grasping your true identity in Christ.
- Learn how to get all your needs met in Christ.
- Understand and receive the benefits of exchanged life spirituality.
- Knowing and applying the keys to living as a victorious overcomer.



The transformation process, overcoming the unholy trinity, is an inside out job

Two approaches to behavior modification

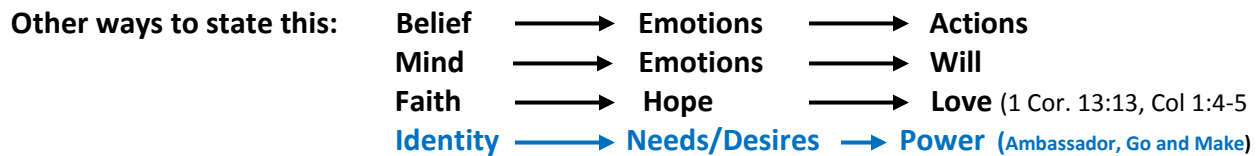
1. **Secular Psychology**: Deals directly with exterior behavior modification techniques
2. **The Biblical Approach**: Deals with correcting ones World or Life view which in turn determines what we value which influences how we behave. This approach works on change from the inside out.



* **Worldview or Lifeviews/ Beliefs** = A frame work of ideas, presuppositions, axioms, beliefs (true or false) through which an individual interprets the world and interacts in it. Said another way a worldview provides a model of the world which guides its adherents in the world.

Value (with emotional attachments) = What we hold desirable, meeting our needs and goals, beneficial, important. Usually come with emotional attachments.

Behavior/ Actions = **How** we react to circumstances, good or sinful; a product of our worldview and value system.



Indwelling Holy Spirit(Pneuma = P.), Christ in me hope of glory(Oida =O.), Power(Dunamis = D.)
(all my needs met through intimacy with Christ)

* **World view examples:** How we view reality; Who am I? Do I have a purpose for living? Why do I exist? Is there a God? If so which God? Is God personal? Is there eternal life? Will I ultimately be judged for what I have done? Is there a hell? Is man essentially good? Are there moral absolutes?

Essentially it boils down to three basic believe systems: Theism (one personal God as eternal and self existing), Naturalism (atheists, there is no god, the universe is all there is), or Pantheism (you are god, the universe as a whole is God).



Understanding and walking in our **Identity** in Christ is an experiential truth not to be confused with the secular or worldly counseling technique known as behavior management which deals with exterior behavior modification techniques verses working on re-defining ones view of reality (worldview); rooting out false beliefs and replacing them with truth.

Part of our worldview is how we view ourselves or believe about ourselves (our identity). Why is understanding our new identity so important?

1. **BECAUSE IDENTITY PRECEDES AND AFFECTS BEHAVIOR** (also our attitudes, emotions, values, etc.). *What I do will tend to flow from who I perceive myself to be.*
2. Understanding our new identity is also important because looking at Christian brothers and sisters through God's eyes will have an amazing impact on *their* spiritual life as well! This issue of our new identity is not just for you, it is also for others around you.

Exercise: "Who are you? How do you *really* define yourself ?" _____

Let's consider an important passage that demonstrates the principle that our behavior (thoughts, attitudes, etc.) flow out from who we perceive ourselves to be.



Col. 3:1-3* - If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Discuss passage: **Then do envelope illustration: See Resource Guide for inserts for envelope. Have them write their name on top of the heart, write "in me" below Jesus Christ in the heart, write NEW HEART at the bottom (illustrates "Christ in me"), have them write on the outside of the envelope Jesus Christ, write below His name IN CHRIST, have them place the new heart into the envelope (illustrates "In Christ"). Then have them write SAINT across the top of the envelope. This is how the Father now views you, it is your new identity. Christ in me and me in Christ! Place verses in envelope.**



Warning: If our joy and peace depend upon how we look, what we own, or how well we perform, we are looking to ourselves rather than the Lord to meet our God-given needs. If we define ourselves in these same terms then it is "walking after the flesh".

The point here is that God meets our deepest needs through our *New Identity* in Christ. To the extent that we are ignorant of and/or don't appropriate this by faith, we will go on suffering as needlessly "needy" people, trying to get other people/things to meet our needs, being disappointed by them when they can't, etc. (e.g. an insecure spouse needs to look to God to fill that need, not to their spouse for their source of security) XENOS

Illustration:

Faith's three levels: (See "On Saving Faith" in the resource guide)



1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. NASB95

1. Knowledge = faith begins with a knowledge of what it is that should be believed. (Remember from Session 1; Ginosko NT G1097 root of , G1921 Epiginosko).
2. Assent = believe that the object of faith is true. (Strong's G225 *a-lethe-ia* = *truth*)
3. Trust/faith = a personal commitment to and reliance upon an object of faith. It's when the "rubber hits the road" so to speak. **Revelation 12:11** "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death." NASB95 See also **James 2:14-26** (the "faith without works is dead" verse).

Regarding the saints' "faith" (Greek *pistis*) – on the one hand, it meant that they put their trust in God, being assured that God is not a liar but does what he has promised. And, on the other hand, the saints' "faith" (*pistis*) meant that they themselves were faithful, dependable and trustworthy servants of God and his son Jesus, and that they acted accordingly, being loyal to them by being prepared to pay the price that following Jesus might require. Including, giving their lives, if and when it came to that.

Appropriating our New Identity (Romans 6:6, 11, 13): Know, Consider, Present.

Excerpts are from the article "Appropriating our New Identity" in the resource guide.



If I could communicate only one section of the Bible to believers, it would be Romans 6:1-14. It most clearly states what we might call the [gospel](#) to Christians, --- the good news to those who have already believed. That section of scripture proclaims: Our union with and new identity in Christ, our participation in the death, burial and resurrection life of Christ, Our conflict with sin (how sin originates and how we defeat it), Our once-for all emancipation from the domination of the power of indwelling sin, Our new life of dependence on Christ and His resources for Christian living. The Marvelous Exchange Pg XIII

1st — "Know" (Knowledge = ginosko)

Romans 6:6 "knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;"

This means learning what the Bible teaches about our new identity, and regularly remembering/reflecting on it (2 Pet. 1:12, 13, 15).

"Your old self was crucified with Christ . . ." Our old identity (in Adam) has been completely obliterated; it no longer exists. See also Jn. 3:3, 5; Col. 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17.

Our old identity has been [destroyed](#) , so that "SIN"/our flesh has been put out of [authority](#) over us.

Discuss: [We can exercise our new authority in Christ \(Exousia\) something a non-believer cannot do.](#)

2nd — “Consider” (Assent)

ROM 6:11 “Even so consider* yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

*Middle Voice

Choosing to affirm what God says about your identity in spite of all the contrary feelings, thoughts, past behavioral evidence, other people, etc. say about you, in the specific identity area that fuels the expressed sin.

e.g. “I feel unappreciated.” But God’s view would contradict this feeling. Which are you going to choose to believe? What your feelings are telling you or what you “know” is true?

This means monitoring our thought-lives, becoming aware of lies about ourselves as they present themselves to us—and choosing to replace those lies with what God says is true about us (2 Cor. 10:5). We should ask the Lord to sensitize us to these lies, and help us to see how our new identity applies to us in specific areas. **THIS IS THE MISSING STEP FOR MANY CHRISTIANS!** Often we need other mature Christians to help us discern what these lies may be.

People cannot see how you monitor your thought life, but this is at the heart of long-lasting change in the Christian’s life. People will see the behavioral and attitudinal changes occur as you progress in your attention to your thoughts.



This is why every day, we should consciously recall and remind ourselves of what is true about us in this area: "I am free from sin's authority and therefore able to change."

Discuss: _____

3rd—“Present” (Faith)

Romans 6: 13 “and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

This means choosing to step out in faith and act in ways that are consistent with your new identity. This is the step that makes what we have learned “living truth.” This is a demonstration of the third level of faith.

Who are the Christians who experience a life of increasing freedom from slavery to sin? The ones who know Vs 6, then consider it to be the truth about them in spite of what their sin-natures, Satan, previous experiences and others tell them—and finally, who on that basis choose not to submit to moral defeat in their lives and instead present themselves to God in ways that allow His power to change their lives.

“Presenting” usually involves both a [negative](#) and [positive](#) step, a no and a yes. It is necessary to choose to *turn away from* immoral habits (vs. Rom 6:13a: “do not go on presenting yourselves to sin . . .”). It is also necessary to *turn to* God in ways that expose you to his alternative (vs. Rom 6:13b: “ ... but present yourselves to God . . .”). Real change involves the willingness to say “No”. Here the middle voice plays a powerful role requiring [laying aside](#) (a no) and a [putting on](#) (saying yes to God).



Remember the “middle voice” from session 1: ***Ephesians 4:22-24*** that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside*** the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and **put on the new self***, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. NASB95
Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you **laid aside*** the old self with its *evil* practices, and have **put on the new self*** who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— NASB95 *** middle voice**

Discuss : _____

SAINT not sinner:

- In the New Testament there are 28 verses using the word “sinners” and 13 for the word “sinner”. [None](#) refer to people who have come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus.
- On the other hand the word saints is mentioned over [60](#) times. This is your new identity.
- What about 1 Tim 1 :15 where Paul calls himself “ chief of sinners”? There was a Hebrew writing style where the author would place himself in the past as though it were in the present. Apparently, that is what Paul did. Since that is not the western way of speaking and writing, it has caused much confusion in understanding these passages. Based on what the other scriptures say about “sinners,” you can make your own judgment on whether Paul is the worst of sinners or whether using present tense when speaking of a past situation is true of Paul’s writing in this instance.



Key aspects of our New Identity (Eph. 1:3-14, 2; Col. 2; ROM 6) to be received by [Faith!](#)

The New Testament refers to dozens of aspects of our new identity in Christ. (See Dennis McCallum, *Walking In Victory*, pp. 24,25—which refers to 16 aspects. See Neil Anderson, *Victory Over The Darkness*, pp. 45-47, 57-59—which refers to 68 aspects). **We want you to be familiar with the main passages that distill our new identity, and the key aspects of this new identity.**

Also refer to the article in the resource guide: “Who am I ?”.



This chart emphasizes the importance of knowing how to appropriate your new identity

ASPECTS OF OUR NEW IDENTITY	RESULTING SPIRITUAL PROVISION	SYMPTOMS OF NOT "KNOWING", "CONSIDERING", AND/OR "PRESENTING"	EXAMPLES OF HOW TO "PRESENT"
Having the mind of Christ (Rom 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:16)	Knowing who you are in Christ and your purpose for living	Believing lies about who you are and not walking in the power (Dunamis/Exousia) of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer your body as a living sacrifice • Renew your mind • Use God's word to war against the unholy trinity.
Adoption as God's Child (Eph. 1:5)	Belonging: security in this life	Idolatrous human relationships Material anxiety Fear of rejection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving discipline & witness • Financial Giving
Forgiveness through Jesus' death for sin (Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:13-14)	Acceptance apart from performance	Destructive reactions to feelings of shame for wrongs (sins) (defensive, preoccupation with your wrongs) Resentment, bitterness toward others Man-pleasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgiving others • Honesty with others about our sins
Unique role in God's purpose (Eph. 1:9,10; 2:10)	Significance	Unhealthy comparison to others Vulnerability to career identity, Reactive to critique of performance or lack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate & support others in their ministries • Focused ministry involvement • Evaluate performance critique before the Lord - is it true? He loves me nonetheless.
Inheritance (Eph. 1:11,14)	Security in the next life	Vulnerability to temporal security Fear of death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to take risks and even suffer. • Long-term investment in ministry, including material generosity.
Delivered From Sin Nature's Authority (ROM 6:6; Col. 2:11,12)	Freedom from sin's control	No deep seated change or growth in our lives, superficial view of sin, helplessness and fatalism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Openness about your besetting sins • Faithful, patient persistence as we cooperate with God's strategy for change • Other-centered focus in spite of besetting sins
Delivered From Satan's Authority (Eph. 1:20,21; 2:6; Col. 2:10,15;)	Freedom from demonic influence	Vulnerable to temptation; accusation; kosmos; oppression Fear & superstition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refusal to cave & quit • Following God's will • Prayer warfare using full armor of God.

The Exchanged Life/Christ Life/Grace Life

When you became a Christian a great exchange took place. Jesus Christ took your place, and died for you on the cross. All of your sins were placed upon Jesus Christ, and He died in your place. In that great transaction Christ got all your sins and guilt, and you received His righteousness as your eternal position in Christ.

The Apostle Paul expressed this great spiritual principle in the following words. "He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that [we](#) might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

Exchanged life spirituality concentrates on the reality of a new identity through the in-Christ relationship that can dramatically [transform](#) us as we progressively believe, apply and live it out in our experience. It stresses that the spiritual life is not a matter of trying to do things for Jesus (works) but of believing, resting, applying and experiencing what He has already done for us.

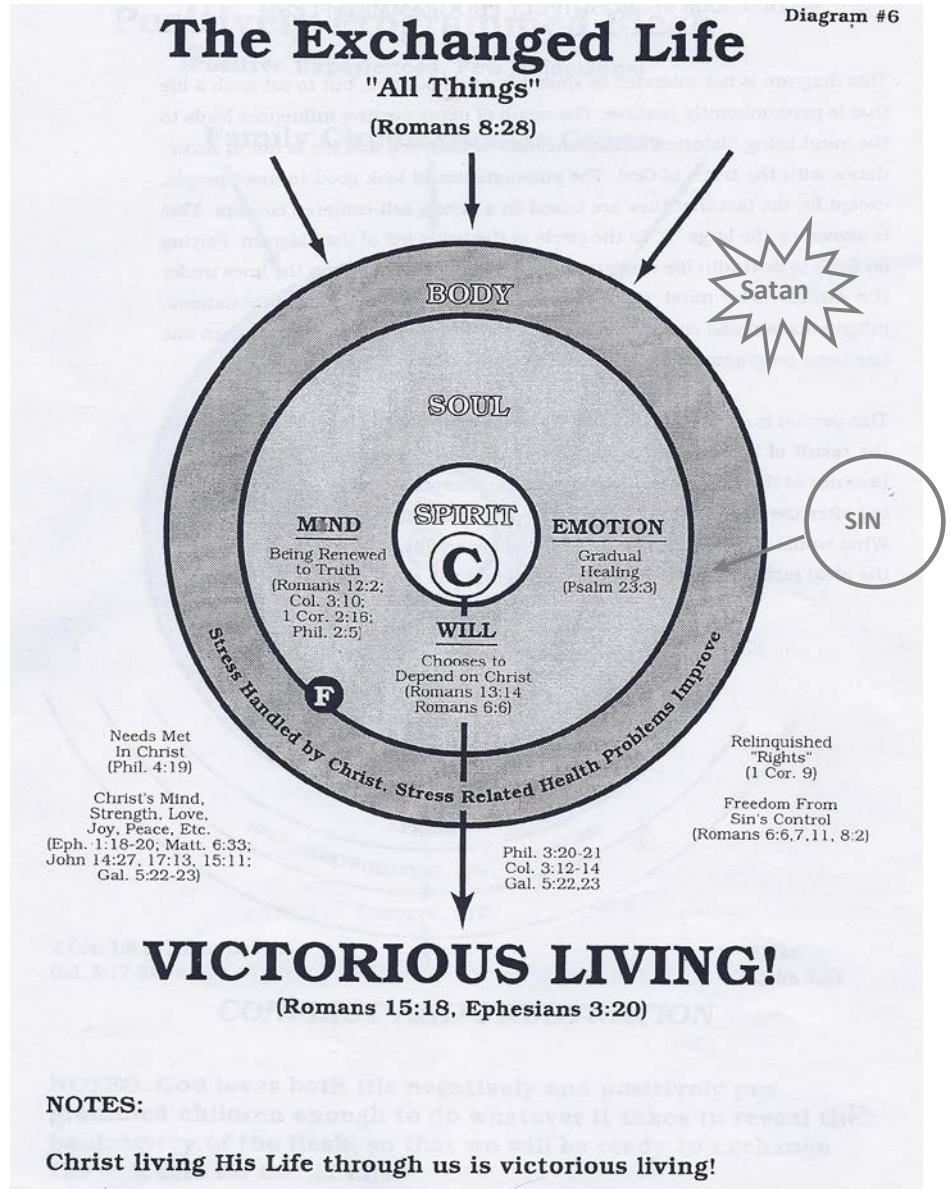
Now this is Grace!

In our name and on our behalf, Jesus paid our debt to the law. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Gal. 3:13. Our debt was twofold, and He paid it twofold:

- 1. By a life of perfect obedience, He fulfilled the law for us.**
- 2. By His death on the cross, He satisfied the law for us.**

The experiences of life for the person pictured here have not been different from other people. There have been both positive and negative situations in life. The most important difference is the “C” at the center and the size of the “C” and “F”. Rather than the large arrow coming from the flesh it now comes from the “C” to show the persons choice to live out of Christ’s resources instead of personal fleshly resources.

The major differences are instead of having a mind being distorted from believing lies the mind is now being renewed to the truth, the emotions are healing, and choices are now depending on Christ to a greater degree.



The Gospel of the Grace of God:

1. Delivered from the penalty of sin (Romans 3-5) past tense “justification”.
2. Delivered from the influence of the power of sin (Romans 6-8) present tense “sanctification”.
3. Delivered from the presence of sin (Romans 8) future tense “glorification”.

Be sure to refer to the articles in the resource guide: “What happened to me”, “Exchanged Life Spirituality”, “Bible verses affirming our new position and power in Christ and Him in us”, and “Clarification of the term Exchanged Life”.

Overcoming the unholy trinity through an ever growing intimacy with the Holy Trinity (Victorious obedient Holy living)

- Christ living His Life [through us](#) is victorious living!
- Accepting, believing, affirming, and proclaiming my new identity “in Christ”. [SAINT](#) not sinner. Rooting out false beliefs and replacing them with truth then start living out of this new reality.
- Getting your [EMOTIONS](#) under the influence of the Holy Spirit through mind renewal.
- Take authority (exousia) over Mr. Sin and its surrogates; its negative self talk. We must learn to talk to ourselves instead of letting ourselves (Mr. Sin) talk to us.
- Study and appropriate “the exchanged life spirituality”. (See [articles and books in resource guide](#)).
- Understanding the “New Covenant” is key to knowing who we are in Christ: We discussed this today in module A.
- In some difficult circumstances [humble yourself](#) and seek Biblical Based Christian counseling. A deliverance ministry maybe needed.
- Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. To be covered in the next Session 4.



1 Timothy 4:7-8 but have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand; **discipline*** yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

***gymnaze (Strong's G1128), where we get our English word gymnasium.**

Note: Active voice, imperative (command)

Now please close out today's session by discussing the implications of this with your POD partners and closing with prayer:

REMEMBER: 1 Cor. 8:1 "Knowledge puffs up but love builds up". Studying the Bible is important, but the goal is never knowledge for the sake of knowledge. Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means that we learn from Him, fellowship with Him, and obey everything He commands us. Love is the goal thru obedient holy living.



APPLICATION NEXT STEPS: As you review this session in your own personal quiet time, with your POD mates and others, ask yourself; What is God saying to me? and How am I going to respond? Begin now to look for opportunities to start sharing what you have learned with others. That is disciple making. Take advantage of the transformative power of prayer, journaling, writing out personal application/next steps, and memorizing key scriptures. Also, be sure to read the articles and one or more of the books mentioned in the resource guide at the end of each of the seven sessions.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS AND MY PERSONAL APPLICATION/NEXT STEPS:

Scripture I will commit to memorize from this session:

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**