

Wretched Worldview

**Conflict:
The Biblical Approach**

**Study Guide
Answer Key**

Study Guide Answer Key

These answers are not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline. We encourage the student to give more detailed responses. Answers for each chapter can be found in the DVD. Some of the Going Deeper questions may require the use of additional resources.

All Scripture references are from the NASB.

CHAPTER ONE: Love is Not Irritable, Part 1

1. According to I Corinthians 13:5, what is love not to be?
Irritable.
2. What does it mean to be irritable?
To be easily provoked; to “fly off the handle” at the smallest things; to be quick to get angry or annoyed with people.
3. According to I Corinthians 13, how are Christians supposed to love? What is the Greek word to describe this kind of love?
The Greek word is *agape*, and it describes a self-sacrificial type of love. (Exemplified by the way God loves.)
4. What is the problem with the way humanity loves? What is Jesus’ prescription for this problem and what verse tells you this?
Our problem is not that we lack love, but that it’s aimed in the wrong direction. Our love is aimed inward at ourselves. According to Matthew 22:39, Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
5. Summarize the point of Todd’s conversation with Adrian about his foot.
It was to demonstrate how much we love ourselves; we’re not as disgusted to touch gross stuff on our own bodies as on other people’s!

GOING DEEPER:

Read I Corinthians 13 and answer the following questions:

1. Summarize the first three verses by filling in the blanks below. Use your own words.

Answers should be similar to:

If I...

Then...

Could speak all languages

but do not have love

it’s all just noise.

Had all knowledge and
mountain moving faith

but do not have love

I am nothing.

Gave away all that I have,
even my own life

but do not have love

I don’t gain anything.

2. Based upon verses 4-8a, complete the chart below on what love is/does and what love is not/does not.

Love is/does...	Love is not/does not...
Patient	Jealous
Kind	Brag
Rejoices in the truth	Arrogant
Bears all things	Act unbecomingly
Believes all things	Seek its own
Hopes all things	Provoked
Endures all things	Keep record of wrong
	Rejoice in unrighteousness
	Fail

3. What is the Greek word for this type of love? How does this description fit the definition you learned in the chapter?
The Greek word is agape, and it describes a self-sacrificial type of love. All the characteristics mentioned in I Corinthians 13 are in some way describing self-sacrificial attitudes and behaviors, whether it's seeking the good of others ahead of one's own, or committing oneself to God's truth and righteousness over man's wisdom or self-righteousness.
4. What progress are you making in loving others with agape love? Go through the list above and put a checkmark next to the characteristics of agape love, which you most struggle with. In the space below, describe your thoughts and actions towards others and how they are different from the way God calls you to love them. Then, take some time to pray, confessing your sin and asking God to help you love the people in your life with this agape love.

CHAPTER TWO: Love is Not Irritable, Part 2

1. Why are we not to be irritable or easily provoked?
Because God is not irritable or easily provoked.
2. What is the Christian's reason for not being irritable with people?
Because God is never irritable with them!
3. How did Jesus display his lack of irritableness with people during His earthly ministry?
He humbled Himself and set aside His divine prerogatives as God to come to earth to dwell among sinful humanity. He befriended people (His disciples, specifically) who were quick to speak and act in irritable ways. Finally, when he was dying on the cross for their sins, after His disciples had abandoned Him, He prayed for them! No irritability, just love.
4. What did Jesus do for His disciples before the Last Supper that is the opposite of being irritated with them?
He washed their feet, a very humble act of love and service.
5. What is the best way to keep yourself from being irritable with people?
By being perpetually in the Word.
6. How did Todd describe sanctification (the process of growing in holiness)?
He described it as synergistic; that is, it is something we do with God. He gets all the credit (He motivates, inspires and equips), but we must intentionally work at mortifying (putting to death) our sin. This is an active process, not a passive one on our part.
7. Which direction does a Christian look when mortifying sin in their life? How is this different than the worldly advice offered for self-improvement?
The Christian looks upward to remember all that Jesus has done for them and how patient He is with them. The world, on the other hand, advises us to look inward and focus on self-efforts to make the changes.

GOING DEEPER:

Let's take a closer look at Jesus' lack of irritableness and how we are to follow His example from Philippians 2. Read verses 1-13.

1. What is the repeated two-letter word in verse 1? Write out each of the four sentences in which it is used.
The repeated word is *if*.
 - ***If* therefore there is any encouragement in Christ**
 - ***If* there is any consolation of love**
 - ***If* there is any fellowship of the Spirit**
 - ***If* any affection and compassion**

2. Is Paul expressing uncertainty in this verse, as if these things may or may not be true (i.e. there may or may not be any encouragement in Christ)? Explain what Paul is saying here. (Feel free to consult a commentary if you're unsure of the answer.)

Paul is most definitely not expressing uncertainty by using the word *if*. In fact, he's saying just the opposite. He's affirming that all these things are indeed true. Another way to express what he is writing here is, "If there is any encouragement in Christ (and there is), If there is any consolation of love (and there is), Etc.

3. How is verse 2 connected to verse 1? What commands does Paul give to his readers?
The statements he presents in verse one are the reason or the basis for the exhortation he gives them in verse two. In other words, because there is encouragement in Christ, consolation of love, fellowship of the Spirit and affection and compassion, then they should...

- **Be of the same mind**
- **Maintain the same love**
- **Be united in spirit**
- **Be intent on one purpose**

4. Verses 3 and 4 both contain a contrast. Write those below in the appropriate places.

Verse 3:

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit

BUT

With humility of mind, let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.

Verse 4:

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests

BUT

Also for the interests of others.

5. How did Jesus exemplify this attitude of humility?
Though He was God, He emptied himself and took on the form of a bondservant. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.
6. What did God do as a result of Jesus' obedience?
He exalted Him and gave Him the name above all names, which every tongue will one day confess to the glory of God.
7. With Jesus as their example, what does Paul tell Christians they are to do in regards to their salvation? What makes it possible? Cite the verses that support your answer.

They are to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in them to accomplish His good pleasure – verse 12-13.

8. What process is being described in verses 12-13? (Todd mentioned it in the segment.)
Sanctification, which is the process of growing in holiness.

CHAPTER THREE: The Key to Conflict Resolution, Part 1

1. According to Rick Thomas, what is it that a believer must be (or have) when trying to resolve relational conflict?
He must have genuine affection for the other person.
2. Summarize Rick Thomas' list of the eight signs of genuine affection that should be displayed in relational conflict. Include the Scripture references.
 - 1) **You are more willing to listen to them than to speak to them – James 1:19**
 - 2) **You regularly pray for them – I Corinthians 1:4**
 - 3) **Your speech builds them up – Ephesians 4:29**
 - 4) **You quickly repent when you are harsh to them – Proverbs 15:1**
 - 5) **You're quick to guard your tongue so you do not hurt them – Psalm 141:3**
 - 6) **You speak wisdom to them so you can serve them – Proverbs 16: 23**
 - 7) **You are selective in your speech so you do not sin against them – Proverbs 10:19**
 - 8) **You carry them in your heart – I Thessalonians 1:3-4**
3. How well do you display these signs of affection in your relationships in general?
4. Are there some relationships in which it is more difficult for you to have genuine affection than others? If so, explain why.
5. How can you work on developing genuine affection for others in all your relationships?

GOING DEEPER:

1. How many of the above signs refer to speech, speaking or the tongue? What does this tell you?
Five of the eight signs refer to speaking or speech. The implication is that what we say and don't say is a huge part of working through relational conflict.
2. Do you struggle with controlling your tongue? Do you often say things you later regret? If so, explain.
3. Do you struggle with speech that builds others up or communicates wisdom? If so, why is this a struggle for you?
4. Look up the Scripture references given for each sign of genuine affection. What do you learn about your speech and your tongue?

Psalm 141:3 -	We should ask the Lord to set a guard over our mouths And to keep watch over the door of our lips.
Proverbs 10:19 -	Sin is inevitable when there are many words being spoken A wise person restrains his lips
Proverbs 15:1 -	A gentle answer turns away wrath A harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 16:23 - The heart of a wise person instructs his mouth
And teaches his lips.

Ephesians 4:29 - We are to let no unwholesome word proceed from our mouths.
We should use words that are good for edification, to give grace to
the hearers.

5. Do any of the above verses give you instruction or insight into helping you with your struggle(s) from Questions 3 and 4, above? Carefully think this through before answering.

CHAPTER FOUR: The Key to Conflict Resolution, Part 2

1. In relational conflict, what reveals our heart attitude toward the person with which we are in conflict?
The words we use reveal our heart attitude. Harsh, angry, mean-spirited words reveal a broken heart in need of restoration.
2. Summarize Rick Thomas' list of signs that a person has a wrong heart attitude toward the person with which they are in conflict.
 - 1) **You had rather win the argument than redeem the relationship.**
 - 2) **You have a hard time asking for forgiveness.**
 - 3) **You will not admit to being wrong first.**
 - 4) **You act as though the only perspective that is right is yours.**
 - 5) **You do not enter the conversation as a learner, but as a point maker.**
 - 6) **You devalue the person you are talking to by being unkind.**
 - 7) **Your communication to the other person is disrespectful.**
3. If you find yourself in fights often with people, what does that reveal about your heart condition?
It reveals you have hate in your heart.
4. Is there anyone in your life who displays one or more of these signs? Describe what it is like to be in conflict with this person.
5. Which signs best describe you when you're in conflict with another person?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Biblically speaking, what is the heart? Consult a commentary if you're not sure.
Answer should be similar to: When the Bible speaks of the heart, it is referring to the core of our being and includes our thoughts, emotions, desires, intellect and will.
2. Read the following Scriptures passages and observe what you learn about the heart. Record your observations below.

Jeremiah 17:9 -	The heart is deceitful and desperately sick, we should not trust it.
Proverbs 4:23 -	Watch over your heart because from it flows the springs of life.
Matthew 15:18 -	What comes out of the mouth comes from the heart.
Mark 7:21 -	Out of the heart comes evil thoughts, words and deeds, and these defile a person.
3. Is the situation hopeless or can your heart be changed? Read the following verses and record your observations.
Psalms 51:10 - God can create new hearts.

Ezekiel 11:19 (This is speaking of the New Covenant) -

In the New Covenant, God gives us a new heart and puts a new spirit within us.

Ephesians 3:16-17 -

Christ can dwell in our hearts through faith.

4. If you are in the New Covenant, (that is, you've repented of your sin and are trusting in Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation), then you have a new heart and have been given the Holy Spirit to live within your heart who helps you to walk in obedience to God's Word. But this doesn't mean you will never sin. So what are you to do when your heart reveals the presence of hatred still in it as described in the DVD?

Read the following passages and record what they teach you about your heart and the ongoing battle with sin. Then write out how you can apply this to your sin issues.

Scripture	What it says	Personal Application
Psalms 51:17	God will not refuse a broken and contrite heart.	
James 4:8	Those who draw near to God He will draw near to them and cleanse their hearts.	
Psalms 119:11	Storing up God's Word in the heart keeps one from sinning.	
Hebrews 4:12	God's Word is living and active and able to judge the intentions of the heart.	
1 John 1:9	When we confess our sins, God will forgive and cleanse from all unrighteousness.	

CHAPTER FIVE: The Key to Conflict Resolution, Part 3

1. What gospel truth should a Christian remember as he works through relational conflict with another person?
Christ loved us when we were unlovable, and He continues to love us as we continue to be unlovable – Romans 5:8.
2. What posture should a believer take toward the other person to ensure a satisfying and redemptive resolution?
They should be willing to be like Christ to the other person.
3. In the context of relational conflict, what must a Christian do to be more Christ-like in the situation?
They must realign their heart to the clarity, truth and power of the gospel.
4. What are five practical ways that a Christian can show Christ-like love to others, particularly those with whom they are in conflict?
 - 1) I am going to be Jesus to...
 - 2) I am going to change whatever I need to change in order to be Jesus to...
 - 3) I am going to wash the feet of ...
 - 4) I am willing to die for...
 - 5) I am willing to humble myself, as evidenced by setting aside my rights for...

GOING DEEPER:

1. Write out Romans 5:8 below.
But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
2. According to Romans 5:8, when did God love us? How did He demonstrate His love?
While we were yet sinners, He sent His Son to die for us.
3. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the condition of someone before God saves them.

Romans 5:6 -	Helpless
Romans 5:10 -	Enemies of God
Ephesians 2:3 -	By nature children of wrath, living in the lusts of the flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and mind.
Colossians 1:21 -	Alienated and hostile in mind; engaged in evil deeds
4. When did Christ die for us? Use your answers to Question 3 to finish the sentence.
While we were still: helpless, enemies of God, living in the lusts of the flesh, indulging our desires, alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds.
5. Jesus speaks about loving our enemies in Matthew 5. Read verses 43-48 and answer the following questions:

What does Jesus quote in verse 43? Write down the original Scripture that He is quoting.
It comes from the Mosaic Law and is found in Leviticus 19:18.

The second part of the quote is not in the text you found for question 5. What does this tell you? Read a commentary to find out why Jesus included this phrase with the OT command.
It's not from the Old Testament; therefore it wasn't a command from the Mosaic Law. It was added by the Pharisees later and was apparently commonly associated with the actual command from the Law. There is no command in Scripture to hate our enemies.

Jesus turns their man-made law upside down. What two things does He command?

- **Love your enemies**
- **Pray for those who persecute you – vs. 44.**

According to this passage, how does God treat the righteous and the unrighteous? Use a commentary to learn what theologians call this.

God blesses both the righteous and unrighteous in similar ways. He sends His sun to shine and the rain to fall on both – vs. 45. Theologians call this common grace.

How would you describe the way that the tax collectors and the Gentiles love?

Possible answers include: They love only those who love them back and only greet their brothers; their love could be described as self-centered, safe, and easy.

How would you describe the love Jesus is calling His followers to show?

Possible answers include: Other-centered, risky, hard, like we've been loved.

How does verse 48 connect to the previous verses? Think through it yourself and write your answer down before consulting a commentary, if needed.

Answer should be similar to: Jesus sums up His teaching on love by leaving His hearers with an impossible standard: to be perfect as His Heavenly Father is perfect. In this context, He is telling them they are to love others with complete purity, impartiality and inclusivity, in just the same way His Heavenly Father loves. This is obviously an impossible standard of love for human beings to meet. Jesus, however, met this standard of love. In fact, He attained God's righteous standard in all of the Law demands. For those who are in Christ, they are credited with His righteousness just as if they had achieved it themselves.

Additionally, those who are in Christ are being sanctified through the work of the Holy Spirit. Through His enabling power, they are called to strive for spiritual maturity or "fully completed growth" as the word *perfect* here implies, which includes loving others in the way Jesus describes in this passage.

CHAPTER SIX: The Biblical Response to Anger, Part 1

1. What is righteous indignation? Who is our example to follow?
Righteous indignation is anger without sin. Jesus was very angry at times, but He never sinned in His anger. We are called to do likewise.
2. Summarize the principles for overcoming anger based on Ephesians 4:25-32. Cite the specific verse or verses that support each principle.
 - 1) **Be honest – verse 25. We need to replace dishonest responses with the truth.**
 - 2) **Keep current – verses 26-27. Solve today’s problem today. Unresolved anger often leads to bitterness, which gives the devil a foothold in our relationships.**
 - 3) **Attack the problem, not the person – verse 29. Put off words that tear down the person and replace them with words that build up.**
 - 4) **Act, not react – verses 31-32. Put off angry reactions and replace with communication that is kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.**
3. Todd mentions two things the Bible calls us to do when we’re mistreated. What are they? Find the verses that support this.
 - 1) **Turn the other cheek – Matthew 5:39.**
 - 2) **Go the extra mile – Matthew 5:41.**
4. Why are Christians called to be kind when they’re mistreated?
 - 1) **To put the flesh to death. By responding with kindness, we put to death the sin of anger.**
 - 2) **This is how Jesus acted and we follow His example.**

GOING DEEPER:

1. Think about a situation where you felt mistreated. How did you respond? Think about what you did well and what you did not do well. Record your thoughts below.
2. How did Jesus respond when he was judged wrongly and sentenced to die a criminal’s death on a cross? Read Isaiah 53:7 and I Peter 1:21-23 and record how Jesus responded.

Isaiah 53:7 - He did not open His mouth
He was like a sheep silent before its shearers.

I Peter 1:23 - He was reviled but did not revile in return – vs. 23.
He uttered no threats – vs. 23.
3. According to Peter, how was Jesus able to remain quiet? Why did He not try to defend Himself?
He entrusted Himself to the One who judges righteously, His Heavenly Father – vs. 23.
4. With Jesus as our example, how are we to relate to others according to I Peter 3:8?
We are to live in harmony with others, to be sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted and humble in spirit.

CHAPTER SEVEN: The Biblical Response to Anger, Part 2

1. What are the six questions we should ask ourselves before we respond in anger? Include the Scripture verses that are mentioned.
 - 1) **Do I have all the facts right?**
Proverbs 18:13 - It is folly and shame to answer before hearing.
 - 2) **Should love cover it? Is the issue regarding a sin or merely a preference? Is it hindering my growth or someone else's?**
1 Peter 4:8 – Love each other deeply for love covers a multitude of sins.
 - 3) **Is my timing right?**
Proverbs 15:23 – How good is a timely word!
 - 4) **Is my attitude right?**
 - 5) **Will my words be loving?**
Ephesians 4:15 – Speak the truth in love.
 - 6) **Have I prayed for God's help?**
2. What should be our attitude towards people who have wronged us? How does this attitude affect how we confront their sin?
We should remember that we are sinners and consider ourselves the biggest sinner of all. This will keep us humble and in the right frame of mind to address other people's sin.
3. Do you struggle with anger? (If you're not sure, ask someone who knows you!) What do you think is at the root of your anger issue? Cite Scripture to support your answer, if needed.
4. What steps can you take now to help you remember to think through the six questions before the next time you get angry?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Anger is a serious sin and often results in destructive consequences. Read the following accounts of men in the Bible who acted out in anger. Summarize their stories below.

Moses – Numbers 20:1-12; Deuteronomy 34:1-5 (This event probably takes place in the 40th year of the Israelites wanderings in the wilderness.)

Answer should be similar to: The children of Israel had no water and so they became very contentious, complaining to Moses and Aaron about their living conditions. The Lord told Moses to take his rod, gather the people together and speak to the rock before their eyes and it would give them water. Moses instead spoke to the people and struck the rock twice. The Lord punished Moses and Aaron for not believing Him and treating Him as holy. Neither of them was allowed to enter the Promised Land with the rest of the children of Israel. However, at the end of his life, God allowed Moses to see the land from afar.

Balaam – Numbers 22:22-34. (Balaam was a pagan prophet who was asked by the King of Moab to curse Israel. God had warned Balaam not to it, but He did allow him to go see the

King. Balaam's motive for going, however, was for the reward the King promised him if he would curse Israel.)

Answer should be similar to: As Balaam was going to see the King, the anger of the Lord burned against him. (This would be an example of righteous anger.) Three times the Angel of the Lord stood in Balaam's path. Balaam couldn't see Him, but his donkey could. Each time the Angel blocked the path, the donkey reacted by turning aside and finally lying down. Each time the donkey did this, Balaam would strike it in anger. Finally, the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey to ask Balaam why he was being treated so badly. Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes to see the Angel of the Lord standing there. He told Balaam his donkey had actually saved his life by turning aside as it did.

Jonah – Jonah 3 & 4

Answer should be similar to: When Jonah finally went to Nineveh to preach repentance, the people of Nineveh actually repented and God spared them from destruction. This should have delighted Jonah, but instead it made him angry that God would spare such a wicked people. Jonah was so angry that he asked for the Lord to take his life! Then, while he was sitting outside the city, the Lord made a plant to grow up to give him shade. But then the Lord appointed a worm to attack the plant and it withered. When a scorching wind came (which the Lord also appointed) and beat down on Jonah's head, he became angry again and begged to die. God used the plant as a way for Jonah to understand the compassion He had for the people of Nineveh.

2. What do you think prompted each man's anger?

Moses – His anger was probably motivated by frustration at the people's whining and complaining.

Balaam – His anger was prompted by his donkey acting strangely and deterring him from his journey.

Jonah – His anger seemed to come from a hatred of the evil Gentile nation of Nineveh and his displeasure that God did not destroy it. His anger at the plant dying and losing his shade seemed to come from self-pity.

3. Can you relate to any of these reasons for becoming angry?
4. What is the similarity between Moses and Balaam in how they acted when angry?
They both acted out physically by striking something. For Moses, it was a rock; for Balaam, a donkey.
5. How do you act when you're angry?
6. What can you learn from the examples of these men?

CHAPTER EIGHT: Seven Conditions for Confrontation

1. Summarize each of the seven conditions you should consider before confronting someone about their sin.
 - 1) It should be done between brothers in Christ. This sets the tone for the conversation.
 - 2) The sin must be clear and present, not assumed and implied. Underlying motivation is hard to discern.
 - 3) You need to operate in the Spirit's power, not out of anger or frustration.
 - 4) The goal of confrontation is to restore the person to a healthy relationship with God and others, not to get the person to stop aggravating you or conforming to your personal preferences.
 - 5) It should be done in a spirit of gentleness.
 - 6) You must keep watch on yourself and your attitude the whole time.
 - 7) Be ready to "bear one another's burdens" over the long haul.
2. Have you ever confronted another Christian over a sin issue? If so, did you use any of the conditions listed above? Summarize how the conversation went and what you would do differently in the future.
3. Have you ever been confronted by another Christian about your sin? If so, were any of the conditions listed above used in the conversation with you? Summarize how the confrontation went, and what you learned from it.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What is the difference between a sin and a preference issue or personal conviction? Why is it important to know the difference in the context of confronting a fellow believer?
Answer should be similar to: A sin is determined by the explicit commands and prohibitions in the Bible. A preference issue on the other hand, is a personal conviction on something that the Bible doesn't expressly command or forbid. We should only confront a fellow believer on their sin, never on an issue that is merely a preference issue with which you disagree.
2. Romans 14 gives us insight into the issue of personal preferences and principles of conscience. Read the chapter and answer the following questions:

What issues does Paul address in verses 1-10 that can be defined as personal preferences or convictions?

The eating of certain foods - vs. 2-3.

The observing of certain days – vs. 5-6.

What two groups does Paul address?

Those who are weak in the faith (vs. 1) and, by implication, those who are strong in the faith.

Briefly summarize what these issues were in the early church. Use a commentary if necessary.

Weak Christians believed it violated their consciences to eat meat that had been offered to idols; therefore, they ate only vegetables. Strong Christians had no such conviction that it was wrong; therefore they ate both meat and vegetables.

In the same way, weak Christians felt it necessary to observe or abstain from certain days or festivals that were part of the Old Covenant, whereas strong Christians didn't feel under compulsion to do so.

What instructions does Paul give to each group of Christians?

Those Strong in Faith

Those Weak in Faith

Vs. 1 - Accept the weak Christian, but do not pass judgment on his opinions

Vs. 3 – Do not judge the strong Christian.

Vs. 3 - Do not regard the weak Christian with contempt

Vs. 6 – Abstain from food for the Lord, and give thanks to God

**Vs.6 - Observe the day for the Lord
Eat for the Lord by giving thanks**

What does he tell both groups in verse 5?
To be fully convinced in their own minds.

What is the reason Paul gives for Christians not judging each other for personal convictions?
In verse 4, Paul tells them they are all servants of God. God is their master and to Him alone will they stand or fall. (And He promises they will stand!) In verse 10, Paul reminds them that they will all stand before the judgment seat of God. He will judge their decisions and issues of conscience.

What does this passage teach about how we should view our life and our death? To whom do we belong?

We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. We live for the Lord and we die for the Lord. Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's – vs. 7-8.

What does this mean for how we live and the decisions we make regarding issues of personal preference or conviction?

Answer should be similar to: Whatever we do, we should do it unto the Lord, just as Paul says in verse 6. Whatever our convictions, they should be firmly rooted in a desire to please the Lord as His servant, remembering that we will one day stand before Him to give an account for actions.

3. What are some personal preferences or convictions that can divide Christians today?

Possible answers include: drinking alcohol; smoking; watching movies; listening to certain types of music; certain styles of music in church; Bible translations; clothing; the use of birth control; etc.

4. Do you struggle with passing judgment on fellow Christians whose convictions are different from yours? Explain.
5. Do you struggle with holding to your convictions despite what other Christians believe? Explain.

CHAPTER NINE: The Marks of True Humility

1. According to J.C. Ryle, what are the defining characteristics of a Christian man (or woman) following after humility?
 - **He thinks in lowliness of mind.**
 - **He esteems others better than himself.**
 - **He will see more evil in his own heart than in others.**

2. According to James 4:1-2, what is the source of our conflicts and quarrels? What is the end result? What does this look like in real life?

We quarrel and fight because we don't get what we want. The end result is murder. We can "murder" those we're in conflict with by the words we use, the attitude of our hearts toward them, or even the way we look at them.

3. Find the Scripture passage that supports the idea that murder can be more than the act of killing a person and write it below. Be sure to note who said it.

Jesus said, "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell." Matthew 5:21-22.

4. According to J.C. Ryle, a godly man will understand the humility found in the statements of seven godly men of old. List the men and what they said.
 - 7) **He will understand something of Abraham's feelings when he said, "I am dust and ashes!"**
 - 6) **He will understand Jacob's feelings when he said, "I am unworthy of the least of all your mercies!"**
 - 5) **He will understand Job's feelings when he said, "Behold I am vile!"**
 - 4) **He will understand Paul's feelings when he said, "I am the chief of sinners."**
 - 3) **He will understand the words the Christian martyr, John Bradford, would sometimes finish his letters with, "A most miserable sinner, John Bradford."**
 - 2) **He will understand the godly William Grimshaw's last words on his deathbed, "Here goes an unprofitable servant!"**
 - 1) **He will understand the words of Paul in I Corinthians 15:10, "I am what I am!"**

5. Can you relate to any of the statements expressed in Question 4? Explain.

GOING DEEPER:

1. According to James 4:6, how does God respond to the proud and to the humble?

He opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

2. Summarize the following examples from 2 Chronicles of God opposing the proud but giving grace to the humble.

Chapter 32:24-26

Hezekiah was king of Judah. He prayed to the Lord when he became mortally ill. The Lord heard his prayer to extend his life, but Hezekiah's heart remained proud. Therefore, the Lord sent his wrath on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. He then humbled the pride of his heart and God's wrath was withheld.

Chapter 33:9-13

King Manasseh was Hezekiah's son. He misled Judah to do more evil than the pagan nations whom the Lord had destroyed before Israel! When God confronted Hezekiah and the people, they paid Him no attention. So the Lord brought the commanders of the army of Assyria to capture Manasseh and take him to Babylon. Then, under distress, Manasseh humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. The Lord was moved by his entreaty and brought him again to Jerusalem. Verse 13 says that then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

Chapter 33:21-34:2

Amon became king after Manasseh, and did evil in the sight of the Lord. Verse 23 says that he did not humble himself before the Lord like his father did, but multiplied his guilt. His servants finally conspired against him and put him to death. His eight year old son, Josiah, became king and did right in the sight of the Lord. He walked in the ways of David, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

Chapter 34:24-28

Although Josiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord, the Lord's anger still burned against Judah for their worship of idols. God promised to pour out His wrath upon them which would not be quenched. However, because King Josiah's heart was tender and because he had humbled himself before God, God promised that he would spare Josiah from seeing His wrath by waiting until after Josiah was dead.

3. Read Chronicles 34:31-33. What characterized humble Josiah's reign?
 - 1) **He made a covenant with the Lord to walk after the Lord and to keep His commandments.**
 - 2) **He made the people stand with him and enter into the covenant with him.**
 - 3) **He removed all the abominations of idol worship from the land, and made the people serve the Lord their God.**
4. Based on these examples, what characterizes the lives of the proud vs. the humble?
The proud disobey God and His Word. The humble submit and obey.
5. Taking an honest look at your life, would you say it's characterized more by humility - obedience to God's Word, or pride - disobedience to God's Word? Is God opposing you or giving you grace? Write your thoughts below, and then spend time praying and confessing sin as needed.

CHAPTER TEN: How to Grow in Humility

1. List below the practices of the early church as found in Acts 2:42. Note how often the early Christians participated in these things. Also include any commentary Todd may have given about them.

There were continually devoting themselves to:

- The apostles teaching - sermons
- Fellowship – not just hanging out but sharing about Jesus
- Breaking of bread – communion
- Prayer

2. What are these practices called and what is their purpose?
They are the means of grace through which God works to change us from the inside out.
3. What (or Who) is the thread that runs through the means of grace?
Jesus.
4. How does God transform us? Cite the Scripture that tells us this.
Romans 12:2 – God transforms us through the renewing of our mind in His Word.
5. If we desire to be more humble, what should we do?
Get into the Word, study Jesus' example and allow the Holy Spirit to transform our minds and hearts.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What are Christians commanded to do in regards to humility? Look at the following verses and record your observations.

Ephesians 4:1-2 -	Walk with humility
Colossians 3:12 -	Put on humility
1 Peter 5:5 -	Clothe themselves with humility

How are these exhortations different than a command to just “be humble”? Explain your answer.

Answer should be similar to: Yes. These verses indicate humility as a way of life (“walking”) and as an intentional choice we make (“put on” and “clothe”) by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. True humility is an attitude of the heart that permeates a person’s thoughts, desires, will, and behavior.

2. Let’s look at how we go about doing what the above verses tell us to do. Read Colossians 3:1-13 and answer the following questions:

Verse 1 is an *if/then* statement. What is the *if* and what is the *then*?

If you have been raised with then, then keep seeking the things above where Christ is.

What is the contrast in verse 2?

We are to set our minds on things above *not* on things on the earth.

Why?

Because we've died and our life is hidden in Christ – vs. 3.

What does this mean for how we view the members of our earthly body?

We consider them dead to sin.

Verse 8 begins with a contrast word. What is it and what is being contrasted?

The word is *but*. Paul is contrasting the way his readers used to walk when they lived in their sins (before they were raised with Christ) to the way they are to live now, which is to put their sins aside.

In verses 9-10, what did Paul tell his readers they had done?

They had laid aside their old self with its evil practices and had put on the new self.

How does Paul describe the new self?

It is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him – vs. 10.

Where does this knowledge come from and what is its goal?

True knowledge comes from God's Word for the purpose of transforming the Christian into the image of Christ.

How does Paul describe his readers in verse 12?

Chosen by God, holy and beloved.

What does he command them to do because of their relationship to God?

To put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with each other and forgiving each other. – vs. 12-13.

What is the motivation for a Christian to forgive another?

Because the Lord has forgiven them!

3. Read through the passage again, and list all the exhortations Paul gives in this passage before he calls his readers to put on humility.
 - **Keep seeking the things above – vs. 1**
 - **Set your mind on things above – vs. 2**
 - **Consider the members of your earthly body as dead to sin – vs. 5.**
 - **Put aside sin – vs. 8**
4. What needs to happen before someone can put on humility?
They must put sin aside.
5. How can remembering who we are in Christ, as described in verse 12, help us to set sin aside and put on the virtues listed there? **It should make us grateful for God's grace and mercy to save us, and call us holy and beloved. Out of that grateful heart should flow a desire to put sin aside and pursue holiness.**

CHAPTER ELEVEN: How to Provoke your Child to Anger, Part 1

1. Describe God's feelings, positive and negative, toward those who are in Christ.
Among other things, He is patient, kind, generous, encouraging and for them (Rom. 8). He can be disappointed, but He is never angry with them.
2. Why can God never be angry with His children (those who are in Christ)?
Because He looks at them the same way He looks at His Son, and He is never angry with Jesus.
3. What is the purpose of parenting?
Parents are to model what God is like so their children can learn what it means to be in a relationship with their Heavenly Father.
4. List 6 of the 16 ways that a parent can provoke their child to anger. (The rest of the list is continued in the next chapter.)
16) By constantly criticizing them and not encouraging them.
15) By forgetting that we were (and are) sinners, ("I would never have done that when I was your age").
14) By anger and harshness.
13) By a lack of affection.
12) By telling them what to do or not to do without giving biblical reasons (e.g. "Do it because I said to do it" or "because it's just wrong.")
11) By being offended at their sin because it bothers us, not that it offends God.
5. What makes Christian parenting different from secular parenting?
Answer should be similar to: Christian parents should parent from a biblical perspective. The focus is not just on *what* is right and wrong, but also on the *why* behind it. And the *why* comes from the Bible. Parents should base their parenting on biblical principles and explain those principles to their kids.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What does Ephesians 6:4 tell fathers (parents) to do and not to do?
 - **Do not: provoke your child to anger.**
 - **Do: bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**
2. If you are a parent, list those actions and attitudes in the list under Question 4 that you are in a habit of displaying to your kids. What do you think is the reason for it?

If you are not a parent, evaluate your own parents' actions and behaviors in light of this list. Which did they display regularly to you? What was your overall reaction to this type of parenting?

3. If you are a parent, in light of Question 1, how can you make the necessary changes in order to not do those things that provoke your child to anger? What Scripture would help you in making these changes?

If you are not a parent, do you exhibit any of these behaviors or attitudes in other relationships in your life? What can you do to make the necessary changes? What Scripture would help you in this regard?

CHAPTER TWELVE: How To Provoke your Child to Anger, Part 2

1. Finish the list of 16 ways that parents can provoke their child to anger.
 - 10) By comparing them to others.**
 - 9) By hypocrisy – acting like a Christian at church but not at home.**
 - 8) By embarrassing them – correcting, mocking or expressing disappointment in them in front of others.**
 - 7) By always lecturing and never listening to them.**
 - 6) By disciplining them for childishness or weakness, not for sin.**
 - 5) By failing to ask their forgiveness when we sin against them.**
 - 4) By pride – failing to receive humble correction from our spouse or children when we sin.**
 - 3) By self-centered reactions to their sin. (How could you do this to ME?)**
 - 2) By ungracious reactions to their sin (What were you thinking? Why in the world would you do that?)**
 - 1) By having double standards (“Do as I say, not as I do”). Expecting them to do things we don’t do, e.g. ask forgiveness, humble themselves, etc.**
2. Why is hypocrisy such an odious sin in parenting?
Because it doesn’t model for the children what it means to be in a right relationship with God. Instead, it presents a false faith where the parents act differently in different settings. This can lead, not only to anger in children, but to confusion and possibly rejection of the faith altogether.
3. Which behaviors from the entire list of 16 can be harmful in other relationships in life? List them here and rewrite them so they apply in a more general way.
 - 16) Constantly criticizing and not encouraging.**
 - 15) Forgetting that we were (and are) sinners.**
 - 14) Anger and harshness.**
 - 13) Lack of affection.**
 - 11) Being offended at another person’s sin because it bothers us, not that it offends God.**
 - 10) Comparing one person to another.**
 - 9) Hypocrisy – acting like a Christian at church but not in other environments.**
 - 8) Embarrassing people – correcting, mocking or expressing disappointment in them in front of others.**
 - 7) Always lecturing and never listening.**
 - 5) Failing to ask their forgiveness when we sin against them.**
 - 4) Pride – failing to receive humble correction from our spouse or children when we sin.**
 - 3) Self-centered reactions to others’ sin.**
 - 2) Ungracious reactions to others’ sin**

GOING DEEPER:

Rewrite the entire list, (including those from the previous chapter), from a positive perspective so that it becomes a list of 16 Ways to Encourage Your Child's Spirit.

Then, find a Bible verse that supports each point on the list. The first one is done for you.

How to Encourage Your Child's Spirit

16) By using words that build-up and encourage – Ephesians 4:29

15)

14)

13)

12)

11)

10)

9)

8)

7)

6)

5)

4)

3)

2)

1)

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: Where to Go for Conflict Resolution

1. If you happen to be a human being, what else do you happen to be?
A sinner.
2. What inevitably will happen when two sinners are together?
There will be conflict.
3. How do we often try to resolve conflict?
By overpowering the other person with our words or arguments until they back down.
4. What was the point of Todd's example of cigarette butts buried in the snow? How does this relate to conflict?
Snow covers up the ugly cigarette butts along the roads. It appears they are gone, but when the snow melts, they are still there. Likewise, when we overpower someone with our words to win arguments or "resolve" conflicts, we're not really resolving anything but merely covering up the issue. One day, the unresolved conflict will come to the surface and then it will be a bigger issue than the original conflict.
5. Where should we go to find resolution when we're in conflict with someone? Why? Of what does it remind us?
We should go to the cross because it reminds us of how sinful we are. Remembering how sinful we are makes us humble and able to apologize and ask forgiveness from the other person.

GOING DEEPER:

1. If you're the type of person who overpowers people with your words or arguments, why do you do this?
2. If you know someone who overpowers people with their words or arguments, how do you respond to them when you find yourself in conflict with them?
3. Do you struggle with forgiving others? Are you the type of person who holds grudges against people who've wronged them? Explain your answer.
4. How often do you think of the price that was paid for God to forgive you? Give as honest an answer as you are able.
5. According to Psalm 103:10-13, how has God dealt with us?
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities – verse 10.

What do we call the act of not giving someone what they deserve?

Mercy.

How does the psalmist describe God's love? And to whom is this love directed?

God's love *to those who fear Him* is as high as the heavens are above the earth – verse 11.

How thoroughly has He removed our sin from us?

As far as the east is from the west – verse 12.

Why has He done this for us? What earthly comparison does the psalmist use?

Because he has compassion on those who fear Him, just as a father has compassion on his children – verse 13.

6. In light of how God has treated you, is there any excuse for treating others with less mercy and compassion? If you struggle in this area, what can you do to be more forgiving?

If you have questions about what it means to be a Christian, please go to www.wretched.tv. You'll find helpful (and free!) information on how you can know for sure that you're saved.