

Understanding how to live free from Condemnation and Failure Handout # 3

We have all done things in the past that we regretted. Regret can be defined as sorrow or remorse accompanied by a sense of loss. It camps out in our minds, hinders our relationship with Christ, and robs us of the joy in life. It causes us to condemn ourselves and focus on our past, instead of on what Jesus is doing in our present and what He wants to do in our future.

1. Our enemy always accuses us of our past. We must focus on Jesus, not on our sins.

A. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God Day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (**Revelation 12:10, 11**).

B. The accuser is Satan, who is always trying to bring us back to our past. We defeat him by the power of Jesus' blood.

c. To accuse someone is to charge them with fault. Satan always points out our faults and places blame on us.

d. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin (**Romans 4:8**).

e. Satan imputes sin to us; accusations come from him, not God.

F. We must be careful not to participate in the accusations of each other.

g. Our enemy loves to remind us of our sins and failures. His plan is to get us to focus more on them and less on our Savior.

h. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (**1 John 1:7**).

i. To walk in the light is to walk in Jesus.

j. We need to remind ourselves of this Scripture when the devil tries to impute sins to us.

2. The devil reminds us of our sins and failures. However, Jesus has already paid for them.

A. Jesus paid for every failure in our lives not just after we believed in Him, but even before we believed. He was the payment, the peace offering, and the compensation for our sins.

B. We silence Satan's accusations by turning to Jesus and what He has already done on the cross.

c. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (**1 John 2:2**).

d. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (**John 1:29**).

e. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (**Romans 8:1**).

F. We overcome regret by remembering this Scripture. When we feel condemned,

we need to verbally declare this.

G. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (**Philippians 3:13,14**).

H. We must leave the past behind and move forward. We all have a past, but we do not need to live there anymore.

i. Paul never could have moved on from his past if he had focused on what he had done. He refused to dwell on his sins; instead, he focused on the mission Jesus had given him.

3. Jesus turns around for good the bad things we have done. He wants us to be thankful.

a. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them (**Romans 8:28**, NLT).

b. We can thank God for using all the bad things, along with the good things, for our benefit. He uses the biggest messes in our lives to bring us where we are now; He turns messes into masterpieces.

C. Even when we realize that we have blown it, God can turn things around for good.

d. We must never forget that that God's desire is for us to be fruitful in good works. He wants us to have a bright promising future. (**John 15:16**)

E. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (**Ephesians 2:10**, NLT).

F. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (**Jeremiah 29:11**, NLT).

G. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (**1Thessalonians 5:18**).

H. We can transform our regret into thanksgiving. Specifically, we can be thankful that God has delivered us from our past, matured us, and taught us what we needed to learn from our experiences.

i. We must also use our failures as a tool to keep us humble.

4. We have the mind of Christ, so we can stay free from a guilty conscience. A guilty conscience robs us of our peace.

a. When we do something we know is wrong, we can expect our conscience to bother us.

b. And they said one to another, we are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore, is this distress come upon us (**Genesis 42:21**).

C. Joseph's brothers suffered from a guilty conscience when they thought about what they had done to him.

d. But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the LORD's anointed one, for the LORD himself has chosen

him" (1 Samuel 24:5, 6, NLT).

E. David so honored and respected Saul, he had a guilty conscience even for cutting part of Saul's robe.

f. I prayed, "O my God, I am utterly ashamed; I blush to lift up my face to you. For our sins are piled higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached to the heavens" (Ezra 9:6, NLT).

g. Ezra confessed his guilty conscience to God because of the people's sins. Sin in our lives results in a guilty conscience.

H. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst (John 8:7-9).

i. The men who had accused the woman after catching her in adultery were aware of their own sins' their consciences convicted them.

5. Guilt is a product of the mind; it occurs when a person realizes they have violated moral, religious, or ethical standards. Guilt decreases our feelings of personal worth.

a. Guilt attacks our conscience a number of ways. Sometimes we make ourselves feel guilty.

b. Some things that contribute to guilt: Thinking that we may have done something wrong; Poor self-esteem; A perfectionist attitude; Unrealistic expectations. A false conscience development that leads us to think that wrong is right, and right is wrong (Isaiah 5:20, NLT).

c. We see examples of guilt all throughout the Bible.

d. Adam and Eve tried to hide in the garden of Eden because they felt the guilt of their sin (Genesis 3:7-13).

e. King David felt guilt after committing adultery and then arranging to have a man murdered.

f. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me (Psalm 51:1-3).

G. Judas committed suicide because of his guilt.

H. Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself (Matthew 27:3-5).

i. The Jews felt guilty on the day of Pentecost.

j. Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? (**Acts 2:36, 37**).

K. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins (**Hebrews 9:14, NLT**).

I. We cannot worship or serve God if our conscience is weighed down with guilt and condemnation.

5. Jesus Christ rescued us from guilt and self-condemnation. He offers us forgiveness.

A. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more (**Hebrews 8:12**).

B. Sin gives us a guilty conscience. It causes us to think God is angry with us; however, He has chosen to forgive us and show us mercy.

c. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (**John 3:17**).

D. Jesus did not come to make us feel guilty.

e. Condemnation tells us we are not good enough and will never be good enough to meet the standards.

F. Jesus came to save us from a guilty conscience, not to give us one.

G. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

H. God loved us so much that He took all our sins on Himself. When we realize we are righteous, we will stop feeling guilty.

I God wants us to be righteousness-conscious, not sin-conscious.

J. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (**Ephesians 1:7**).

K. There is no reason to live in guilt for past sins when we know that God has already decided to forgive us. When we do something sinful, we need to remind ourselves that we are forgiven.

L. When we are in Christ, we can forgive ourselves because God has already forgiven us.

M. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool (**Isaiah 1:18**).

N. God is a game-changer; when He shows up in our lives, He transforms things. He changes bad to good and replaces our guilty conscience to an awareness of our righteousness.

o. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us (**Psalms 103:12**).

P. God has already dealt with our sin. Therefore, we must not let it deal with us by bringing back a guilty conscience. Guilt will wreck our lives.