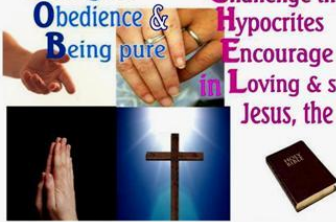


JACOB & RACHEL Study Jesus' Ambassadors Calling for Obedience & Being pure Rescue the perishing Assist the hurting Challenge the Hypocrites Encourage many in Loving & serving Jesus, the Christ  Bruises, wounds, and words fade - but the memories and pain must be dealt with through Jesus Christ	JACOB & RACHEL Study Jesus' Ambassadors Calling for Obedience & Being pure Rescue the perishing Assist the hurting Challenge the Hypocrites Encourage many in Loving & serving Jesus, the Christ Bruises, wounds, and words fade - but the memories and pain must be dealt with through Jesus Christ Objective: Seeking to train people to: * identify abusers * identify enablers * identify, help, heal, pray for & strengthen the hurting & * train up Biblical protectors Using One Source: <u>the Bible</u>.	Jacob & Rachel Study A study in the works. All feedback is welcome! Prayers are too!	What inspired this study? Seeking to train people to: * identify abusers * identify enablers * identify, help, heal, pray for & strengthen the hurting & * train up Biblical protectors >> Want to help? You can! << 1) Ask (Steven.H3@gmail.com) 2) Pray 3) Contribute ideas 4) Be a pure, safe haven
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The Jacob & Rachel Study

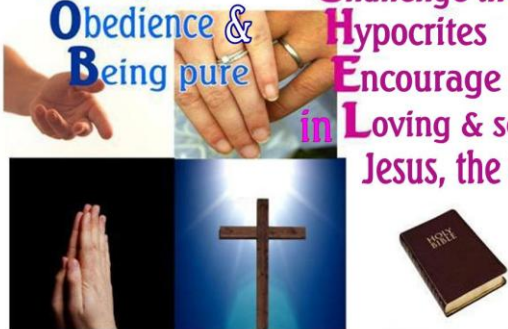
(a free Bible-based resource for the topics of abuse, human-trafficking, and MKUltra – CIA/satanism mind-control and abuse -- helping them to find Jesus, find forgiveness and find healing only through the real Christ, found only in His Word. And from there helping them to grow in boldness in what's right, and to correct or protect from sin-slaves and to grow to be a caring Biblical protector, The intent here is for helping the 'sin-harmed' to heal and grow to be Biblical 'protectors'.)

*(2017 update, a continuing work in progress) – mid-April 2017 update
(Prayers and tips, advice and personal input are welcome!)*

JACOB & RACHEL Study

Jesus' Ambassadors
Calling for
Obedience &
Being pure

Rescue the perishing
Assist the hurting
Challenge the
Hypocrites
Encourage many
in **L**oving & serving
Jesus, the Christ



Bruises, wounds, and words fade - but the memories and pain must be dealt with through Jesus Christ

J – Jesus'

A – Ambassadors

C – Calling for

O – Obedience (&)

B – Being pure

R – Rescue the perishing

A – Assist the hurting

C – Challenge the

H – Hypocrites

E – Encourage many (in)

L – Loving & serving Jesus, the Christ

>> Bruises, wounds, words fade, but the memories and pain must be dealt with through Jesus Christ

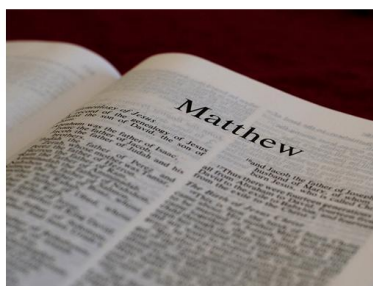
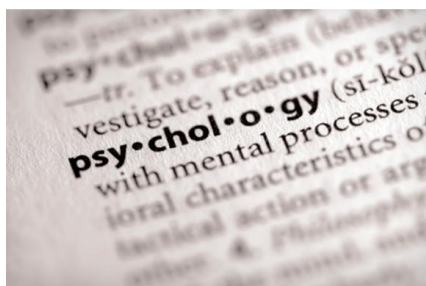
Are you trying to find answers?

This study/handbook is written with 3 purposes in mind:

- 1) To educate
- 2) To comfort
- 3) To train

- 1) To educate - informing those who don't understand the sin-harm systems in this world, or can't make sense of what happened to them.
- 2) To comfort - simply put: if you have been through sin-harm, you are **not guilty** of what was done to you, but you *can* learn from it how to protect yourself and those you love, and to use that to also teach others so they can protect themselves.
- 3) To train - equipping genuine followers of Christ with a Biblical worldview and the patterns and teachings of God's Word (the Bible) to help them identify sin-slaves, help and/or rescue those who've been sin-harm, help those who've been sin-harmed to heal, and to help the whole team stand up to and hold the sin-slaves accountable.

Do you know the difference between these?



This world's demonic-psychology is always trying to excuse sin and confuse symptoms with the actual root-problem. You can medicate a symptom, but that won't solve the problem. God's Word always points to the root of the problem: either it's sin, or it's nutritional or health issue that God's creation can help with.

These 2 contradict - can you see it yet?

What makes this workbook/Bible study different:

A few things we have tried to make sure you will not find in this resource:

- > ***pressures to stay in an abusive situation***, (in many cases, at very least a separation is likely needed for you and your family to be safe)
- > ***pressures to stay on deadly toxins*** (pharmaceuticals from the Rockefeller medical system) including helping you try to find God's nutrition in God's creation,
- > Or ***lying psychology definitions and blame-games that subtly excuse sins, addictions & sin-harm***, while blaming the victim/sin-harmed. But instead, we expect you will only find here the pure, rich, beautiful Word of God (Bible) that will help cleanse the old wounds, and help you to heal - the way God describes. He loves you more than you can possibly know, and you *can* find answers. You are not alone, and you are not without hope.

Would you like help? Or would you like to help? Either way, please know:

You have a team here who cares about you (and your soul) as well as your family. You also have a prayer team here. And we will be glad to pray for you specifically. If you need anything that we can help with - please don't hesitate to ask. Seriously, anytime. We offer: tips, ideas, and analysis, as well as Scriptures to encourage and teach and comfort. We can also talk over a variety of solutions for the situation you're in, help you find a safe-place, etc, and talk over health ideas (the way God, the Creator, made it). We cannot be the heroes of your story. But, this team is a growing group of active servants of Christ and we'll be glad to help you, as time allows, and as God arranges. If you 'd like help, please reach out to us anytime: Steven.H3@gmail.com

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JACOB & RACHEL Study

Jesus' Ambassadors
Calling for Obedience
Being pure

Rescuing the Abused
Challenging Hypocrites
Encouraging Love for Christ



Bruses, wounds, and words fade - but the memories and pain must be dealt with through Jesus Christ

Jacob & Rachel Study

A study in the works. All feedback is welcome! Prayers are too!

Objective: Seeking to train people to:

- identify abusers
- identify enablers
- identify, help, heal, & strengthen the abused / victims

& • train up Biblical protectors

Using One Source: the Bible.

Short Index

[all the numbers are incorrect as this draft is currently being updated - sorry :)]

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(eventually all of this needs to be in chapters and subdivided sections... in time... but first it needs to be written out and studied from the Word of God, then later comes the organizing into usable & helpful format. Please remember, all feedback is welcome and helpful. Thanks!)

*** You'll notice that some of this study is incomplete, and that's correct :) - I consider this to be a 5-15 yr project/Bible study/workbook. The end result is intended to be both a workbook to read through and/or a manual/Biblical workbook or devotional that will help people of all categories get more grounded in the Word of God, which is Truth and Life. If you see typos or would like to read this study and give me your thoughts on it, or would like to contribute info or something that you think will help, then I welcome you to join the team who has helped a lot so far! :) Any story or details that you share I will intend to keep confidential, and only with your approval use generals to help others. Please feel free, anytime, to email me or look me up on Facebook at my email address: Steven.H3@gmail.com

Starting notes:

Okay I first need to start off with several clear intro-thoughts.

I think I first need to define what we mean by 'sin-harm' in this study. Modern-day psychology does a lot to point out types of what they define as 'sin-harm'. And they are right to a point, but they aren't defining anything Biblically - just in human terms without God's clear black-and-white standard of right and wrong. The way I'm using this word 'sin-harm' in this Biblical study is "sin-harm = sin against someone". In the world's sin-inspired logic, 'sin-harm' = standing up for right and against wrong-doing. But that is not correct at all. Biblically speaking, 'sin-harm' is when someone uses someone else to get self-centered satisfaction for themselves at the expense of the other person (often not caring about the pain inflicted on the other person). There are, of course, varying degrees of sin-harm/sin and varying degrees of consequences - some consequences lasting much longer than others. We expect to get into more detail on this as the study progresses.

One key note: this is meant to teach and train people, using the Bible as our main source and context, to help people to identify sin-slaves (defined in the study), identify sin-helpers (those who help cover for sin-slaves), help people identify, help, heal, and strengthen the sin-harmed/victims, and train up many to become Biblical protectors (which is a life-long growing process.)

So, let's next talk about God's Word. God's Word touches on, gives examples of, and teaches us about every subject in all of life – God is all-knowing and He exposes the core roots of sin and teaches how to break free from addictions and slaveries to sin, as well as how to heal from any sin-harm, and how to forgive those who hurt us. ***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*** (2nd Timothy 3:16-17) – ***"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."*** (Romans 15:4) Friend – there is hope. But only through One source: your Creator, and the One who died to save us from the penalty from our sins.

As for this study - if you do not understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, or have not embraced the gospel of Jesus the Christ, then this workbook and Bible study will be almost completely useless to you (even boring). So, the next question is -What is the gospel? Simple:

Romans 3 is just one of many passages that shows that you and are clearly rebels against God – fighting to do what we want, while lying to cover our sins and excuse our sins. These sins are not accidents and this disease of selfishness and rebellion affects all of us. ***"There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God... and the way of peace they have not known.' 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.'... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*** (Romans 3:10-11, 17-18, 23)

I mentioned hope above – is there hope? Yes! Much hope! How? Only through Jesus Christ. *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”* (John 14:6) -- Here’s another passage that explains this good news: *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners [rebels, enemies], Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8) How do we get this? Simple – repent. *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”* (Acts 3:19) -- *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”* (Acts 17:30-31) -- How do we repent? *“If we confess our sins, He is [counts it as] faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1st John 1:9) – That verses is one of the most beautiful promises in Scripture! To me, it’s a life-verse. I hope you’ll hide it in your heart and treasure it for your life too.

Note - God is drawing and calling you and me to repentance (a starting point, and a continual lifestyle) *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”* (John 6:44)

e. God providentially allows us to go through events and circumstances that include having to make choices - daily. God will help and give each of us to strength to grow in obeying Him, but you and I need to/have to have a want to obey Him to get that strength. And, one day, we’ll be held fully accountable for all of our choices when we stand alone before His Throne. *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”* (Luke 6:46) -- Jesus taught about the storms and trials of life: *“[Jesus speaking] Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine [God’s Word, teachings], and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine [God’s Word, teachings], and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”* (Matthew 7:24-27) -- For those who are lost, they will face this: *“Then I saw a Great White Throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.”* (Revelation 20:11) --

For those who are saved through Jesus the Christ, they will face this:

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” (1st Corinthians 3:11-15) -- The saddest part here is that all around us are many who think that they are going to Heaven. And, because they don’t know or study God’s Word, they don’t know that they aren’t yet saved. This is how Jesus said it: *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”* (Matthew 7:21-23) This is why God, through Paul warned us to examine ourselves to make sure we are saved: *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.”* (2nd Corinthians. 13:5)

How can you tell if you've changed and are genuinely saved? Simple – you're life will look like these verses. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* (2nd Corinthians 5:17) -- that's an inside change that leads to an outside change *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [God's Word, and what's holy, right and true], for they shall be filled."* (Matthew 5:6) -- *"When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, 'Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross [daily], and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life [fight for the comforts of sin and self in this temporary life, he] will lose it [his/her soul – in Hell forever], but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's [continues rejecting attachment to the trinkets and sinful pleasures of this life, he] will save it [his/her soul – in Heaven forever]. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.'"* (Mark 8:34-38)

If you (the reader) or the person you are trying to help are not embracing the love of the truth, are not wanting to only embrace the truth and/or are not turning from lies and are not growing in obedience to what you know, and keeping your conscience clear and your testimony pure - then you won't like this study, and you will not get much benefit from it. *"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* (1st Corinthians 2:14) – This principle applies to those who don't know Christ and to those who may know Christ, but aren't following Him and don't value His Word. Remember, truth can be gained or lost depending on if we treat it valuable to us – or not. *"For whoever has [truth and values/applies it in their lives], to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have [much truth and despises what little he does have], even what he has will be taken away from him."* (Matthew 13:12)

Because God's Word and obedience to God's Word is the only solid foundation, I think you'll find that I try hard to quote as much Scripture as I can for this study with as brief explanation as possible, because His Word is not empty, though all of our words are – with the only exception of when we are accurately explaining God's Word. *"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:11)

If you see yourself in any of the traps of sin explained below, remember this verse: *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."* (1st Corinthians 10:13) -- When you find yourself tempted so sin, remember that God has placed at least one escape route there for you. You'll find it, if you diligently pray and seek it out. It's there – God's promise is that there is an escape. If you need help finding it – ask those that you know who pray, to pray that God shows you it and gives you the boldness and clarity to go through that exit door. And don't forget to claim and obey 1st John 1:9 too, as you work to escape and get back right with God, including correcting the wrongs. [We'll plan to look at how to get free and undo things at the last section - applications, of this Bible study/workbook. I hope, though, that you read this study all the way through, because if you don't, you won't have the understanding of how to escape and right the wrongs.]

Before we go further, I need to address a common misunderstanding. God does care that you were hurt, and He does want to do something about it, but He doesn't force anyone to do good or evil. He is actively training up ambassadors of Christ who work to protect others, but sometimes His servants don't listen to Him. Meaning? The abuse is not God's fault – it's sin's fault. God is right here with you and wants to help you heal. You may be asking right now... Steven, that's nice words, but where's your proof? I say fair question. I would like to show you what Jesus Himself went through. He went through more than you and me – to show us He actually does care and He can help us heal and become a Biblical protector like Him. (this is repeated in the section on abuse categories).

Jesus

God in human flesh was sin-harmed and murdered by those He created. What He went through is horrible! Far worse than anything any of the rest of us have been through. So, when the Bible says that He is the faithful High Priest, God's Word is 100% correct – for He knows what we've been through and can minister to anyone, anywhere, at any time, through anything (Hebrews 2:17-18; Hebrews 4:15-16). When God came to earth, and Jesus added a body to Himself, He chose the hardest of situations for Himself (not the best).

"¹⁷Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." (Hebrews 2:17-18)

"¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

All His life, they were calling Him an illegitimate child – a half-breed, a son of an affair with a Roman soldier or a Samaritan. Why? Because Mary came back pregnant after going to see Zechariah and Elizabeth (John the Baptizer's parents).

"⁴⁸Then the Jews answered and said to Him [slandering Him], 'Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?' ⁴⁹Jesus answered, 'I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.'" (John 8:48-49)

Raised as the son of a carpenter and became carpenter Himself – in the same town that Joseph and Jesus' mother lived, meaning He heard this false accusation and the 'whispers' for many years

"²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary." (Luke 1:26-27)

"²³And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, 'He shall be called a Nazarene."

(Matthew 2:23)

His own mother and brothers thought He was out of His mind and tried to stop His teaching. Yet, Jesus did not show disrespect to them, just distanced Himself from them because they were in the wrong, and kept sharing with them a clear message of how they could get back to what is right.

"²¹But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, 'He is out of His mind.' ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebub,' and, 'By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.' ..."

²⁷No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house. ²⁸Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; ²⁹but he who blasphemes against the Holy

Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation' -- ³⁰because they said, 'He has an unclean spirit.' ³¹Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. ³²And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, 'Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.' ³³But He answered them, saying, 'Who is My mother, or My brothers?' ³⁴And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.' (Mark 3:21-22, 27-35)

"¹⁸Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.' ¹⁹Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. ²⁰And it was told Him by some, who said, 'Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.' ²¹But He answered and said to them, 'My mother and My brothers are these who hear the Word of God and do it.'" (Luke 8:18-21)

His brothers insulted Him on at least one occasion (probably many more)

"³His brothers therefore said to Him, 'Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. ⁴For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.' ⁵For even His brothers did not believe in Him.'" (John 7:3-5)

Constantly verbally sin-harmed and slandered by the religious hypocritical teachers of His day – because He taught the truth and exposed their evil deeds.

"⁵³And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, ⁵⁴lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him ." (Luke 11:53-54)

And then at the kangaroo trial and His crucifixion, where He was falsely accused by fellow rabbis, and the religious hypocritical leadership

"⁵⁹Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, ⁶⁰but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward ⁶¹and said, 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the Temple of God and to build it in three days." ⁶²And the high priest arose and said to Him, 'Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?' ⁶³But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!' ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, 'It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of Heaven.' ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, 'He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! ⁶⁶What do you think?' They answered and said, 'He is deserving of death.'" (Matthew 26:59-66)

"⁵⁵Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, ⁵⁸'We heard Him say, "I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" ⁵⁹But not even then did their testimony agree. ⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, 'Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?' ⁶¹But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, 'Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' ⁶²Jesus said, 'I AM. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of Heaven.' ⁶³Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'What further need do we have of witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?' And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.'" (Mark 14:55-64)

Beard ripped out

"⁶¹I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting." (Isaiah 50:6)

He was spat on, and beaten on the face

"⁶⁷Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,

⁶⁸saying, 'Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?' " (Matthew 26:67-68)

"⁶⁵Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, 'Prophecy!' And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands... ¹⁹Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him ." (Mark 14:65, 15:19)

"⁶⁴And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" (Luke 22:64)

Beaten with many blows

"¹⁵So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified." (Mark 15:15)

"⁶³Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him." (Luke 22:63)

Whipped till He was physically un-recognizable

"¹⁴Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men..." (Isaiah 52:14)

Had a crown of thorns placed and jammed into His head

"²⁹When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" (Matthew 27:29)

"¹⁷And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head..." (Mark 15:17)

"²And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe...⁵Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, 'Behold the Man!'" (John 19:2,5)

A furious beating by the Romans

"³²For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." (Luke 18:32)

"⁶³Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him." (Luke 22:63)

>>> *** <<<

Yet, how did Jesus handle it? How could He endure? What did He know that we forget?

Check these verses out – they'll encourage you.

Lamb of God – silent, with no retaliation: *"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)*

Entrusted to faithful Creator *"¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator." (1st Peter 4:19)*

He lived what He taught

"⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?..." (Matthew 6:44-46)

God honored Him for His obedience

"⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow..." (Philippians 2:8-10)

Study God's Word. Believe & follow that 100%. Double-check all humans.
 #StudyYourBible #BeABerean

Quick notes: If you are in a sin-harm situation, find a way to get to somewhere safe, or find a way to stand up to the one harming to clear a safe-place for yourself. Also work to seek out safe people to build a new network for yourself, one that heals and grows with you and helps you study God's Word and learn His ways, explained only in the Bible.

So, back to what Jesus went through for us. I mean: WOW! And, ow, right? That's extremely painful and dreadful – plain and simple. Jesus, God in human flesh allowed Himself to be hurt this way. Meaning? He knows what we are going through – doesn't matter what all you have been through – He knows and He understands

what you're going through and He's been through it Himself.

So, how do we move forward? Jesus, wants to be your High-Priest to God, and wants a salvation covenant relationship – with you. And from there, He wants to help you work through the pain, stand up to the person who hurt you this way (even if just in your own heart), and to help you become one who walks in a new purity and protects those around you that you can reach. Sound good? :)

Okay, let's look at the name of this study: "Jacob and Rachel study" and see what God's Word shows about sin-harm done by sin-slaves.

What's in the name?

As you've probably already noticed, there are 2 individuals referenced in the title of this study – both are Biblical characters that God both taught and used. And we have enough info shared in the Word of God to see and learn from their good and bad choices. Let's look at them briefly.

JACOB

Early on, we see Jacob is a thief, or more simply put – he was an sin-slave/sin-flatterer. He was more of the verbal sin-slave/sin-flatterer type. The amazing thing about Jacob is this: Jacob was an sin-slave, but became a protector after God sent a meaner sin-slave into his life to teach him humility. Those lessons built maturity, strength and stability in Him. But (as you'll also see) his choices along the way created problems for his family for many years and many generations. Why? Because even though his problems were in some ways corrected in his own life, the damage done in his family was never really corrected. Though he grew himself, much of that maturity didn't get taught to most of his children. There are many people around us who are just like Jacob – I think all of us guys can related in at least some ways. Let's look at his story recorded in Scripture.

Jacob – thief, the sin-harmed simple-minded one:

“Afterward his brother came out [at birth], and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob [heel-catcher]. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.” (Genesis 25:26) – First thing we see about Jacob is his name – which implies a manipulative, selfish thieving mentality.

“And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.’ Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright as of this day.’ And Esau said, ‘Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?’ Then Jacob said, ‘Swear to me as of this day.’ So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” (Genesis 25:28-34) – Parents need to avoid playing favorites with their kids, because when they play favorites, it causes pain, damage, and hurts the family for years into the future (and sometimes gets passed onto the next generation). Dads and Moms – if you find you’ve been playing favorites and want to correct that, ask God to help you correct this and He’ll give you wisdom. We also see here that Esau despised his God-given leadership role of first-born and the privileges and responsibilities that came with it. That’s a warning to all of us not to reject what God’s given to us, but to appreciate it and grow in it, with thankfulness to Him.

“... And Esau said, ‘Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted [deceitfully stole from, betrayed, supplanted] me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!’ And he said, ‘Have you not reserved a blessing for me?’...” (Genesis 27:36)

So, Jacob tricked Esau out of the firstborn blessing (birthright) that Esau didn’t care about anyway. Then, his Mom (Rebekah) set up another lie. God had already told Rebekah that the older would serve the younger (Genesis 25:23), so God didn’t need or want her to lie and deceive to get her son the blessing. And because she did, and because Jacob listened to her (while also knowing it was wrong), it caused more unnecessary pain in the family for years.

“Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. ‘Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.’ So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, ‘Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, “Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.” Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.’ And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, ‘Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me [Isaac was almost completely blind by this age], and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.’ But his mother said to him, ‘Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.’”

“And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob...”

“So he went to his father and said, ‘My father.’ And he said, ‘Here I am. Who are you, my son?’ Jacob said to his father, ‘I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.’ But Isaac said to his son, ‘How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?’ And he said, ‘Because the LORD your God brought it to me.’ Then Isaac said to Jacob, ‘Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.’ So

Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "he voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. "Then he said, 'Are you really my son Esau?' He said, 'I am.'..."

Then [after eating] his father Isaac said to him, 'Come near now and kiss me, my son.' And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: 'Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed. Therefore may God give you of the dew of Heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. 'Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!'" (Genesis 27:5-29)

Because of the lie that his Mom talked him into, Jacob now had to run for his life.

"So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, 'The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.' And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, 'Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?'" (Genesis 27:41-45)

So, because of Jacob following through on Rebekah's (his Mom) lie, his brother Esau wanted to kill him and he had to flee. Where did he go? To a meaner and more-crafty sin-slave named Laban. Jacob grew in maturity there through hard work, and because of Laban's cruelty, he learned more of what not to do to others in the future. [You'll see more of how God taught Jacob in the Laban section later on in the study]

Why does God allow any of us to get sin-harmed and/or wronged or taken advantage of? God allows those things to teach us to leave behind our simple-minded and selfish ways, so that we will learn to follow God with all of our hearts [not double-minded] and able to teach, challenge, and encouraging others to do the same, growing in loving holiness.

"How long, you simple ones [simple-minded, selfish], will you love simplicity [naivety, ignoring evil]? For scorners delight in their scorning [scoffing against sin], and fools hate knowledge [wisdom, instruction]. Turn at My rebuke; surely I will pour out My Spirit on you; I will make My words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out My hand [to help] and no one regarded, because you disdained all My counsel, and would have none of My rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently [selfishly], but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, they would have none of My counsel and despised My every rebuke. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple [simple-minded, selfish] will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to Me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil." (Proverbs 1:22-33)

RACHEL

Rachel is a beautiful Biblical name and key important figure in the Bible. Rachel was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin – two of the 12 tribes of Israel (all 12 literal tribes are still around today). Joseph, her firstborn, is by far the most honorable in all of the 12 brothers. God used Joseph many times to help his family, including when God used Joseph to deliver protect his family from starvation, years after Rachel's early death. Rachel was the second and younger wife of Jacob, but she was Jacob's first love. By Laban's trickery, Jacob married Leah first, but he was drunk (one of his wrong choices) so he didn't know the difference until the next morning. So, Jacob had to work 7 more years to get Rachel. As you read the story in Genesis, you'll see that Rachel apparently was more caring than her older sister, and there are many clues that she was very diligent and hard-working in many things.

However, she has some serious faults that all ladies need to learn from, and enough of her story is shared in the Bible for us to see a lot of key subjects. So, while holding her with the respect she deserves as a matriarch of the nation of Israel, let's also briefly look at key good character points as well as sins that she fell into, which ultimately led to her early death.

Positive qualities – Worked hard as a shepherdess – hard worker, diligent
Being a shepherd or a shepherdess, meant that she had to get up early, take the flock out to pasture, lead them to water, endure the heat and weather, defend the flock (from wolves, lions and bears), find the lost one(s), take care of the flock (mending wounds, etc), and take care of the babies, little ones, and the sick. This not only wasn't an easy job, it was a very hard one. This hard work prepared her to be ready to marry a shepherd (Jacob). -- ***"Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess."*** (**Genesis 29:9**)

Shepherding with its hardships built a lot of godly character into her, just like it did for David – who God eventually made king. ***"But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.'"***

(**1st Samuel 17:34-35**)

Psalms describes much about the responsibilities of a shepherd (or shepherdess) ~ ***"A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."*** (**Psalms 23:1-6**)

And God describes what shepherds are supposed to do in Ezekiel as well – ***"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them... As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day... I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment."*** (**Ezekiel 34:6,16**) --

Jesus describes even more in John 10: ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the Shepherd of the sheep. To Him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear His voice; and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. And when He brings out His own***

sheep, He goes before them; and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from Him, for they do not know [and do not stay with] the voice of strangers..."

"Most assuredly, I say to you, I AM the Door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I AM the Door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except [only] to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I AM the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I AM the Good Shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own." (John 10:1-14)

As you can see, Rachel was a very hard worker and her character and diligence won Jacob's heart. :)

Things to learn from Rachel's mistakes and wrong choices

Rachel apparently woo-ed Jacob with her appearance and/or her friendly and warm character. None of that is wrong. The only reason I mention it at the top of this list, is because that kind of charm can be used to manipulate in wrong ways or to get wrong things too. *"Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance." (Genesis 29:17)*

Rachel held onto her idolatry – even stealing her Dad's idols, and lying to hide and keep them *"Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father's... [later on, when Laban was searching for those gold idols] Now Rachel had taken the household idols, put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. And Laban searched all about the tent but did not find them. And she said to her father, 'Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is with me.' And he searched but did not find the household idols."*

(Genesis 31:19, 34-35)

Rachel was holding onto some sins in her heart (what? I don't know) that kept God from allowing her to have kids for a time – God's choice, in His wisdom. Rachel couldn't have kids, even through manipulation, until she sought God with humility, and I'm assuming also pledged her son(s) to the Lord. *"Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, 'Give me children, or else I die!' And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, 'Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?' So she said, 'Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, and she will bear a child on my knees, that I also may have children by her.'... Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb [gave her 2 sons]." (Genesis 30:1-3, 22)*

> The solution for Rachel was when you sought the Lord like Hannah did, then God granted Rachel's request for children of her own: *"²⁰So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked for him from the LORD.'..." (1st Samuel 1:2)*

Rachel had a strong loyalty to Jacob, her husband (Genesis 31:15-17), which is very admirable! Remembered she was pledged to Jacob first, but Laban tricked Jacob who was drunk (Genesis 29:18; 23). Remember that God never intended for a man to have multiple wives – just one man and one woman = Biblical marriage, the only form that God promotes and blesses in His Word. The only problem I see here with Rachel is that Rachel did fall into a strong attitude of jealousy, which led her to do things she knew were wrong, and even using manipulation to get her way (at least in a few occasions). If she had kept her heart more pure and clear and fully trusted and follow God, as Sarah (Abraham's wife) did, then God would have resolved more of the problems she found herself in. *"Now*

*Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, 'Please give me some of your son's mandrakes.' But Leah said to her, 'Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?' And Rachel said, 'Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes.' "When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, 'You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes.' And he lay with her that night. And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. Leah said, 'God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband.' So she called his name Issachar. Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. And Leah said, 'God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons.' So she called his name Zebulon. Afterward Leah bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah. "Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. And she conceived and bore a son, and said, 'God has taken away my reproach. So she called his name Joseph, and said, 'The LORD shall add to me another son.'" (*Genesis 30:14-24*)*

I hope you don't get the impression that I'm being too hard on a key Biblical and godly lady, because that's not my intent at all. I only show those passages and gaps so that we (you and I) can learn from her mistakes. As I mentioned above, we need to try to learn from the mistakes and wrong choices of those around us so that we don't repeat them. *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."* (*Hebrews 12:1-3*)

As you can see, both Jacob and Rachel were very good picks for this study because of the lessons we can learn from their wrong choices and so that we can also learn from them, to hopefully not repeat those mistakes and wrong choices. One more person to note in this story is Laban – Rachel's Dad, Jacob's Dad-in-law.

Laban – sin-slave:

Remember, God taught both Laban, Jacob, and Rachel in this – that's a good situation, when we learn from our past wrong choices. This is not always the case, but we need to strive to learn from these things.

"[Jacob speaking to Laban] Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times." (*Genesis 31:41*)

>>> *** <<<

Okay, I think I've seen three categories, in this subject, that we need to watch out for – so that we aren't one of them and/or don't become one of them.

Sin-slave

Sin-flatterer

Sin-helper

Another one that we need to sort through if we're one, to see if it helps us to identify something that we need to deal with properly:

Sin-harmed

A category that we need to become

Protector ~ > a man or woman who stands up to and properly corrects/deals with the sin-slave, while working to protect the person who's been being sin-harmed and to protect others from the sin-slave.

Please keep in mind as you think on those categories that all around us are people who oftentimes are at least 2, or even 3 of these categories. And, of course, our goal should be to become a protector. Yes ladies can (and need to) become protectors too, though obviously they feel most comfortable within a team, with the men taking their proper place as leaders. This study is meant to build that kind of team (hopefully many like it). Guys, we need to step higher – in our personal lives and our leadership. I'm in – Are you? :)

>>> *** <<<

I want to also note here the several forms of sin-harm I've identified and we'll plan to look and cover each of them later in this study.

Verbal

Emotional

Physical

Sexual

Witchcraft

Religious (sin-harm of someone in a position of religious influence)

>>> *** <<<

In these next sections, I'd like to look at Biblical examples of each category, so that we can learn from them – to not repeat mistakes, wrong choices – but also to grow in following godly examples. I also need to note that just because the Bible records the sinful actions of people (even those that He chose to be godly leaders), that doesn't mean that God gives approval to or ignored their sins. But, this is what they did and God both taught them from it and worked with them through it. One day, God will sort all of those things out – nothing will be left hidden or left un-dealt with at His Throne (Matthew 12:36; Luke 8:16-18).

So, with that, let's look at passages on the categories.

Sin-slaves in the Bible

>> *Examples:*

Laban

Excited over gold glitter of this world

"Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard

the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, 'Thus the man spoke to me', that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. And he said, 'Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels.'" (Genesis 24:29-31)

Trickery and deceit

"'Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.' Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, 'The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken.' And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother. And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, 'Send me away to my master.' But her brother and her mother said, 'Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go.' And he said to them, 'Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master.' So they said, 'We will call the young woman and ask her personally.' Then they called Rebekah and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' And she said, 'I will go.'" (Genesis 24:49-58)

"Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things. And Laban said to him, 'Surely you are my bone and my flesh.' And he stayed with him for a month. Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance. Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter. And Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her. And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her..." (Genesis 29:13-30)

"And you know that with all my might I have served your father. Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked. So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me." (Genesis 31:6-9)

"Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, 'Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money. For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children's; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.' Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels..." (Genesis 31:14-17)

"[Jacob rebuking Laban] These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock. That which was torn by

beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes. Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times..." (Genesis 31:38-41)

Pharaoh

"But the king of Egypt said to them, 'Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens.' And Pharaoh said, 'Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!' The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, 'You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, "Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God." Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words.'

"So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, 'Thus says Pharaoh, "I will not give you straw. Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.' So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. The taskmasters were urgent, saying, 'Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw.'..."

(Exodus 5:8-13)

Nabal

"The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb." (1st Samuel 25:3)

Amnon - one of King David's sons

"And she took the pan and placed them [cakes] out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, 'Have everyone go out from me.' And they all went out from him. Then Amnon said to Tamar, 'Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand.' And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom. Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, 'Come, lie with me, my sister.' But she answered him, 'No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you.' However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.

"Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, 'Arise, be gone!' So she said to him, 'No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me.' But he would not listen to her. Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, 'Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her.' Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her. Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly."

(2nd Samuel 13:9-19)

Hypocritical religious leaders of Jesus' day

"And as Jesus said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him." (Luke 11:53-54)

>> *Other passages that teach on this category:*

"Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul." (Proverbs 22:24-25)

"An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression." (Proverbs 29:22)

"Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned." (Titus 3:10-11) -- This passage has to be kept in context with Matthew 18:15-18, because they go hand-in-hand.

>> There are 5 types of sin-harm. Let's look at how God's Word addresses each of them:

- 1) Verbal sin-harm (this can merge with manipulations, but it is different)
- 2) Physical sin-harm
- 3) Sexual sin-harm
- 4) Emotional
- 5) Witchcraft
- 6) Religious (sin-harm of someone in a position of religious influence)

Verbal sin-harm from men:

"As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife." (Proverbs 26:21)

"I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence [unrighteous authority] among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words [including slander and false accusations]. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church." (3rd John 1:9-10)

Verbal sin-harm from women:

"Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman." (Proverbs 21:19)

"A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike; whoever restrains her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand. As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend [with godly correction]." (Proverbs 27:15-17)

Physical sin-harm of men:

"And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to sin-harm and stone them, they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And they were preaching the gospel there." (Acts 14:5-7)

"But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
(Matthew 24:48-51)

Other examples: - King David on occasion acted as an sin-slave.
How did he fall so low?

King David was an amazing leader, most of the time. Most of the Biblical record of his life shows him to be a man of honor, a good leader, and a God-fearing king.

God, at one point, said this of David: *"²²And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'"* (Acts 13:22)

But, here's one example of how King David on occasion acted like an sin-slave/sin-flatterer. Here is one example - pride, laziness and lust were his downfall in this situation.

"It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ²Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. ³So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, 'Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?' ⁴Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, 'I am with child.' ⁶Then David sent to Joab, saying, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. ⁸And David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house and wash your feet.' So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. ⁹But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.... ¹⁵And David wrote in the letter, saying, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.'..."

'⁷Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul... ¹⁰Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ¹¹Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house...' ¹³So David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD.' And Nathan said to David, 'The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.'"

(2nd Samuel 11:1-27 through 2nd Samuel 12:15)

And, in many ways because of David's failed leadership choices (and moral choices), some of his men also went out of control. Here are several examples.

Joab murdered Abner – [2nd Samuel 3:27]

Absalom murdered Amnon – [2nd Samuel 13:14-35]

Absalom tried to murder his Dad, King David – [2nd Samuel 18:9]

Absalom was executed – [2nd Samuel 18:14]

Please take note as we study abusive behavior here from Scripture that rebuke from one person to another, executing lawful consequences on an evil-doer, and physical discipline from Dad and Mom to child - none of these are sin-harm. They can be done in a way that his out of hand, but the actions themselves are not sin-harm - they are correction and pleasing to the Lord.

Rebuke

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother..." (Matthew 18:15-19)

"³Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

⁴And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." (Luke 17:3-4)

"¹²One of them, a prophet of their own, said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.' ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth." (Titus 1:12-14)

Executing justice on evildoers

"²⁶Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment." (Ezra 7:26)

"¹¹Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

"¹¹And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." (Ephesians 5:11)

Parental discipline

- **Caution--** Physical discipline is not sin-harm, when done caringly and Biblically.

"⁶Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

"²⁴He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly." (Proverbs 13:24)

"Foolishness is bound up in [knit into] the heart of a child; but the rod of correction will drive it far from him." (Proverbs 22:15)

"Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from Hell."

(Proverbs 23:13-14)

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: ³'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.'

⁴And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:1-4)

"²⁰Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

(Colossians 3:20-21)

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Physical sin-harm from women:

Physical sin-harm from women is rarely mentioned in the Bible - most often out-of-control ladies either use their words to manipulate, insult, attack or threaten, or they do things while drunk (of

which Proverbs talks a lot about). If you're looking for verses on that, that's probably where you'll find them.

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Sexual sin-harm of men:

"They raped and sin-harmed the women in Zion, the maidens in the cities of Judah." (Lamentations 5:11)

"Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting."
(1st Samuel 2:22)

"One commits abomination with his neighbor's wife; another lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law; and another in you violates his sister, his father's daughter." (Ezekiel 22:11)

Leviticus 18 and 20 talk about what God considers sexual immorality and therefore sin-harm. God's wrath is on those who commit sexual immorality as explained very clearly in passages such as Romans 1 and Galatians 5.

Other examples of sexual immorality/sin-harm against ladies:

Dina (Genesis 34:1-31)

Tamar (Genesis 38:15-26)

The Levite's concubine (Judges 19:22-28)

Tamar (2nd Samuel 13:9-19) – see quote earlier in this study ^

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Sin-flatterers in the Bible:

Rebekah

God promised to her before her 2 sons were born to honor the younger above the older. *"And the LORD said to her: 'Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.' So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them."* (Genesis 25:23-26)

Rebekah did not follow through on God's Word to her, but instead lied and caused her son to lie. This created trouble for the whole family for many years.

"Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, 'Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the flock and bring me from there two

choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.’ And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, ‘Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.’ But his mother said to him, ‘Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.’...” (Genesis 27:5-29)

Jacob had to flee because of her lies, to avoid being murdered in revenge by Esau. “And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, ‘Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?’” (Genesis 27:41-45)

Rachel

(Genesis 30:14-24) – see quote earlier in this study ^

Leah

(Genesis 30:14-24) – see quote earlier in this study ^

Potiphar's wife

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.

“Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, ‘Lie with me.’ [commit adultery] But he refused and said to his master's wife, ‘Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’ So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

“But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, ‘Lie with me’. But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, ‘See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside.’ So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, ‘The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that

he left his garment with me and fled outside.' So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, 'Your servant did to me after this manner,' that his anger was aroused. Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined.

"And he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper." (Genesis 39:1-33)

Delilah

"Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her [he was immoral with her]... Afterward it happened that he loved [lusted for] a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, 'Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.' So Delilah said to Samson, 'Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.' And Samson said to her, 'If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.' So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, 'The Philistines are upon you, Samson!' But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

"Then Delilah said to Samson, 'Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with.' So he said to her, 'If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.' Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, 'The Philistines are upon you, Samson!' And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread. Delilah said to Samson, 'Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with.' And he said to her, 'If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom' --So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, 'The Philistines are upon you, Samson!' But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom. Then she said to him, 'How can you say, "I love you", when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies.'

"And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all his heart, and said to her, 'No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.'

"When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, 'Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.' So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. And she said, 'The Philistines are upon you, Samson!' So he awoke from his sleep, and said, 'I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!' But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him..."

(Judges 16:1-20)

Jezebel

"And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.' And when Elijah saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there."

(1st Kings 19:1-3)

"And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, 'Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money.' But Naboth said to Ahab, 'The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!'"

"So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, 'I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.' And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, 'Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food? He said to her, 'Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, "Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it." And he answered, "I will not give you my vineyard."' Then Jezebel his wife said to him, 'You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.'"

"And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. She wrote in the letters, saying, 'Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.' So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them. They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people. And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, 'Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!' Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died."

"Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, 'Naboth has been stoned and is dead.' And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, 'Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.'..."

"But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up." (1st Kings 21:1-16, 22)

Absalom

"And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel [by flattery and cunning]. Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, 'Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the LORD. For your servant took a vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, "If the LORD indeed brings me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD."' And the king said to him: 'Go in peace.' So he arose and went to Hebron. Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, 'As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, "Absalom reigns in

Hebron!” And with Absalom went two hundred men invited from Jerusalem, and they went along innocently and did not know anything. Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city--from Giloh--while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number. Now a messenger came to David, saying, 'The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom...'"

(2nd Samuel 15:5-13)

>> Other passages on the sin-flatterers (and seductresses):

"For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life, to keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress. Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life." (Proverbs 6:23-26)

"A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin." (Proverbs 26:28)

"...These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage." (Jude 1:16)

"Say to wisdom, 'You are my sister'. And call understanding your nearest kin, that they [wisdom and understanding] may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words.

"For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, and saw among the simple [simple-minded], I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding, passing along the street near her corner; and he took the path to her house in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night. And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. She was loud and rebellious; her feet would not stay at home. At times she was outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner. So she caught him and kissed him; with an impudent face she said to him: 'I have peace offerings with me; today I have paid my vows. So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you. I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love [lust and commit adultery] until morning; let us delight ourselves with love. For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey; he has taken a bag of money with him, and will come home on the appointed day.'

"With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it would cost him his life.

"Now therefore, listen to me, my children; pay attention to the words of my mouth: Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths; for she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men. Her house is the way to Hell, descending to the chambers of death." (Proverbs 7:4-27)

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Sin-helpers in the Bible (those who help the sin-slaves)

>> Examples:

(King David in this case)

"Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that [was] on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly. And Absalom her brother said to her, 'Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart.' So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house. But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry [but did nothing]. And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar."

(2nd Samuel 13:19-22)

>> King David should have dealt swiftly with his son Amnon's forcible rape of his half-sister, Tamar. But, he didn't. And, because he didn't, it led to Absalom murdering Amnon later, and then because Absalom was never dealt with either, Absalom got really close to murdering his own Dad (King David). As you can see, rebellion that is not dealt with swiftly – perpetuates and repeats itself.

"Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." (Ecclesiastes 8:11) –

Key note:

When rebellion is not swiftly and firmly dealt with, it's set in the hearts of many others around them to do evil as well, because the mentality sets in that: 'they got away with it, maybe I can too...' Let's work to stop this trend.

Joab and a woman of Tekoa

"So Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom..." (2nd Samuel 14:1)

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>> Other passages:

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Sin-harmed in the Bible

>> Examples:

Jesus

God in human flesh was sin-harmed and murdered by those He created. What He went through is horrible! Far worse than anything any of the rest of us have been through. So, when the Bible says that He is the faithful High Priest, God's Word is 100% correct – for He knows what we've been through and can minister to anyone, anywhere, at any time, through anything (Hebrews 2:17-18; Hebrews 4:15-16). When God came to earth, and Jesus added a body to Himself, He chose the hardest of situations for Himself (not the best).

"¹⁷Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." (Hebrews 2:17-18)

"¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

All His life, they were calling Him an illegitimate child – a half-breed, a son of an affair with a Roman soldier or a Samaritan. Why? Because Mary came back pregnant after going to see Zechariah and Elizabeth (John the Baptizer's parents).

"⁴⁸Then the Jews answered and said to Him [slandering Him], 'Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?' ⁴⁹Jesus answered, 'I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.'" (John 8:48-49)

Raised as the son of a carpenter and became carpenter Himself – in the same town that Joseph and Jesus' mother lived, meaning He heard this false accusation and the 'whispers' for many years

"²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary." (Luke 1:26-27)

"²³And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, 'He shall be called a Nazarene."

(Matthew 2:23)

His own mother and brothers thought He was out of His mind and tried to stop His teaching. Yet, Jesus did not show disrespect to them, just distanced Himself from them because they were in the wrong, and kept sharing with them a clear message of how they could get back to what is right.

"²¹But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, 'He is out of His mind.' ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebub,' and, 'By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.' ..."

²⁷No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house. ²⁸Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; ²⁹but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation' -- ³⁰because they said, 'He has an unclean spirit.' ³¹Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. ³²And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, 'Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.' ³³But He answered them, saying, 'Who is My mother, or My brothers?' ³⁴And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.'" (Mark 3:21-22, 27-35)

"¹⁸Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.' ¹⁹Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. ²⁰And it was told Him by some, who said, 'Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.' ²¹But He answered and said to them, 'My mother and My brothers are these who hear the Word of God and do it.'" (Luke 8:18-21)

His brothers insulted Him on at least one occasion (probably many more)

"³His brothers therefore said to Him, 'Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. ⁴For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.' ⁵For even His brothers did not believe in Him.'" (John 7:3-5)

Constantly verbally sin-harmed and slandered by the religious hypocritical teachers of His day – because He taught the truth and exposed their evil deeds.

"⁵³And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, ⁵⁴lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him ." (Luke 11:53-54)

And then at the kangaroo trial and His crucifixion, where He was falsely accused by fellow rabbis, and the religious hypocritical leadership

"⁵⁹Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, ⁶⁰but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward ⁶¹and said, 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the Temple of God and to build it in three days." ⁶²And the high priest arose and said to Him, 'Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?' ⁶³But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!' ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, 'It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of Heaven.' ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, 'He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! ⁶⁶What do you think?' They answered and said, 'He is deserving of death.'" (Matthew 26:59-66)

"⁵⁵Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, ⁵⁸'We heard Him say, "I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" ⁵⁹But not even then did their testimony agree. ⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, 'Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?' ⁶¹But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, 'Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?' ⁶²Jesus said, 'I AM. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of Heaven.' ⁶³Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'What further need do we have of witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?' And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.'" (Mark 14:55-64)

Beard ripped out

"⁶I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting." (Isaiah 50:6)

He was spat on, and beaten on the face

"⁶⁷Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, ⁶⁸saying, 'Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?'" (Matthew 26:67-68)

"⁶⁵Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, 'Prophecy!' And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands... ¹⁹Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him ." (Mark 14:65, 15:19)

"⁶⁴And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, 'Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?'" (Luke 22:64)

Beaten with many blows

"¹⁵So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified." (Mark 15:15)

"⁶³Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him." (Luke 22:63)

Whipped till He was physically un-recognizable

"¹⁴Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men..." (Isaiah 52:14)

Had a crown of thorns placed and jammed into His head

"²⁹When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" (Matthew 27:29)

"¹⁷And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head..." (Mark 15:17)

"²And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe...⁵Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, 'Behold the Man!'" (John 19:2,5)

A furious beating by the Romans

"³²For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." (Luke 18:32)

"⁶³Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him." (Luke 22:63)

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Yet, how did Jesus handle it? How could He endure? What did He know that we forget?

Check these verses out – they'll encourage you.

Lamb of God – silent, with no retaliation: *"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth."* (Isaiah 53:7)

Entrusted to faithful Creator *"¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator." (1st Peter 4:19)*

He lived what He taught

"⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?..." (Matthew 6:44-46)

God honored Him for His obedience

"⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow..." (Philippians 2:8-10)

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>> Other passages:

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Protectors in the Bible (including Ladies)

>> Examples:

Jesus

He is the ultimate Example in His teaching the crowds, in His exposing false teachers, and in His teaching His disciples to follow His pattern

"¹³But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ¹⁴Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. ¹⁵Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of Hell as yourselves. ¹⁶Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.' ¹⁷Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?"

¹⁸And you say: 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' ¹⁹Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? ²⁰Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. ²¹He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. ²²And he who swears by Heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. ²³Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ²⁵Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

²⁷Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. ²⁹Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' ³¹Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. ³³Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of Hell?" (Matthew 23:13-33)

Jacob

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Joseph (son of Jacob, one of the 12 sons of Israel)

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Boaz (for Naomi and Ruth)

"⁸Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. ⁹Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.'" (Ruth 2:8-9)

Ruth (for Naomi)

"¹⁶But Ruth said: 'Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.'" (Ruth 1:16)

Naomí (for Ruth)

"Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, 'My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? ²Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.' ⁵And she said to her, 'All that you say to me I will do.'" (Ruth 3:1-5)

Joseph, (the step-Dad of Jesus the Christ, the Savior of the world, Messiah of Israel)

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus." (Matthew 1:18-25)

>> Other passages:

Secondary signs of sin-harm

and/or subjects that need additional attention and verses to help with them

Porn addiction

Self-injury (all categories)

A craving for fantasy, fiction, video games

Alcohol addiction

Drug addiction

Medication addiction

A contentious Jezebel spirit

How Do I ESC?

Obviously this is the next question. In working with the little team on this Bible study/workbook, we put together what we think is a basic escape route. Here it is:
Someone who's been sin-harmed needs to go through these steps to get to a new 'normal' – following Christ, with hunger for God's Word, and love for others.

> They need to hear clear truth (not mixed truth and lies) – from someone with a clear emotion of genuine love – Think you notice that this study has done much of that for you ☐

The person who was sin-harmed/victim then needs to learn to trust (for the first time, or again)

They need to learn to love (for the first time, or again) – genuine, unconditional love, not self-centered love, which is the only kind that the world knows

Learns boundaries (for the first time, or again)

Learns to throw out the connections to the old sin-harm, addictions, etc

Learns to identify and take seriously the logical feelings of when he/she feels in danger - learns to leave when there's danger

Passages to help the sin-harmed heal

How do we move forward? This is the good news 😊

Confronting sin-slaves

Matthew 25

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Acts

"" ()

Comforting sin-harmed

Training up Protectors

Men and women, we need to learn to identify, confront and work to expose/isolate sin-slaves around us - in doing so, we might just be saving other people's lives so that they can hear the gospel of Jesus, the Christ. Remember, sin-slaves do not all look the same - it's the actions and patterns that show an

sin-slave, not the good people skills they sometimes display. Identify them by their fruits - words, actions, care and attention to pleasing Christ and obeying God's Word, and leading souls to Christ for the salvation of their souls.

Applications subjects:

Identifying and breaking generational curses
Trace history to find them
Correct lifestyle to get rid of them
Burn/break whatever necessary to burn those old bridges

MK Ultra victims - identifying what they've been through and how to heal and detox their body, and how to heal the emotional wounds and work through the spiritual confusions
Health tips

Learning:
Self-control
Patience
Forgiveness (and the difference between genuine forgiveness and trust and reconciliation)
Learning how to handle sin-slaves from here
Don't so easily give general people 100% trust - measure it based on their pattern and lifestyle
Only share you closest core details with the few you know you can really trust - who care, pray for you, and don't gossip about you
Identify sin-slaves/sin-flatterers - learn to hold your ground and not let them push you around anymore
Serve and obey Christ fully - serve men/women and work with them according to your first allegiance to Christ

Satanism - witchcraft

How did I get here?
How do I get out of here? (hating the sins)
What doors do I need to close and never go back to the rest of my life?
Say no (even boldly) to sexual advances and demonic interests from now on
Burn, break old ties - close open doors that allow demonic realm attacks
Study God's Word daily - let the Word of God say what it means and mean what it says - learning Biblical definitions in contrast to man's wrong, faulty or incomplete definitions

Helpful studies:

***Picking up and Digging Deeper in the 'Spiritual Boundaries' study
(a study/resource of 'Snapshots of a Disciple')***

Hello brothers, sisters, and friends,

Intro and background on this study:

This little study is really just a re-collecting and expanding of my studies and conversations and Biblically-analyzing of core texts of Scripture from over the last 5 to 10 years, as I have been trying to re-establish (for myself and others) the careful and safe boundaries that we all need to have - boundaries that need to be set in our minds, because the world hates boundaries because boundaries prick their consciences about the evil deeds they do. These are boundaries that many generations before us have known - but, over time, rebellion-levels have increases, preachers have grown silent, and many who should hold the Biblical boundaries have let go and either given up or compromised with evil too much to get their own hearts right. So, since many of the past generations and categories do not and/or refuse to hold these boundaries, God is raising up a new generation of a variety of maturity levels to work together to re-establish, and re-hold the boundaries of truth, while exposing errors and liars along the way, just as God's Word teaches us to do.

You will notice a variety of subjects here in this study. I'm sorry it's not more collected. At the moment, it's not yet a whole-picture view, it's getting closer, but currently is just a scattering of topics. You'll notice that I did I try to include verses and/or verse references throughout and under each topic for further study. In time, I expect God will grant me (and others) the clarity to pull it all together better... for now, this is what I can see. And I'm sharing it because I see that this discussion, and the things included in this study, are needed in the genuine body of Christ today, in the US and worldwide.

What are 'boundary stones'?

"Boundary stones". That phrase doesn't mean much to us today, but back centuries ago, it was the only way to keep track of who owned what land, and/or to mark areas to stay away from for our own health and safety, etc (***Exodus 19 is a good example, See also Proverbs 15:25, Isaiah 10:2***) Typically, boundary stones would mark the four corners of the property you owned and were (from what I've read) most often large rocks, that were identified and known as property lines. In the US today, we have surveyors who use GPS coordinates with satellites too numerous to count - some of which essentially do the same thing: marking boundaries and/or locating points on the earth to help keep track of boundaries. If you study into the subject of boundary stones, you will find that some evil people would move the boundary stones during the night (sometimes) to 'claim' (really steal) more land from their neighbors for themselves. Thus the phrase - "moving the boundary stones". And, yes, they do that still today - only here in the US today, it's called 'eminent domain', but God isn't confused by their elaborate disguise on stealing and bribing to pervert justice. But, I'm using that phrase of 'boundary stones' to talk about something of a much deeper meaning.

Many years ago, I heard a sermon that I have still remembered pieces of about how boundary stones were more than just stones marking the perimeter of the property. They were also a reminder of God's boundaries to mark the difference between what God says is right and holy, and what God calls sin and evil. Needless to say, today those 'boundary stones' have been moved... a lot. Let's look at this from a few different angles. Passages that show clear spiritual boundaries are Romans 1, Galatians 5, and 2nd Peter 1, but those are just 3 key ones. Let's look a few others on various topics.

In 2nd Corinthians 6 and 7, God explains that He still calls some things 'clean' and 'unclean', but He's not talking about food or animals. He's talking about right and wrong, justice and

injustice, lies and false teachings versus truth. You see, many of the things in the 'Old Testament' are types, shadows, and patterns in the 'New Testament', and we see this principle taught in a variety of passages, here are four more passages that show this deeper perspective: Romans 15:4; 1st John 5:13; Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 11. So, what does that mean today? Good question.

Today, we have so many varied definitions and teaching about everything, and sadly because so few people seem to know the core teachings of the Word, they believe what they hear from a variety of teachers - including many false ones. Even the modern 'dictionaries' have definitions that scoff and mock God's Word on almost every issue and topic you can think of. You see, when we look to the world to define sin, they will get it wrong - always. And, indeed, they do get it wrong all the time - always reducing sin to be less than God's Word defines it, and always adjusting to excuse their active sins to be less than the sins that God says He hates. For an easy example, look up any sin from the Bible - in the English dictionary. You will find for most of those definitions, the dictionary-writer had no understanding of what the Bible is talking about when it talks about a sin. And, that's another thing I'd like to remind people - Biblical definitions.

Do you realize that God's Word is the best dictionary and commentary on the Bible? Who knew? :) Seriously, though, if you want to know the Biblical definition of a sin, don't go to a book or a teacher - many modern ones (seemingly most, at least the "popular" or "best-selling" ones) get it wrong, and sometimes very wrong. No, instead, pick up a Bible, and study out both the Hebrew or Greek word, and/or look up a few passages that use that word. Once you find a few clear passages on the topic, you will quickly see from the context what God's Word is defining that sin to be.

But another huge hazard in this spiritual growth process is sometimes some people are willing to abandon everything they once knew to adjust their beliefs, morals, and definitions to the latest person on stage - on the 'Trash Vendor', behind the pulpit, or behind the latest "best-selling" book or audio. This is key thing the Word of God warns us so many times to avoid - don't drop what you know of right and wrong to pick up someone else's worldview - just let Scripture (and the entirety of God's Word) teach your heart and your conscience more of God's holy character, and more of right and wrong. Here are a few core-foundational texts to help you (and others) make sure you hold onto what God's Word explains is the foundation of Jesus Christ.

"⁶I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel... ⁷which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."

(Galatians 1:6-10, NKJV)

"¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

(1 John 4:1, NKJV)

"⁴I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. ⁵And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. ⁶This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it." (2 John 1:4-6, NKJV)

"²⁸Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves." (Acts 20:28-30, NKJV)

"¹⁰Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." (Acts 17:10-11, NKJV)

Key question

Are you a Berean? Do you watch out for *new* winds of doctrine and trends that everyone is falling for? A deeper question - Do you test the spirit(s) and honesty of the teaching you are hearing? If not, you need to! If you do - keep doing it and growing in it! :) How do we do that? We stay with the Biblical structure God has set, and not allow our hearts or others to move the boundary stones. This passage explains it well.

"¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting," (Ephesians 4:11-14, NKJV)

>> We must beware of those who sound eloquent, but their life shows they hate the Word of God, His holiness, and His boundaries against sin. This category of false teachers has 2 sub-groups, those who are 1) openly lawless, and those who are 2) using *new* rules to draw disciples after themselves, and their *new* false doctrine. We must watch out for both. An easy rule of thumb - allow people/brethren to show you topics to study deeper, but don't move quickly - but do pray that God shows you if you need to change, and if so how.

Okay, let's look deeper at 'Biblical definitions'. The world always diminishes the sins in the heart and mind, and most often even diminishes all sins, except the '**7 Deadly Sins**', which then was reduce to the top 3 (adultery, hatred and greed)... and now is becoming "*they're just all mistakes, not actual rebellion against God...*" *sigh* The lies of this world never stop. But, another way to double-check your hypothesis on a Biblical definition is to share it and discuss it with those you trust. And if they don't see it, but you still see in the text, find a few others to ask, and keep studying yourself. With prayer and the clear text of God's Word, these things become clear, often-times pretty easily. One of my favorite tools because of its accuracy and ease-of-use is the free small-program you can download at www.Scripture4all.org . I recommend it to all my friends. I've been using it for years, and I consider it to be more-honest than all the other dozen+ Bible programs I've seen.

So, Biblical definitions are essential to understanding the Word, and so is context, and so is pattern of Scripture. It can take time to study what the Word says, taking notes and saving them can help too. :) Another key part in this is also realizing that God's definition will always bring conviction on all people, not just some. Some people catch that easier than others.

Okay, let's look at another area where the boundary stones are being moved - culture norms. The culture is constantly rejecting God's Word and using their actions and manners and patterns of choices to push and promote sin - sometimes they are so spiritually deceived, they aren't aware anymore of how much sin they are practicing. But, satan uses what's 'common' to push Christians to back down and fall to practicing the same sins as everyone else. And this happens in one of two ways - either talking genuine followers of Christ into entertain themselves with sin (*just like everybody else is doing*), and the "Trash Vendor" (TV), the pagan movies, the pagan music, and pagan art, literature, and games, are all apart of helping everyone believe that more and more sin is 'normal', and therefore apparently **"not that bad"**. Another way satan accomplishes the lukewarm-deterioration of believers is by surrounding them with unbelievers and/or those who call themselves 'believers' while they live, speak, act, and think just like the pagans around them. America is a great example of this. All around us, here in the US, we are surrounded by many who are fighting for sin, but they call it 'normal'. Well, yes self-wants and sin-pleasures **are** normal for those who don't Christ, and aren't ransomed by His blood. But, it is **not normal** for those who are in Christ. For those who are "in Christ" need to "abide in Christ" and they will be quickly noticed to be set-apart "to Christ". If they are not set apart, there is a high likely hood that they are not Christ's, as explained very well in Romans 6, 8, and Hebrews 12. Key passage: **"¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."** (2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV)

Okay, now let's dig a little deeper. One key area where the spiritual 'boundary stones' have been moved is in the area of relationships. I have found this so many times over the dozen+ years I was working with youths - many young people simply don't know healthy boundaries because they aren't being taught. And what I found when working with the youth, is many adults who never learned these things as a youth, sometimes still don't know them as an adult, especially if they are just watching an almost-empty religious entertainer on Sunday mornings. If he's the lead guy at a 501c3 tax-exempt corporation, there are **many** things he cannot and will not teach on, because of business bylaws, and the constantly-changing secret rules that are sent to these pastors every month or quarter, from DC. And, if he's also a freemason member, he simply won't teach much at all - just enough to make you feel warm with a few fake and empty stories to make it appealing to the pagan world. Which then leaves his hearers empty, having learned nothing of God's holiness, how to please God, or how to share the honest gospel of Jesus with those around you. Remember, in the Bible, the pastors were not to be focused on bringing in unbelievers to share the 'gospel' every week. No, they were to be training the believers what the Word said and how to follow Christ, so that the whole church body would be out sharing the gospel all week long... America's a far-cry from that one, huh? We need to get it back - and that means, one person at a time.

Did you realize that less than 25% of the content of the 'New Testament' gets taught in most churches today? Why is that? It's not right. Do you realize that most of Jesus' teachings do

not get taught? Do you also realize that the whole gospel message that Jesus and the disciples taught is not understood by many who share the gospel? Did you also know that a half-gospel is just like a false gospel - no one can get saved with it or by it? These are huge gaps in what modern American churches (and their look-alikes around the globe) won't teach. Yes, I mean - they refuse to teach. But, there is good news. The home-church movement is growing - worldwide, and especially in the US. Many genuine followers of Christ don't realize that home-churches are the 2nd largest denomination in the US, and that info is from 2003. I suspect now, in 2015 almost 2016, that the move of genuine believers to home-churches is getting pretty close to making it the #1 denomination in the US. And the lack of Biblical content in modern American 'churches' is why they are leaving the 501c3 corporations, and starting or joining home-churches.

Another aspect where the spiritual 'boundary stones' are being moved is: life-covenants. Back in the mid-1900s, many people still knew what modesty was. And, they also knew what it takes to make a marriage, a family, and what working diligently and by the sweat of the brow looked like. Skip to today - definitions? Mostly gone. Why? They were never taught. Meaning? We need to pick up that baton that someone(s) before us dropped. In an age of social media, conversations can be too fast, too emotional, and often too harsh, too quickly. We need to get back in the pattern of obeying Matthew 18 in all of our conversations. Not only that, but 'dating' goes super-fast that way too, and that is a key part of why faulty marriages are made, and why the easy-divorce rate is so high, and why the not-going-to-get-married number is so high as well. Technology has created superficial connections that abandon the genuineness of real human interaction (at least in some cases). Am I suggesting to abandon social media completely? Nope. I use Facebook, Gmail, Twitter, and a little of Pinterest... but I do so with intention. I don't use it to kill time, but to post content to help others, and/or to interact with others and encourage them, the Biblical way. The Bible calls the Biblical fellowship. If you are not doing that pattern - would you consider changing to do that pattern with your 'social media'? In one way or another, you will see that change grow you - a lot!

But, since we're on the topic of social media, let's discuss it a little more. This 'new' technology that has been created as I've grown up with it, but I've also seen over the years that it has also been a key part of blurring boundaries too. Everyone is different - different backgrounds, different cultures, different rules of right and wrong, etc, but some boundaries need to stay solid for all of us, for all the time. Just like in dating and marriage, there are key rules to be put in place and held there to keep us and others safe, and your friends safe. There need to be additional guidelines/boundaries to help us and others stay above reproach too. Many reading this are already being careful - but reviewing this topic can help us help others. Some people also have more accountability than others, so it's not as much an issue as it is for those who have no one to see, stop and/or correct them when they are in a pattern of sin, or something that is spiritually hurting another person. A quick review, if I may, for all audiences on Biblical boundaries in relationships.

This topic has been quite confusing for me over the years as I was growing up, because of a variety of factors - and maybe you can relate. You see, I have been blessed to have grown up in a family where my Dad, Madre taught my bro and I, and together we have grown and sought the Lord a long time and we encourage each other, and pray with each other many

times a week, and talk through many things Biblically. It's a wonderful atmosphere to have. :) Sadly... I'm finding many don't have that luxury.

Life-bonds/covenants

So, for me, understanding the 'boundaries' of communication with many of the people around me was pretty hard growing up - because many of the people I've talked with were taught evolution, and/or had a broken family structure, so no boundaries were clearly defined. Over the years of talking with youths and their parents and families, and general church folk, I've seen more personalities types than I can count - each person being a unique individual to themselves. And with the world and its constantly-evolving 'definition' of "love", many have a very hard time figuring out how to balance it all. But, over time, I've also started to figure out what God's boundaries are that do apply to everyone, as we see briefly taught in 1st Corinthians 10:13 and other passages like Matthew 13, and Galatians 5 and 6. So, if this topic is still fuzzy for you, let's review it together. And, let's start by looking at the home.

Family Bond- This is the one category in which almost all activity and conversation are okay, but they do, of course, need to happen in a God-fearing manner. There are still boundaries, but very few - though each family understands and holds to only what they know from the Word, or the world. Biblically speaking, the Dad needs to lead in teaching, correction, and example in working hard in his job, and being active in the Word and ministry - and every Dad can do that in some way. If they Dad is shunning sin and loving his family and teaching them, in partnership with his wife, that is a stable home, and the children can learn from their parents and partner with them (when older) and they can all grow together. That is the Biblical model of the family. That is how God intended it to be, and that's what we need to re-teach (or even teach) those who haven't heard it or who have forgotten it. God established the wife/Mom to be home with the children and working with her husband to be teaching her children, taking care of the home, and partnering with her husband as time and life allow. The Lord did not intend for the home to be built around sin-pleasures or the sinful distractions of this world. Where there is sin, it causes division in the home and those consequences won't stop, until that sin is kicked out of the home for good. God's Word makes the solution clear and easy: "¹⁰**Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.**" (Proverbs 22:10) ~ Either remove the scoffer from your home, or set clearer boundaries to protect those you love.

Marriage Covenant - This is the only type of relationship that is deeper than the family structure. A husband and wife need to be actively getting to know, hear, and understand each other in all aspects and in all subjects. That means the husband learning to be a man his wife can respect, and learning to take care of her needs and work together on their wants, in accordance to God's will explained in His Word. And the wife needs to make sure that she shows respect to her husband and doesn't let any other relationship get between them. Patience is needed on both parts, as they learn and grow together. And, both the husband and wife need to not have their own pet-sins which are off-limits to the other spouse to discuss. Keeping each other growing in purity and holiness is a team-effort. If they are becoming one, as Jesus explained, then they can be the honest salt and light in this world, teaching and explaining God's Word as they take care of those God puts in their path. And as they grow as one in the Word, they are becoming more like Christ and are also a reflection of Christ - but only as both are dealing with sin, together.

New Covenant - The covenant with Christ is sadly not understood by many, but it is rich for those who love it and treasure it. God is the only One who can handle all of the topics of life, all the time. He isn't a resource to be consulted when there's a problem. He's a Person who wants a spiritually intimacy and gives wisdom in all subjects when seeking Him is an active and ongoing focus all day long. The covenant-relationship with Christ is the safe haven where you can (and always need to) be honest with Him about what you're going through and your struggles, and asking Him for wisdom in all things at all times, understanding of His holiness and character, and how to set boundaries or just hold the boundaries you see in His Word. He never rebukes you for asking wisdom from Him - He welcomes it. He never gets angry or rebukes us for asking for His clear wisdom on any topic or for coming at a 'wrong time', unlike humans who are frail sometimes, even if they are growing. A close relationship with God helps all the other relationships work out.

So, now reversing them, the order looks like this:

- > **New Covenant with Christ**
- > **Marriage Covenant**
- > **Family bond**

From there, the other relationships can work. But when there's a conflict at the core levels, those need to be addressed first, or else the rest won't work. Everyone else in our lives needs to fit somewhere in a lesser category.

Adopted family - Some people have 'adopted family' - this can be good (I have some too), but it isn't the same as family we grew up with, so it has it's cautions and boundaries.

Home-church family - this category is similar to the adopted family and close friends categories - and it has its boundaries. God intended for the genuine believers to get to know each other, exhort, show grace, pray for, discuss the Word and life, etc - not many know God's form of 'church' today, though. Most only know the modern confusion about a 501c3 system - a very far cry from God's model for the church family.

Close Friends - Those that are likeminded in the Word and with whom we can pray with and for

Casual Friends - This group can be more random, and probably will be - but we need to make sure that those we hang out with from time to time aren't dragging us back into our old ways of sin.

Acquaintances - People that we may see once, or a few times. Or talk with once or a few times. We can pray for them, but we also need to remember what role they are in our lives.

Strangers - In a sense, no one is a stranger to a follower of Christ... but we need to handle them that way, other than making sure they know the gospel - if we get time.

Keeping these categories (or similar) in our minds will help us to remember what level of connection the person is and how to handle them. All of these categories need to hear the gospel from us - if at all possible, because we might be the only ones they hear it from.

Part 2 ---

Sexual immorality - how does it lure us? What do we do?

Changing gears, Let's talk about a tough issue - lust/sexual adultery. Let me start by noting that I have worked with youth for many years. I got to see a side of life that is very sad - many children with parents who are so busy chasing the trinkets and sin-pleasures of this world, or where only one parent was involved, etc. Very heart-breaking - which is why I reached out to so many of them. In the process, I started to learn about the cycle of sin, and the cycle of abuse from Scripture so I could help them not repeat it. And, I also realized that I needed to teach them about God's Word and healthy boundaries so they could avoid some long-term pain, despite the glitter of potential 'fun' it might have. So, this next section is a key piece that I wish I could pass onto each of them, but it might also help you too.

Many do not realize how sexual immorality starts. I had a few people ask me this recently. Sexual immorality, whether it be during marriage (adultery) or outside marriage (fornication), they leave long-term baggage of pains, guilt, sorrow and fear, and this sin is the only one that hurts deeply, on the inside (1st Corinthians 6:17-20). So, in a way, all sins are equal... but some carry lifelong baggage that others do not. It's not a 'curse', it's consequences for a deeper more vile sin. Even if the world makes it look 'easy' and/or 'normal', sexual sins always wound deeper and hurt longer. The world loves to reduce sexual immorality during marriage as an 'affair' - it sounds less greivous. But, many in the world and the body of Christ don't realize where sexual adultery starts. It starts by the husband (usually) looking at and thinking about another lady(s) sexually, and it is caused by lust and/or porn, which is in most movies today, many commercials, and online (***in abundance - thanks to the perverts at the top of the industry***), and fantasy novels for ladies. When the husband stops cultivating a healthy, genuine love for his wife and fighting for his life-covenant with her, that is when his heart starts to wander to want another woman than the one he has. And that is why lust is so destructive. Once a husband has lusted after, grown fond of, and then been sexually immoral with another woman, Jesus said that marriage can be undone right there, Biblically, because the husband just canceled it. It's one of 3 options at that point in the marriage. And often-times, once a man has done that against his wife, he can't/won't unlearn the sin-paths, and won't learn to hate it and flee it. You see, sexual immorality of any type is not really a 'big sin' as much as it is a collection of many, many little sin-steps. Also, though it's less common, sometimes a woman is unfaithful on her own, when she lets her heart move away from the man she made a life-covenant with, to go to another man. And secrets and wanting attention are often two common lures from what I've heard and seen many times. And, by the way, all modern movies, unless they are Biblically based, do use the lust of sin (including sexual sins) to pull and attract both men and women - it's another form of lust, and it hurts both the husband and wife individually. As you can see, lust and sexual immorality are equally involved - which is why Jesus equated them in Matthew 5:27-30. Sexual immorality is indulging in sex outside of God's-arranged marriage covenant. And it's sin always, and wounds the same as if done during marriage. One key note - private chatting (in person or online) without accountability can lead to more sin. It's easy to flatter or over-extend warmth that just keeps the out-of-control emotions spiraling downward. When you see it, stop it as soon as you can, and you can save yourself some pain - and typically others too. If you don't know how to stop it, find a like-minded person of the same gender (or a few) to ask their advice - sometimes a team effort, and a team prayer effort, can help us escape temptation. Also remember, turning from sin or the leading-to-sin

is going to require us love and grow in loving holiness and God more than that favorite sin. That is something we always need to be growing in, as long as we are living here on earth.

An easy way to avoid sexual sins is to do what God commands us to do: flee it. ~

"¹⁸Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. ¹Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. ²Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband." (1 Corinthians 6:18-7:3) ~ Notice, Jesus identified 'lust' as key in the adultery in Matthew 5, and this passages notes another piece: physical touch. Handshakes and hugs can be fine between those of opposite genders, but too much can stir the emotions and hormones toward sin, which is why God warns to avoid it. Funny enough, warmth of character, caring, and prayer are all that's needed for most situations, and will keep us all within safer boundaries. Expressions of caring and genuine love are not wrong - especially if understood by both parties. But too much is where temptation and sin can enter in. It's best to notice the temptation or sin as soon as possible and to adjust the relationship and boundaries as necessary to keep the core relationships and covenants strong. If I could tell every youth that I've met those key things on relationships, I know it would help many of them... praying God gets the info to them another way.

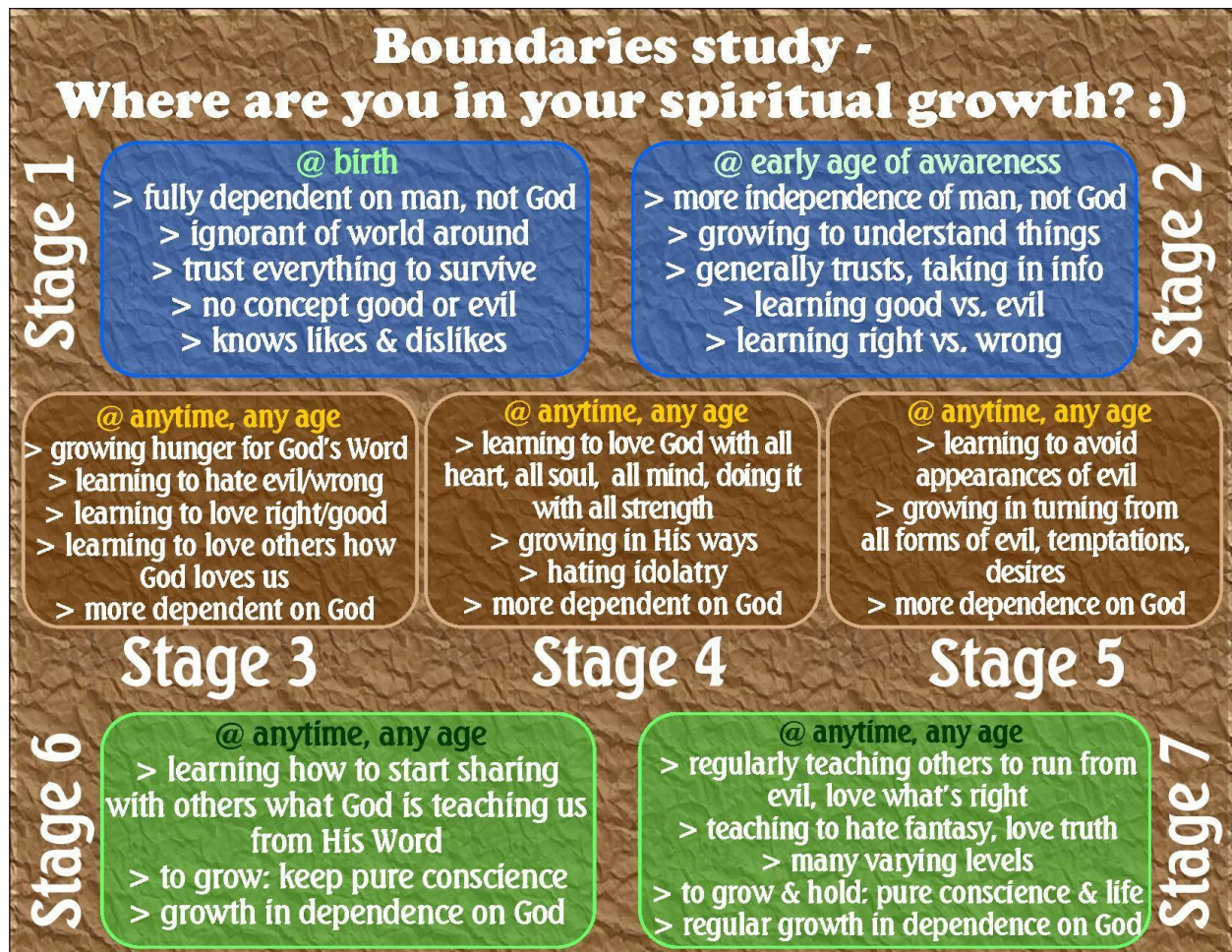
Another key and core question to cover, since we're on this subject - what is love? Do you realize how many different versions of 'love' you see around you? Do you realize that almost all of them are not the agape-love of the Bible? Study 1st Corinthians 13 - study it deeply. It will deepen your understanding and practice of Godly love. ~ Along with this, it needs to be said that showing affection isn't the only form of love - and that's a key place where confusion creeps in. You see, kind acts, simply praying, keeping in touch, encouraging words, even loving correction words, fellowship in the Word, etc - there are many ways to express God's love to people in ways that they/we do feel and gain encouragement from. Some people are too hardened to catch the nuances... sometimes. But even the hardest of hearts can still recognize some expressions of love that are not physical affection. Physical affection needs to be a big part of the marriage covenant and family bond, and then limited somewhat as it gets to the home-church, close friends, and adopted friends categories. And then even more limited with casual friends, acquaintances and then almost nil with strangers. Did that make sense? These are not hard fast rules, but a gentle reminder that we all need to limit physical affection to the type of relationship you have with that person. These types of boundaries will help each of us guard our hearts and other people's hearts from sin. It's a team effort. And we also need to remember that when we are exhausted or grieving or a few other emotions, we can tend to lose track of these boundaries - it's okay. Stop it where you see it, and get it back on track. It's that simple. When your pattern is honorable, people can move past a one-time error (or a few errors), especially the body of Christ. However, with that said, let us not have our guard completely down, especially with those in a religious leadership position. If someone makes an out of place crude joke or flattery to us, or to our wives (or husbands), we need to drop our respect level. If they listen to accountability, gently confront them on how that was wrong. If they correct it - great. If

they excuse it or dismiss it, we need to have our guard up more around them. Another note - husbands, if you see another guy giving flattery to your wife and drawing her heart away, find a way to address the issue and stop it, and find out how to win your spouse's heart back even more. Sometimes when the activity is being done to us - we can't always see it. But when a husband and wife are one and sin is being kicked out and kept out of the marriage (and family, etc), sin is more easily noticed and can be guarded against more quickly and easily. Above all - pray constantly for wisdom and God's fear on everyone you know, and study God's Word and share what you are reading with those around you. That kind of prayer and that kind of activity can help to rescue many people of all walks of life, no matter what kind of past they have had (abuse, etc).

Monkey see - Monkey do

Moving on to the next topic. Sort of going back to a topic I covered a little above - mimicking others. Many of those reading this are in the US, and some are in other countries with big cities. We may or may not realize it, but we do copy those around us - if we are not careful. The people we associate with become a part of our world and we learn and pick up words, thinkings, and patterns from them - sometimes unknowingly. If you think about it for a couple of minutes, you'll likely remember words you got from your close friends or family as well as other likes or dislikes. Who we associate with will shape who we are and what we do. God's Word says it this way: ³³**Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'.** (1st Corinthians 15:33) ~

So next questions: How wisely do you pick your friends? Do you abandon those who are trying to strongly drag you back into sins that you have left behind? Another question - do you shut off the voices that make sin look 'normal'? Please, allow me to expand this - Do you still have a "Trash Vendor" (TV) in your home? If so, do you or your family watch it? If so, how much? Be honest with yourself and God - dishonesty only hurts you and your family. If you are spending any amount of time with it daily or weekly, there's a high chance that what you are watching is whittling down your definitions of sin, moving you away from God, and getting you in more trouble as the cloud of consequences silently builds. Spot it early and correct it, and you'll save yourself (and your family) some pain. God's holiness doesn't change, and when we agree with the world's definitions and laugh at the world's jokes, God is grieved and angered, and He has to discipline us if we are His... or let us go off silently to judgment with the rest of the world. But, more than that, close to 100% of the stuff coming out of that one-eyed-monster these days is toxic for the soul, even the 'teachers'. Between 2004 and 2008, GW Bush signed changes that allowed the FCC to force all TV companies to go high-definition digital, meaning the honest TV programs couldn't afford it, so all that's left is the garbage of the world. You don't need it - it's hurting you all the time it's on. Think on it, and may the Lord show you the truth. If you want to see it in living color, get a note-pad and pen and write down every time the show you like breaks the 10 Commandments. If you do that for very long and are honest with the Word, you will be changing your life to protect your children and your family from the sins coming out of that box. Again, be careful who you hang with - because the active sins of other's lives encourages sin in our lives. A little leaven (sin) spreads sin throughout the loaf (1 Corinthians 5:6). Cast out the scoffer and strife will cease - it's a promise from God (Proverbs 22:10).



'Boundaries' - short notes :)
[a '*Snapshots of a Disciple*' study]

This is a Snapshots of a Disciples study on 'Boundaries' and its focus is on stages of growth and maturity, and learning to trust - the right way.

In the Book of Proverbs, God talks about the major differences between the simple-minded and the wise. I know Proverbs is a Book (in the Bible) that is well-liked and very popular and has been for decades. I also know that many people want to be wise. Yet sadly, we live in a day where it seems like most of the prominent and influential voices are mostly only talking to us about how we can be happy and enjoy the things of this life and the pleasures that life offers (most teachers do not typically distinguish between wholesome, pure right choices/pleasures in contrast to sinful fun-for-a-season pleasures of rebellion that destroys us - i.e. choosing slavery to sin).

This boundary study seeks to fill out some details and a progression of spiritual growth that we can see in 3 different passages.

"I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to

you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one." (1st John 2:12-14)

>> Please note the 3 stages of spiritual growth: children, young men, fathers/teachers

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." (2nd Peter 1:5-9)

>> The list there is a progression of spiritual growth, and there are depths of growth and levels of obedience in each of the 8 or 9 character traits. :)

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:3-5)

The whole chapter of Romans 12 has lots of little notes that are on the subject of growth in spiritual maturity

Stage 1

@ birth

- > very dependent on people, not dependent (yet) on God
 - > newly born - so, ignorant of reality around them
 - > has to trust everything and everyone for survival
 - > has no concept of good and evil
 - > only aware of wants and dislikes
 - > starting to learn do's and don'ts

*(Some people don't grow much beyond this basic stage of thinking)

- > the lies of fiction keep them here, as well as real or false guilts and fears

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Stage 2

@ early development, age of awareness

- > from very dependent to somewhat dependent on people, not dependent yet on God
 - > growing towards being independent of people
- > generally trusts everything and everyone - constantly taking in information as fact
 - > one of several levels of knowledge in actions and choices
 - > learning some about good and evil
- > if the person gets stuck at this level, usually they will settle for a set of easy man's rules, manners, or 'social norms'
 - > sadly many people stay at some level of this category

** * ** * ** * **

Stage 3

@ anytime in life

- > at some stage of independence/dependence on people, and dependence or non-dependence on God
 - > learning to hate what is evil/wrong
 - > learning to love what is good and right
 - > learning to love others the way God loves us

** * ** * ** * **

Stage 4

@anytime in life

- > at some stage of independence/dependence on people, and dependence or non-dependence on God
- > learning to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and with all our strength
 - > learning to walk in His ways, and to only aim to do what is pleasing to Him
 - > learning to hate idolatry and run/turn away from what is evil/wrong

** * ** * ** * **

Stage 5

@ anytime in life

- > at some stage of independence/dependence on people, and dependence or non-dependence on God
 - > learning to avoid appearances of evil
 - > growing in avoiding every form of evil

** * ** * ** * **

Stage 6

@anytime in life

- > at some stage of independence/dependence on people, and dependence or non-dependence on God
- > learning how to start sharing with others what God is teaching us from His Word
- > in effect, this happens when we are keeping our consciences clear and testimonies pure. The more time we in God's Word - reading or listening to it on CD or MP3, the more we desire to share what God is actively teaching us changing in our lives

** * ** * ** * **

Stage 7

@ anytime in life

- > at some stage of independence/dependence on people, and dependence or non-dependence on God
- > regularly teaching others to depart from evil, hold fast to what is good and right, and to turn from fantasy and lies to instead cling to the Bible and truth
 - > there are many varying levels and qualities of maturity in this category

> to stay at this quality of stage, it requires us to maintain a blameless testimony, and a growth in purity of lifestyle, and with a clear conscience, as well as a steady intentional progression in spiritual understanding and obedience in keeping with that

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Other resources you might want to check out:

Essentials of the gospel (here's the short outline)

So, ending review:

A) Jesus is God.

B) Jesus is the Messiah, Lamb of God - He came to be the sacrifice for our sins.

C) What is sin? Rebellion against God's character and holiness displayed in the law and His creation. ~

D) We are all guilty of sin/rebellion against the Holy God, Creator, and Judge.

E) sin has eternal consequences in 1 of two eternal destinations.

F) Good deeds cannot undo one act of rebellion or bribe the Creator and Judge of the Universe.

G) Because Christ came, there is hope for salvation.

H) Repentance is essential for salvation.

I) Repentance is shown by a change of heart, not just a change of mind.

J) Genuine repentance leads to a change of heart that shows itself in a change of lifestyle

K) We can be sure of our salvation, if we are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

L) We can deceive ourselves and not be saved. We need to examine ourselves.

M) Jesus gave patterns in His teachings, that give us His standards for us to use to compare to our lives and tell which heart-soil we are and how seriously we are taking His Word and growing to obey it.

N) We need to count the cost and follow Jesus despite the cost we may feel here in this short lifetime for the salvation to be genuine.

O) Spiritual growth becomes the lifestyle of a genuine believer.

>> Did you find that interesting? Cool! That is just the outline for a 16 page study of many verses in the Bible that have to do with gospel that Jesus and His disciples taught. Each of those points has multiple verses. And you can find all of that teaching and those verses in the long form of that study, which you can find here:

<http://www.incipu.org/whats-the-gospel.pdf>

Biblical church structure in the organized and home-churches - the home-church movement is growing tremendously, and the 501c3s are crashing spiritually... how can we find God's plan for the body of Christ and gatherings of believers? This free resource discusses those, and pitfalls to avoid, as well as how the home-church movement can grow, just like in the Book of Acts.

<http://www.incipu.org/whats-the-church.pdf>

a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus,
a growing disciple whom Jesus loves,

SH

Trust Study

Trust is said to be the most valuable thing we have here on earth. You may ask why, and that would be a fair question. So, let's look at it.

Trust - what is it? It's invisible. It's fragile. Sometimes you aren't even sure it's there... until it's gone. So, what is it made of? Simply put, it's an investment of hope and a promise of care in response to the same from another person you respect. That sounds pretty light doesn't it? But, that's trust - it's the ability for a person to believe, respect, and feel safe (to some aspect) around a person, according to what level of friendship is agreed to - fan/supporter, acquaintance, friendly stranger, close friend, core friend, adopted family, or loving blood-family. As you can see, there are many different levels of trust - as many as there are levels of relationships - something that's not seemingly taught by anyone of prominence these days...

Moving on. :) Trust is made between a guy and lady in Biblical marriage, where each observes and talks with that person until they understand them, how they communicate, and at some level, their fears, concerns, hopes, and dreams. Understanding the other person is a very important part of the communication. Just because we can hear the words, doesn't mean we understand how they are said, or if something is being implied that is not able to be said, or would be unwise to be said. (This analysis isn't even covering how people who intentionally deceive communicate - just honest people).

So, for a marriage - they pledge themselves for life to care for, understand, and work together as a team. It's a life-long covenant. And it's built on - you guessed it. Trust. Trust is built on conversation at a time, one observation of the other person at a time. And over time, it becomes more stable - because the trust is strong, because the partnership through storms, trials, etc is strong. God is the only One who can hold a marriage together like that. Sin always wants to tear that apart. And dishonesty about sin is the second quickest thing that destroys trust. But there are other things that destroy trust too. One is fear. The other is jealousy/envy. A person's past can bring scares and worries into the friendship to relationship to marriage, that can sometimes cloud one side or the other. Old fears can be (accidentally) attributed from a past thing to something or someone in real-time. Patience and prayer through those is much needed. And, so is the need for both husband and wife to stay away from and out of sins... that usually takes time, and a partnership through it.

One of the quickest ways a husband can lose his wife's trust is letting his heart wander to another woman to lust and then commit sexual adultery with her. The second is his addiction to pornography. The third is sin-harm. The fourth is many other addictions that draw his heart away from her. Sexual adultery against a wife is one of two things that God's Word says actually breaks the marriage covenant. A husband must watch out for anything that tries to distract his heart from leading his wife in purity and in more ministry work for Jesus Christ. And a husband also has to always set the pace of staying in God's Word - the rest of the family follows his leadership (good or bad) the most.

One of the quickest ways a wife can lose her husband's trust is letting her heart wander to another guy (in person, on TV, in a book, or in music). Fantasy is often a lady's worst enemies. Learning how to balance her emotions with facts and Biblical logic and definitions is one of her most solid foundations. It takes immersing herself in the Word to find that.

One of the hardest things for any human to do is say “I’m sorry, I was wrong. Here’s what I see I did. And here’s what I need to change or do differently next time”. The second hardest is to forgive. Here, God is the only One who can play referee and He’s also the only One who can hold a marriage together, as long as they are both growing in seeking and serving Jesus with all their hearts, and leaving sin behind that separates each from the other, and each/both from God. And, it takes a life-long commitment from both spouses (husband and wife) to make the marriage work. Not 50% + 50%. No, it needs to be 100% + 100%.

Moving to other relationship types: All other types of relationships are less than this. But they too take trust. They have to be held in boundaries fitting to the relationship.

Keeping Trust is easy. Losing trust is even easier. Regaining trust is one of the hardest things to do. Proverbs 18 says it this way: “***A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.***” (Proverbs 18:19). Once lost, trust can be re-earned, but that takes a lot of time.

This study will likely get longer as I continue to study God’s Word and work on Biblical study projects such as the “Spiritual Boundaries Study” and the “Jacob & Rachel Study”. But let me leave you with a final challenge, and then some passages for you to study in your own time as your homework.

Husbands: Fight for your marriage. You are the head of the house, and you are the first person who God will hold accountable, and you are also the one who will take the brunt of the good or bad judgment for how you run or let your house be run. As best as you can: fight for your marriage - in prayer, purity of walk, and talking through things with your wife.

Wives: Fight for your marriage. You don’t have to be perfect - you just have to keep growing in caring, praying, serving, and teaching. Everything else will work out in time and prayer.

Single men and women - be very very slow and careful who you pick as your future wife/husband. It’s a life-covenant. And if you handle it any way other than how God explains clearly in His Word, it will hurt both of you, for life. Guard your heart from the wrong ones, and ask God to move the ones He doesn’t want in your lives - out of your lives. And ask God to get you ready for your future spouse and them ready for you, so you can serve Him as one, for life.

Friends - pray for your God-fearing friends. They so need it. All of them. Pray for those you’ve argued with. Pray for those who walked away. Pray for those who are near. Pray for those who work beside you. Pray for their purity. Pray for their love of the Word of God to grow. Pray for their marriage, and how God would open up doors for them to better serve God and grow. Pray for them as often as God brings them to mind and let God grow your prayer list. And also realize, those who seemed to have walked out forever - aren’t always gone forever. Make sure your heart-door is never locked, even if they think it is.

If I can help with questions or if you’d just like to discuss this more, I welcome it heartily :)

Verses to study: When was the last time you worked word-for-word through 1st Corinthians 13? If it’s been a while, I strongly recommend that you go back and read it in an honorable translation (NKJV or NASB are my top suggestions. KJV and ESV are okay secondary suggestions. The rest I discourage, because they alter the texts) Then read Galatians 5. Then read Galatians 6. Then read Matthew 13 and John 10. Those are my suggestions. Add to them as God leads you.

Let's keep growing in hunger and thirst for God's Word. Watching, Preaching, Praying, your growing bro, a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus, Steven

What is Love (brief review study)

And good evening :) ~ Thinking a lot about the word "love" and what it means according to a Biblical definition, explained and taught in the Word of God and exemplified in the person, character, actions, words and motivation of Jesus, the Christ... how totally confusing this becomes when compared with what the world calls love, and I'm talking about almost everyone - from the person on the street, to the person at your workplace, to at least one person in your home, to that person you sit next to in your favorite 501c3 (or home-church).... it's confusing :)

I want to review some passages that describe love - not what the word means, but unconditional love in action (which btw, has boundaries - surprised? well you shouldn't be) ~ But, to start off with, I think I first need to describe what love is not. Love is **not** lust or infatuation. Love is **not** saying the word in flattery to get the other person to do what you or I want them to do. And, Love is **not** showing affection or serving another person because of what we get back from them. ~ So, what is love? Depends what definition you're talking about. Do you want to know real love? Read what Jesus said, did, taught, and suffered - and why. That's real love. Do you want a real definition? Loving someone and serving someone while not doing it for anything you can, might, or will get back from them. Just serving others the way God does us. Simply put - loving others, because God loves us.

Now, that's usually where most modern people stop, sadly... but, we need to continue. Because it was just as loving when Jesus publicly called out the hypocritical Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees because of their blatant rebellion and theft in the name of God. And it was equally loving when He taught the whole honest truth that few were going to get to Heaven because so many love their sin too much. You see - genuine love has boundaries. God cannot drop His holiness quality just because He genuinely loves (and He does more than any of us) a person who is walking in willful sin. God's love cannot accept a half-hearted apology. God's love cannot excuse sin. If there is unashamed genuine repentance and a change of heart, they will find God's mercy. You see, what many people forget is God's mercy and God's judgment part of God's character as much as His love is. I would dare say, having seen holiness mentioned more about God than His love, that Holiness is God's defining quality, and His love does not contradict any other part of His character.

So, inevitably someone will ask: Steven, how does God show love to the sinner who refuses to repent? I would simply reply that this is an excellent and logical question, but also a simple one. God knows that time here on earth is short - so He sends those who love His holiness and love His truth to talk to and plead with those who love their sin to repent. **That** is God's expression of love. But, as you can see, God's love also has an end, as does His patience. God is a gentleman (so to speak) in that He will not force anyone to do what is right, anymore than He would force someone to do what is evil. If/when someone chooses by the end of their life to love evil, He grants them the everlasting punishment they chose and have earned (Romans 3). But, as long as they are breathing, they can repent... that is their only hope. ~ Some will not repent though... a very sad fact indeed.

So, there are more notes on this to come (Lord-willing), but to wrap this up - what are we to do with this info? Study God's love. Study it so much that it consumes you and becomes a part of you - the purity, the agape, the boundaries, the love of holiness, the passionate pleading with people to repent

- all of it. Make it a part of you. ~ Where should you start? I suggest you read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and when you finish that, go through 1st and 2nd Corinthians, and then 1st John. Work through those meticulously and you'll find what true love is. It has nothing to do with another human, but everything to do with Someone - God, the One who made you, who cares about you, provides for you, protects you (in more ways than you know), and who is trying to teach you to love what is pure, so He can one day reward you. ~ That's pure love. Do you know Him? :) ~ Ask God to start you on a path to learn to love what God loves, hate what God hates, and love others the way He loves them, and you will see Him teach you to become just like Him, which is where the wonderful friendship and fellowship with the pure and loving God starts. ~ I hope and pray this encourages and strengthens and challenges you to get in God's Word more for yourself, and to learn how to love those around you. ~ your growing bro, a servant/life-slave of Jesus and a growing disciple whom He loves, SH :)

Living boldly for Christ this summer (a sermon for men and how to overcome)

Good evening. In ministry, you always find some topics are deeper-rooted in our sin-patterns than others, and so over time, you learn to speak God's Word to those issues and teach people how to overcome sin. This is one of those. And this is to men. Non-Godly men will not listen and obey this sermon, but Godly men will grow in it.

Men, if you're looking at porn you are hurting/destroying your wife and family. You must kick that digital woman out of your house and off your computer or cell-phone and turn your heart back to the wife that God gave you. Render yourself dead indeed to sin and alive to Jesus Christ.

Remember in 2nd Timothy 2, there are vessels for dishonor and there are vessels for honor. God cannot use you when you are doing that sin, and He's not going to talk to you when you're doing that sin. If you understand how much sin your trash vendor (TV) and modern entertainment dump onto you, into your home, and onto your family, and how those sins/temptations cause men and women, old and young to stumble into sin and fall into sin, you would immediately cut the cord and throw it out of your home.

Sinful entertainment will keep you from the Bible, or the Bible will keep you from sinful entertainment. God won't let you keep both.

Remember, James 4 and 1st John 2 are very clear - friendship with the world and its sins is enmity/hatred against God, and those who love Him and His Word. ~ Which side are you on? Are you standing in pure holiness and righteousness living? Are you denying your flesh-wants? If Jesus came into your home while you were sleeping and looked in your secret rooms and closets and cubbies, and looked on your computer history, or looked at your phone - would He be pleased or angry with you? If you are not standing - how about starting fresh today? ~ I'm praying for you. Let me know if I can pray more. Message anytime. ~ God bless you as you seek and serve Jesus the Christ only. ~

a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus,
a growing disciple whom Jesus loves,
Steven



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"DATING is usually about meeting a SELFISH NEED. COURTING is about intentionally building a foundation for MARRIAGE."

Dear beloved little sister: ...

Dear beloved little sister: ...

(and other singles guys and ladies of all ages)

[Tips for how to find God's right mate for you, in His timing, and in His Way]

Dear beloved little sister,

It's me, your big bro. :) ~ I just want to say that I sincerely enjoy seeing you read God's Word, study it, compare notes, and share it with your friends! And it also equally delights me to see you growing along with your family, including siblings. And, it brings great joy to my heart to see God so working on you and in you, training you to be a spiritual help and blessing to others over the coming years. I want you to know that you're special to me and are in my prayers daily (*often several times a day or as much as humanly possible*). :) And because I love you, I'm always glad to share things and discuss things that I think will help you to avoid pains that I've been through and that others have shared with me along the way.

You're growing older - how cool :D. Fun stuff, right? Haha... you and I have talked on many occasions how life seems to get more complicated the older we grow. Yes, indeed. But, as I always like to do, I want to make things simple, so you can navigate through them. Sound good? :)

As we've talked over before, I notice that a godly guy or two has caught your eye, because you already caught his. You are indeed growing to be a Godly woman who is respected and admired - and that's always a good thing. But, I would like to give you some encouragements and tips/warning of what may lie ahead, so you can guard your heart from the wrong guys. So, here are a few notes that will help you to sort through the guys over the years, so you can find God's perfect choice for you. :) As you know, I've been in youth ministry for over 14 years, talking with parents and youths, and then young adults, and now all 3 of those groups, as well as parents - sharing tips so they can train their kiddos well, different from the sin-pain cycles that this world repeats like a merry-go-around. I try always to help people not repeat the same cycle the world pushes as 'fun', as though acting like animals who evolved is

fun.. :(Sadly, many forget (sometimes willfully) that God created us and He also wants to teach us how to be like Him *and* how to become partners with Him to teach others His ways here on earth, and to be part of His Future Kingdom of co-heirs and rulers throughout all eternity. How neat that will be! But, for us to get there, we have to grow in Biblical maturity here, as we both know.

So, let me start off by saying that I love your heart for Biblical modesty! That is and always will be beautiful to Godly guys [*though the specifics will need to be taught by Godly ladies* :)]. You are growing well in it - keep it up! And, naturally, Godly and even sensible guys your age notice it too. But, as you and I have talked of lately, figuring out how to handle them can be so hard and confusing... even for older singles. Today's culture makes a mess of Biblical boundaries of all types and stages, not to mention spiritual growth stages too... but, I'm sure we'll discuss those more as we both study God's Word and compare notes over the years. For now, I'd like to just keep on the topic of preparing for marriage at some time in the future.

First with you. You have a wonderful Madre who is teaching you Biblical modesty of the heart, soul, and life - teaching you how to follow the pattern set by God's guidelines in Proverbs 31 as well as many other wonderful examples of Godly women in Scripture [1]. And you need to know that, as long as you continue to grow in those things, people of all ages will value you at a higher level, because of your choice pure and Godly conduct. Keep growing in learning God's ways and making them your own over time, so that they aren't ever a checklist - but personal guidelines your heart follows. That's something we all need to keep our heart growing in :) ~ And, as God continues to teach and lead you, let Him show you things that were once a part of your life but don't need to be anymore - like entertainment that pulls your heart away from following Christ and studying God's Word, or songs that get your heart to desire a guy the wrong way, and books that seek to teach you how to fit the world's mold, instead of God's beautiful ways [2]. I know you know those things and are growing in them - and you know too, so am I. :) ~ So, let's keep growing in them. Keep growing in setting an example (as best as you can) for those of your same age, and those around you, as Paul taught Timothy to do in 2nd Timothy 2. And keep your ears always open to the Godly ladies around you, gleaning what you can from what they share, and always comparing it to God's Word, so as to give you a firm foundation for a lifetime.

>> **1: Sarah, Deborah, Ruth, Esther; as well as Titus 2; Hebrews 11; 1st Peter 3.**

>> **2: Proverbs 6:16-22; 2nd Corinthians 6:14-7:1; James 4:1-4; 1st John 2:15-7; Philippians 4:8; 2nd Peter 1:5-11**

But now, if I may, I want to mention some things about guys. Young men your age are sometimes hard to guess, because the world is also trying to squeeze them always into the same rotten mold for guys, as the world does that for ladies. [3] Please keep one key thing in mind - a rushed marriage is rarely a happy and blessed one. And, something you already know - marriage is for life. So, you want to make sure that you don't marry any of the wrong ones. If you marry a wrong one, there are still protections you can do, but you really don't want to travel that route. But, also as you know, the divorce rate in the US is very high (*and some of those divorces are right as Jesus explained in Matthew, but sadly many of them are not right...*) Also sadly, much of this broken-family pattern in modern-day America is because the pastors and many other Bible teachers don't teach about Biblical guidelines, Biblical marriage, and Biblical boundaries much anymore and most modern-books and

modern-speakers who talk about it are usually only teaching what the world wants to hear: the world's pagan thinking and demonic psychology. Back to the positive though: So, if a guy is worth marrying, he's not going to rush you to make too-quick decisions. He may try to be gently leading you, but he needs to not rush you. And you may need to slow him down if he does try to rush you, or maybe even drop the friendship back down to "just friends" if God shows you concerns that merit such a choice. Watch and pray, and He will lead you. :)

>> **3: Romans 12:1-2 -- "good, acceptable, and perfect will of God..."**

So, let's next discuss the subject of dating vs. courting. I think we'll both find it helpful to review a more Biblical model of dating/courting. Dating, in today's culture - as you know, is more about 'having fun' with someone of the opposite gender than it is about guarding their heart. [4] Modern dating makes an idol out of a relationship and 'hanging out' to be cool with friends [5], rather than actually and genuinely getting to know someone as they are studying, praying, and growing toward marriage [6]. Courting, in today's culture, ranges from as bad as modern-dating, to something wholesome, to a checklist that doesn't make sense... So, I'd like to take a minute to give some ideas of what a Biblical marriage set up should be like.

>> **4: Proverbs 4:23**

>> **5: Mark 12:29-31; 1st John 5:21**

>> **6: Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:1-10**

In God's ways, a Biblical courting relationship doesn't start with the first conversation. Often times, the guy is having to see if the lady is worth continuing a conversation with. And, shortly in, the guy either needs to give the lady space, or verbally initiate a Biblical form of courtship. It doesn't have to be fancy or some exact wording, but it needs to be initiated and that lady has to agree, so that wholesome clarity in the relationship. Unclear communication can cause many headaches and heartaches. Conversation from there needs to be encouraging each other in the Word of God and praying for each other, learning some things about their families, meeting their families, as well as talking about what God is showing each of them as their future goals and dreams, but while leaving secrets alone. I know this world teaches guys and ladies to share everything with their opposite-gender "significant other", but that is very unwise, and it's not guarding one's heart. Some of those things may be properly shared in the engagement stage, but it's best not to share them with a guy you are not engaged to. So, simply put - in review, you want a guy who loves the Bible and the Lord, is growing away from sin-filled entertainment of this world, and one who is clear on where the relationship stands, and verbally initiates and gets your agreement (and that of your parents) to start a Biblical courting relationship, and then if God shows you and him to proceed and you both agree to it, he will verbally initiate the engagement stage, and then of course make the life-long covenants with you among witnesses. I know we both know this, but I think reviewing it helps: Marrying the wrong one hurts a lot - I've seen far too many examples of painful marriages because of poor Biblical foundation to and through marriage, and I know you have to. But the explanation above gives you a good start on what you can be looking for. And, btw, if a guy you are interested in as being godly does initiate a Biblical courtship, but then (for whatever reason) you both back out of that and settle back as "friends" [7], that is a success - so long as you keep the conversation limited to the type of relationship. Biblical courtship is meant for both Godly guy and Godly lady to assess if the other is God's right one for them, and if not, then to (hopefully politely, but only if possible) part ways and company, waiting and praying for the right one. You may consider

having older adopted brothers or even younger ones (in addition to your own siblings) to learn from - but from my experience, you want to be very careful of accepting a brother/sister adopted fellowship with someone your age, so you can guard your heart from a guy who is not interested in you rightly and is not guarding your heart, but just likes to 'hang out'. I've found personally this only leads to pain on both sides. And, (*as I've heard from many Godly ladies of a variety of ages*), you will want to find nice, polite and direct ways to tell a guy you don't want to continue discussion with him (sometimes). The world pretends that being graciously honest and direct is mean, but those who follow this world are not honest about many things [8]. Guarding your heart is very important, and it's what God tells us to do, and a Godly guy will understand that you need personal space to pray and think sometimes - before and up to marriage, as well as within marriage. The communication between here and up to marriage, often set up some of how the marriage partnership will be run too. So, the setup is **very** important.

>> 7: Quick review of healthy Biblical relationship categories: 1) Husband & Wife, 2) Family, 3) Adopted family, 4) Church of Home-church family, 5) Close friends, 6) Casual friends, 7) Acquaintances, 8) Strangers

>> 8: Romans 1-3 (chapters)

And speaking of setup of a marriage, let's next talk about physical affection before and during marriage. During marriage, God says everything that is mutually agreed upon is fine, since the two (husband and wife) are now one. Together, they will (hopefully) learn what things are helpful for both of them and what things are distracting both of them from their walk with the Lord - but that will need to be a conversation between them, within Biblical marriage. But, Biblical courtship is another thing. in 1st Corinthians 7:1, God explains that physical affection needs to be limited outside of marriage. The text literally notes "touching". Ladies can tend to associate touch with attachment, and yet in the US, sadly, many American guys have been trained to not think that way. So, guard your heart, dear sister - protect yourself so that a guy stay out of your personal space, except where appropriate (family, marriage). Here are some tips that I think singles would do well to do, because keeping these things within good clear healthy guidelines keeps some of the emotional attachment down, until fitting. There are, of course, 4 levels of physical affection between 2 people of the opposite gender: 1) hand-shakes, side-hugs and/or discreet hugs seem to be one group for normal interaction between everyone from random strangers to good friends, of the opposite genders. 2) discreet kisses seem to be something that some families do, here in the US and around the world. 3) hand-holding and maybe extended side-hugs seem to be the only ones that are fitting, right and safe for the courting/engagement stage. I do realize that some engaged couples may agree to a slight variation from this - that's between them and God. And 4) all other physical affection, including playing with each other's hair, lying down together, full-hugs, kisses on the lips, etc, - those are all fitting only for within a Biblical marriage of a husband and wife. -- So, with this said, some guys don't always stop at the boundaries they should. So, if a guy is not engaged to you, set alerts for yourself where you correct out-of-line stuff, to protect yourself. Some ladies who don't plan this ahead of time get raped, because both guy and lady let their emotions go too far. S*x even between two people who are engaged (and not married yet) will cause only heartache and frustration in marriage. So, don't let a guy you're not married to steal a kiss on the lips or give you a full-hug, etc. Unless they are your husband, they need to be treated as not yet. Hope this makes sense and gives enough clarity

and flexibility to give good guidelines. [*1st Corinthians 7 talks mostly to married couples, but verse 1 talks to singles.*]

Next, I'd like to give you some tips on how to identify the type of guy who may be talking in your ear and giving you interest. Let's first look at some negative notes that will give you a quick red-flag or warning signal. There are sometimes (seemingly) little clues that can tell you if a guy is worth your time, or if you need to avoid him at some level. If he makes off-color jokes, including bathroom 'humor', you don't want that kind of guy. If a guy shows you an indecent picture - you don't want that kind of guy. If a guy has a huge temper problem that they mostly hide around you, you don't want them. If a guy has an addiction to something sin-ful or that leads him away from Christ, especially if downplays it or glosses over it, you don't want him. If a guy is trying to control what you do and who you talk to (*outside of a clearly-defined Biblical courting relationship*), you don't want that guy. If a guy is complimenting your clothing or outfit, be very wary. If a guy is complimenting/flattering your body 'form' [*meaning calling you "s*xy" or *roxy* or *foxy* or similar, or compliments a part of your body*] watch out! [*Drop him immediately, as best as you can. You don't want a guy who's sole or primary basis for marrying you is your outward appearance. If he loves the Lord and your heart - that's good. But if he's vulgar in flatter, you need to run and guard your heart.*] If he is really implying or actually saying that he is lusting after you, that is a guy you *don't* want. If a guy ever talks to you about intimate/s*xual things, you need to not talk to him. That is the type of guy who is trying to draw you with the same sin-lusts he's stuck in. If you find a guy loves porn, you don't want him either. If a guy loves horror films, you don't want him. If a guy loves witchcraft or dragons or "magic", you don't want him. If a guy is a drunkard or a druggee, you don't want him. ~ You don't want these kinds of guys [9], because they are not marriage-for-life material, no matter what they say. ~~ Now with that list said, I need to note that sometimes a Godly guy may mistakenly say something wrong, or get his words mixed up, or accidentally share a joke or a story or a picture or something he hadn't seen was indecent or ask questions that he shouldn't be asking about things only married people talk about. If he's a Godly guy who tripped up or stumbled in those things, then a simple correction of that behavior will be met from him with genuine remorse and an apology [10]. But if this guy is intentionally making indecent or perverse humor as a pattern (*or other things above as a pattern*), you know you can't trust him until he grows in Biblical maturity (which for some takes a very long time). There is also one other thing to note here: Some guys, when younger, ask questions or try to understand things that ought to be kept only within marriage, but if they are not taught rightly, they may ask things that they should not, and a simple clear 'no' from you (*as many times as it takes to get the point across*) will tell a Godly guy that he's in an area he should not be in. If that guy pursues this wrong subject matter, then you may need to quickly cut him off from all contact. As you can see, these things aren't as complicated as they may seem. Some of communication is just learning to see wrong-patterns more quickly to protect yourself. Some caring Godly guys learn later how off-track they were and learn to see it through your eyes, and they may be able to be trusted at some level in the future. But a guy who never learns this can never be trusted or he will hurt you (in some way). Those men who walk and talk perversely need to be warned about to others by you and Godly ladies, and me and Godly guys [11]. Going down memory lane: In my youth, I do remember asking some things that I should not have... only to discover years later what I did wrong and to see: yeah - don't do that again. [12] Thankfully I had Godly family and people around who prayed that God would teach me and who also explained

things as Biblically as they could, because they knew I was a caring growing follower of Christ. And God did grow me - but it took time, prayer and the helpful fellowship of Godly friends and brethren. I'm sure you will find some guys like that who need your prayers for consequences and to learn to shun sin and love God's truth and the healthy fear of the Lord. But, in the meantime, when you find them, you will likely want to/need to hold at a distance until they grow and show signs of Biblical maturity years down the road. [13]

>> 9: *Proverbs 5-7, 14, 15, 20, 22; Ephesians 5; 1st Timothy 3 (good basis to judge all Godly guys); Titus 1 and 2; Hebrews 11*

>> 10: *Proverbs 9:8-11*

>> 11: *1st Timothy 5:20 (Some sins need to be rebuked publicly, but at the same time, be very careful not to falsely accuse); Matthew 18:15-17; 1st Corinthians 5*

>> 12: *Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:15 - both of those passages are only talking about Godly caring discipline and teaching, in contrast to the violent abuse of the pagans.*

>> 13: *1st John 1:9, 2:12-14, 2:15-17, 4:18; 2nd Peter 1:5-11*

Now for some positive things. A Godly guy mostly won't care about what you look like. Attraction is part of courting and marriage, but in Biblical guidelines - lust must be fled from [*for both genders*], so a Godly courting will not focus on that. A Godly guy **will** care about you, your family, your future dreams, and doing ministry for the Lord here on earth, not getting comfortable in chasing the passing pleasures of sin and empty glitter of this world. A Godly guy will care about spending quality time in the Word himself and gently checking that you are spending quality time in God's Word too. A Godly guy knows what diligence is and will care about working hard and be pro-active in having a job. A Godly guy will have a place for you to stay and/or be pro-actively working toward it. A Godly guy will be working to identify and flee the addictions to sin that his family or friends have/had. A Godly guy will care about having children and raising a family. Most Godly guys want to raise a family, because God puts that in guys hearts often-times, as much as in lady's hearts - but not all guys are raised with this thinking, so that's an iffy, but it will need to be discussed. But, speaking of discussing things, in the courting/engagement stages, you and "he" will need to discuss all of the hard things in life and marriage (ask your family for tips and questions, and ask your Godly friends for tips and suggestions and questions). You will obviously need to keep the subjects discreet, but cover everything of importance in life and marriage and family-raising, and work, and ministry. Talking these things through before marriage has sometimes save a guy and lady from marrying someone who didn't see eye-to-eye and there for were good quality, just not the "right ones" for each other. The reason I mention discussing these things is because it's so easy to fall into the flatter and talk about light stuff - which will of course happen, but some relationships before marriage are only about light and fluffy stuff and/or mostly about light and fluffy stuff - meaning they aren't preparing for marriage, they are just "enjoying each others' company". Biblical courting really does need to be concentrated on guarding each others' hearts and asking questions for marriage, or disconnecting that close-communication back down to a level that befits "just friends" or similar category. [14]

>> 14: *1st Timothy 3; 2nd Timothy 3; Titus 1 and 2*

So, that's probably a headful. Bringing it down to earth again, know this: God has a right guy for you. A simple rule of thumb I tell many of my friends: if you're not ready to get married, then don't handle yourself as though you're available. And, from my experience, those younger than mid-20s wished they had waited and prayed longer before they jumped into

marriage, because many of them weren't ready yet, and/or some married the wrong one. ~ So, ask God to get you ready for him and that God will get that guy ready for you. And then ask God to get and keep your hands busy with things He loves and people He loves, and giving you daily wisdom on who to befriend and what level of friendship to give, and who to avoid and how to protect yourself from them. Seek the Lord, dear sister, with all of your heart, all of your soul, all of your mind, and all of your strength, and you know He will direct your paths. Let Him teach you how to guard your heart to and through marriage, and He will write your love story. [15]

>> 15: *Proverbs 3:5-7; Mark 12:28-34*

One more note before I close - consider buying a purity ring (*It has helped many, including me*). Some things it can help you with: it will keep some guys guessing and will keep some of them from pestering you too much with unwanted interest without commitment. If coupled with a growing maturity of a Godly married-woman (as you glean from the older Godly ladies around you), then in time it will help you become ready for the future one God has for you. And, it can/will be a witness/teaching tool (even a conversation piece) as an outward expression of your inward pledge to your Heavenly Father to be pure to and through marriage. This world needs reminders of God's pure and lovely standards. Keep making your life one. :) ~ Only drawback I know of is that you have to make sure that you learn to protect that finger so that the ring doesn't get caught on things, and that you set it in a safe place that you can find again, when you take it off. Ask me how I know? :P And, you may consider having a ring for work and a ring for nice - it's a tip that some people find helpful. :)

Well, as you know, I'm proud of you. Keep growing! And, I'm always glad to compare notes and Scriptures. And you are always in my prayers. Let me know your thoughts, okay? Let me know how I can pray, who I can pray for, and what I can help with. My heart and door are open anytime - but you know that :D. I love you very much little sister (but you already know that too)!

As always, *side-hug*
with much brother love,
your big bro, SH (aka Cap)

>>> *segments that need to be filled in at some point, with verses:*

Teach on Matthew 23 and its depth

Spiritual Boundaries Study

What is Biblical Marriage?

How can we re-learn "Trust" in a world of self-centered manipulation?

Okay, so I know someone who's going through sin-harm... now what do I do?

Or, I know someone who is going through about - how can I know who they can trust to help them?

.... This is a 10-15 year project. And I intend to continue as the Lord gives wisdom and teaches me -
Thanks for the prayers 😊

>>> *** <<<

Videos section

aservant – 'Wanting the Real' ~

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-vu4Tc0d2Y>

Steve Green – 'The Mission' ~

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyuyOnVrATM>

Recommended resources:

Anna Wood's book: "*A Cry For Justice*" (co-written with Jeff Crippen)

<http://www.tamarweeps.wordpress.com>

Sara Groves CDs - she has many thought-provoking, and Biblically-inspired CDs with songs that teach, encourage and challenging. Supporting her and praying God keeps growing and using her.

Favorites: "*Conversations*", "*Fireflies and Songs*", "*Invisible Empires*", "*Floodplain*"

(You can find her CDs and music on Amazon or www.saragroves.com)

Kari Atalla's 2 CDs - '*My First Few Years*' and '*Marvelous in Majesty*'. Supporting her and praying God keeps growing and using her.

(You can find her CDs and music on Amazon or www.kariatalla.com)

The e-book (or print book) '*Thanks for the Memories*' (an documentary-type account of one lady (and her family) eyewitness view of mind-control victim, from which God helped get free and now she tells her story, and about finding Jesus the Christ, her Savior.) 'Thanks for the Memories' by Brice Taylor (a pen name) ~ if you'd like to see that documentary/resource, just ask - Steven.H3@gmail.com

"*Land of the Free, A prayer guide to end human trafficking in America*" by Nicholas Canuso. Mr. Canuso is part of the NAR and IHOP both groups are highly disrespectable and liars, even pushing outward religious shows to fool the gullible. So, my suggestion if you read his book is reject his "religious" stuff and fake "prayers", but you can glean a lot from his research. It confirms what I have found through others sources.

"*God in a Brothel*" by Daniel Walker - an undercover agent who helped to some extent break up many sex-trafficking hubs and to free many ladies and children from them... but was immoral enough times to ruin his own marriage in the process. Still plenty to glean from in this book.

"*Stolen*" by Katarina Rosenblatt

"*Chocolate Flowers*" by Jori Nunes

"*Girl Defined*" is written by a team of two sisters: Kristen and Bethany. It is a valuable and thought-provoking book for ladies of all ages and walks of life, single or married. It seeks to re-establish God's protection boundaries for ladies to give them a firm foundation, and to help them go back to God's definitions for femininity. I consider it faithful to God's Word and a valuable resource to recommend. A helpful tool for younger and older ladies - how to learn and practice Biblical modesty of the heart in a society of filth. You can find their regular videos and other teachings and info at their website: <http://www.girldefined.com/>

There are more resources and testimonies on this, but this is a short list. If you need more, just ask.

Teaching visuals that need explanation (in the future)

The world says that we should talk about forgiveness more. "They" say we need to forgive people more - you know, give them more 'room' to do what they want: 'sin in peace' as they usually say. So, I say: Good! Let's talk about forgiveness!... But, from a Biblical perspective, with Biblical definitions. First, let's be clear here: "**forgiveness**", "**trust**", "**reconciliation**", and "**accountability**" are all different words and different concepts. They are all related, but different.

First question that we need to start with: What is "**forgiveness**"? Biblically speaking, forgiveness is us letting go of our "right" to get our own revenge against the person who hurt us. [**Romans 12:19; James 1:19-20**]

Second question: What is "**trust**"? Biblically speaking, trust is that invisible ability to rely on one another for various things & needs. It has a variety of levels. It takes time to grow, and can be lost easily by violations of trust and/or because of false accusations. [**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Amos 3:3; Luke 17:3**]

Third question: What is "**reconciliation**"? Biblically speaking, reconciliation is seeking to restore friendship, fellowship and/or trust with someone who has wronged you or you wronged them (usually both). "Peacemaking" is helping two people work through a wrong done. Both words are needed in restoration [see **Matthew 18**]. Reconciliation is what rebuilds trust and it takes both parties for it to work. [**Matthew 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20**]

Fourth question: What is "**accountability**"? Biblically speaking, accountability is watching who stays in rebellion to God and cannot be trusted. It is being real and honest about who is doing what, using the Bible. [**Romans 12:18-James 5:16**]

Self-analysis questions for all of us:

Are you quick to forgive those who hurt you? Are you quick to ask for forgiveness when you see you've wronged someone? Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to ask for forgiveness from? ~ Let's pray on this for us and others.

~ Watching, Preaching, Praying, your growing bro, SH

#WhatIsForgiveness
#WhatIsTrust
#WhatIsReconciliation
#WhatIsAccountability

Roots of Addictions

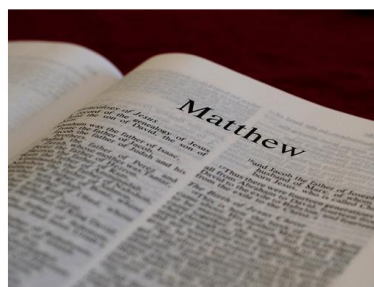
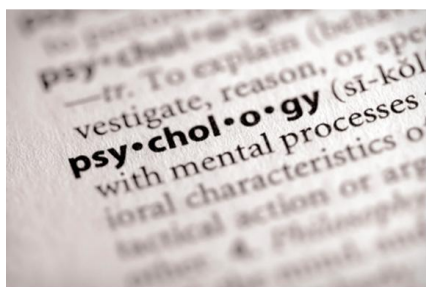


After much work with youths (and now quite a bit of interaction with college students and adults, parents) - I have seen first-hand that bitterness, pride, and love of this world's sins are the roots underneath all addictions. Someone hurting us doesn't force us to do wrong following that - if we do wrong, that's our choice. Our choices are our own, and we need to grow in wisdom because we will reap what we sow.

"... looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled..." (Hebrews 12:15)

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap... And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Galatians 6:7,9)

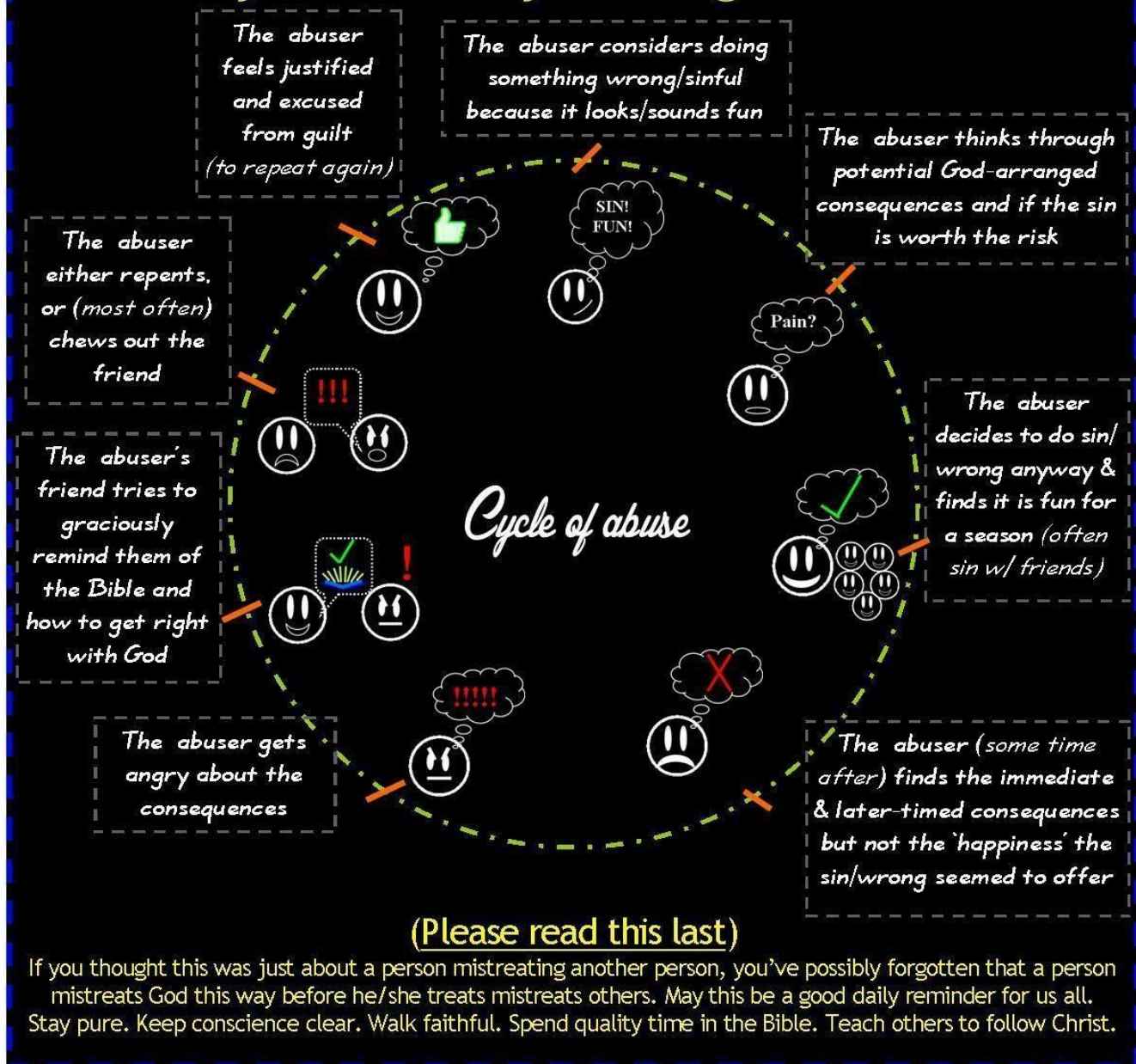
Do you know the difference between these?



This world's demonic-psychology is always trying to excuse sin and confuse symptoms with the actual root-problem. You can medicate a symptom, but that won't solve the problem. God's Word always points to the root of the problem: either it's sin, or it's nutritional or health issue that God's creation can help with.

These 2 contradict - can you see it yet?

Can you identify the signs of abuse?



Thank-yous!

Those currently helping (or have helped) with this project are my family, as well lots of others, many of them brothers and sisters in Christ. The thank-you's are many more than this, but this goes out to some of them :) – Thank you to all who God has used to help me/us with this study :) There are more to thank, and I'll plan to keep adding as I remember them or more come along.

Families:

My family, David & Jenny W, Jeff & Rebekah F

Men:

Dan H, Kristof, Cary S, David O, Bradley O,

Ladies:

Ari D, Christy H, Karolyn, Juliana L, Sonia F, Amanda V, Siobhan C, Aunty A, Carol R, Beverly M, Ari L, Carol R, Debbie L, Jenn H, Kristen D, Jennifer S, Debbie W, Jill N, Jennifer S, Jan B, Betty F, Gen A.

And more - too many to name, some of whom didn't know how God used them. Thank you to all of you. Praying God uses this ministry resource to help many heal, and be a part of stopping sin-harm to others.

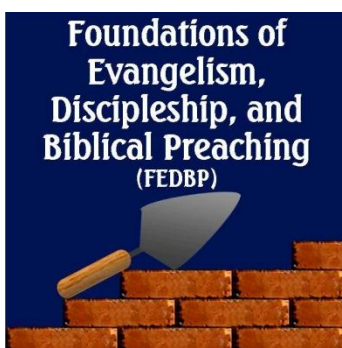
Get to know the writer/leader of this project:

Okay, so I hope you've found this resource helpful and encouraging. My name is Steven Henry and I've worked with youth when I was younger for over 12 years. In that time, I have seen and learned many things from God's Word for myself, and how to help others from God's Word. I started with youth because I cared, and quickly realized that if I could understand what hurts the youths, then I could probably understand a lot of what hurts adults, because the problems and stuff that aren't sorted through and corrected when young, typically carry on into adulthood. And for the past 5+ years, I have seen God using me to train parents how to protect and teach their children, from what God has been teaching me in the youth ministries.

What you'll see here in this study are things that I have been learning along the way. I've gleaned from my family (Dad, Madre, and Paul), and from others that are helping with this study or contributed very helpful insights, stories, examples, and key points in Scripture. It's my prayer that this study will not only help you help others, but that it will help you as well. I'm finding many people seem to have experienced sin-harm of some sort. You may be one of them that has been through sin-slave or you may even be (currently) going through sin-harm right now. I realize that some people who read this may know of someone(s) who is(are) being sin-harmd and are trying to figure out how to help him/her/them and protect them from the sin-slave(s). I also realize that some people who read this study may be an sin-helper for or an sin-slave/sin-flatterer themselves. If any of those describe you, this free Biblical workbook is for you. This workbook and study is free and public domain and is a collaboration of the small team you see above. You have my permission to share this study, but you do not have my permission to sell it or alter it with my name included. I think, though, that you'll value the Scriptures and clear-headed facts, analysis, and recovery steps. If you see any a typo or a gap that I missed (etc), please email me: Steven.H3@gmail.com

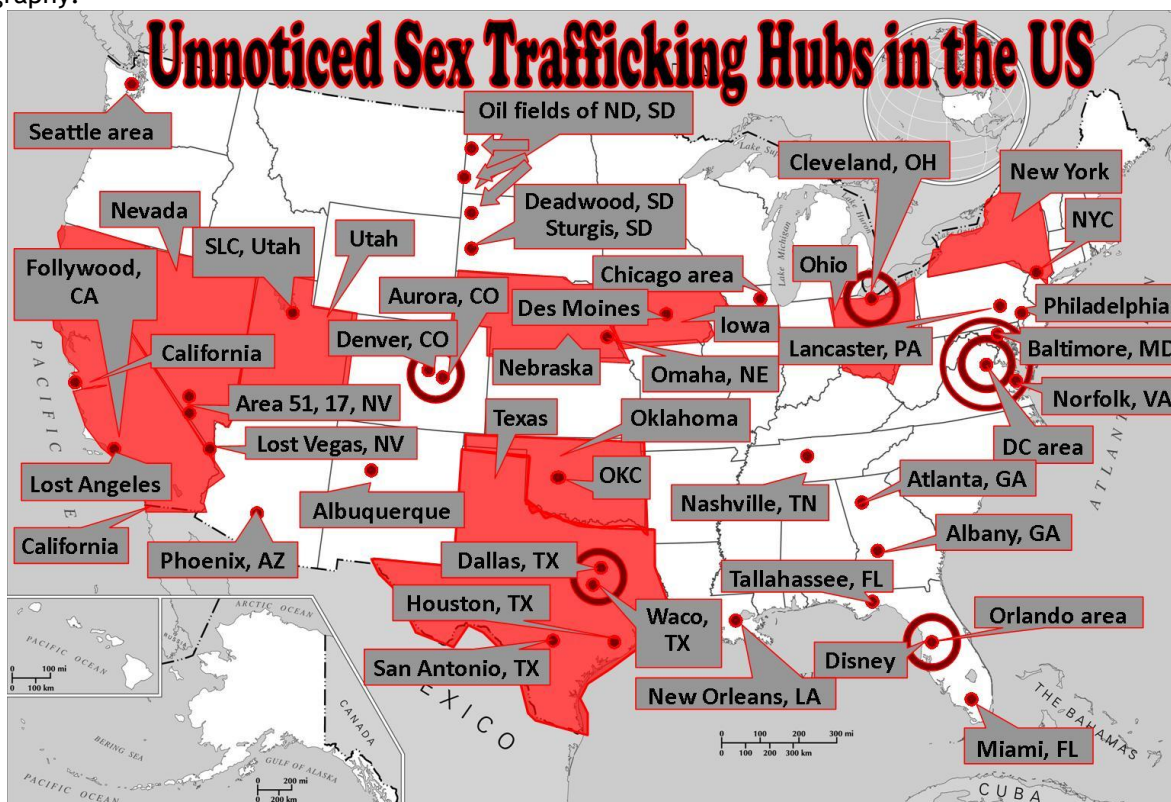
As you read these things, please – check your own heart. That will help you be more in-tune with God and His Word, and will prepare you to be able to help more people with God's Word and teachings. This study has been helping me to do that too and I'm growing from what God's showing me in this study, and I hope and pray you do the same.

In my work with youth, I found that the sins, pain, and addictions that the youths never finish resolving and getting free from, perpetuate – they pass those wrong lessons and examples to their kids, who many times pass them on... and the painful cycle continues – until someone breaks it. Question – will that be you? Will you be a part of breaking that cycle? I pray God helps you and I to break those cycles and to help others to join us too. Okay, now let's dig into this study. This is a free resource of 'FEDBP' and 'Snapshots of a Disciple'. All glory be to God through Jesus the Christ. Amen!



*** ** ***

Bibliography:



More to be added soon... Update #4

Please keep sending tips. [#SpeakUp!](#) [#ItTakesATeam!](#)

Hubs of Sex-slave trade lists and bibliography

Introductory notes:

If you look at international maps of the human trafficking problem (sex-slave trade and kidnapping, etc), you would think that Russia and other locations are a huge problem, but the US is almost no problem at all. And yet most of the NWO leaders who cause the problems worldwide live here in the US. They just work overtime to keep their scandals a secret. It's time to change that. Honest followers of Jesus Christ need to be careful to not falsely accuse people, but we need to stop being ignorant and simple-minded too. 2nd Corinthians 5 explains that God has committed the work of dealing with evil to those who are His children - adopted through Jesus Christ. And, Ephesians 5:11-13 commands us to expose evil deeds (discreetly). John 3:16-21 is another confirmation passage too - Jesus' teachings to Nicodemus. It's time to speak up against evil we see, and start finding ways to stand up to abusers and protect those they are abusing. Romans 1 makes it clear that God's

wrath is against all sexual sins - the deeper the sin, the longer the consequences God issues. There is forgiveness, but that doesn't delete the consequences from God, the Creator and Judge, against those sins. We need to, as honest followers of Christ, expose the clergy, govt leaders, police, and employers, etc who are abusing people in ways that have long been overlooked, but the Bible clearly explains need to be correct. Let's **#StartConversations!** **#SpeakUp!** **#ItsGoingToTakeATeam!** ~ Praying God's blessing on all of those who are already active in exposing evil and rebuking it and praying against it. May God grow that team! ~ Watching, Preaching, Praying, your growing bro, a team-leader of the J&R team (Jacob&Rachel).

Several books that expose many locations of this network (as far as the elites sex-slave trade (including Disney and Washington DC:

> "Thanks for the Memories" ("Bryce Taylor")

-- <http://educate-yourself.org/mc/nwomcbturireview.shtml>

-- <http://files.meetup.com/562554/Brice%20Taylor%20-%20Thanks%20for%20the%20memories.pdf>

> "Tranceformation of America" (Cathy Burns)

http://static.everdot.org/ebooks/english/Cathy_OBrien_Mark_Philips_-_Trance_Formation_of_America_MKULTRA_-_1995.pdf

"Land of the Free, A prayer guide to end human trafficking in America" by Nicholas Canuso. Mr. Canuso is part of the NAR and IHOP both groups are highly disrespectful and liars, even pushing outward religious shows to fool the gullible. So, my suggestion if you read his book is reject his "religious" stuff and fake "prayers", but you can glean a lot from his research. It confirms what I have found through others sources.

"God in a Brothel" by Daniel Walker - an undercover agent who helped to some extent break up many sex-trafficking hubs and to free many ladies and children from them... but was immoral enough times to ruin his own marriage in the process. Still plenty to glean from in this book.

"Stolen" by Katarina Rosenblatt

"Chocolate Flowers" by Jori Nunes

There are more resources and testimonies on this, but this is a short list. If you need more, just ask.

Proof of the booming high-level sex-slave trade in the US:

Baltimore, MD

<http://www.baltimorestar.com/index.php/sid/248663091>

Sturgis, SD & Deadwood, SH

<http://www.keloland.com/news/article/news/south-dakotas-dirty-little-secret-human-trafficking>

Omaha, NE

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/content/franklin-scandal#axzz4SDAstoze>

Memphis, TN

<http://www.memphisrap.com/2012/12/04/prostitutes-selling-sex-for-5-arrested-in-south-memphis-sting/>

Hollywood, CA

<http://www.breitbart.com/california/2014/09/03/hollywood-prostitution-rng-busted-at-the-posh-w-hotel/>

Los Angeles, CA

<http://www.dailynews.com/article/zz/20120619/NEWS/120618655>

Denver, CO

-- <http://www.denverpost.com/2013/06/17/prostitution-bust-nets-22-in-denver-metro-area/>

-- <http://www.denverpost.com/2008/02/07/high-end-prostitution-ring-operated-in-denver-feds-say/>

Nashville, TN

-- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/katerina-rosen/putting-a-face-on-prostit_b_5203042.html
 -- <http://www.mckinneylawfirm.com/Articles/Patronizing-Prostitution-Charges-in-Nashville-Tennessee.shtml>
 -- <http://www.wsmv.com/story/24683503/police-raid-4-nashville-businesses-in-prostitution-case>
 -- http://cc.bingj.com/cache.aspx?q=prostitution+in+nashville&d=4862007692232677&mkt=en-US&setlang=en-US&w=Lh15Ke_POUi_FJGiugOmK9T9AbSlkLn

Washington DC

-- <https://www.rt.com/usa/washington-cop-suspected-pimping-859/>
 -- <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/senator-caught-in-dc-madam-scandal/>

National online scandals

>> Ashley Madison scandal

-- http://www.redstate.com/moe_lane/2015/08/18/ashley-madison-hack-adultery-politicians/
 -- <http://christiannews.net/2015/08/21/ashley-madison-data-dump-reveals-hundreds-of-obama-admin-employees-had-adultery-accounts/>
 -- <http://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/251431-ashley-madison-leak-appears-real-includes-thousands-of-government-emails>
 -- <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/08/25/pentagon-gives-free-pass-to-ashley-madison-cheaters.html>
 -- <https://elev8.hellobeautiful.com/1409120/new-report-says-over-300-pastors-involved-in-ashley-madison-scandal/>
 -- <http://www.charismanews.com/us/51717-ligonier-suspends-rc-sproul-jr-in-wake-of-ashley-madison-hack>

>> online porn industry

-- <http://fightthenewdrug.org/400-children-rescued-hundreds-of-adults-arrested-after-police-take-down-child-porn-empire/>

A site to glean from, but not to take 100%, maybe less than 75%

<http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today>
<http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking>

[Lord-willing, more to come soon - more places and categories to be listed as the tips come in and we can further research them.]

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This is a free and growing resource of the Jacob&Rachel team. You are welcome to share it and quote it intact. If you alter it in any significant way, please don't name this team. ~ Watching, Preaching, Praying, your growing bro, SH

JACOB & RACHEL Study Jesus' Ambassadors Calling for Obedience & Being pure Rescue the perishing Assist the hurting Challenge the Hypocrites Encourage many Loving & serving Jesus, the Christ  Bruises, wounds, and words fade - but the memories and pain must be dealt with through Jesus Christ	JACOB & RACHEL Study Jesus' Ambassadors Calling for Obedience & Being pure Rescue the perishing Assist the hurting Challenge the Hypocrites Encourage many Loving & serving Jesus, the Christ A study in the works. All feedback is welcome! Prayers are too! Objective: Seeking to train people to: * identify abusers * identify enablers * identify, help, heal, pray for & strengthen the hurting & * train up Biblical protectors Using One Source: the Bible.	What inspired this study? Seeking to train people to: * identify abusers * identify enablers * identify, help, heal, pray for & strengthen the hurting & * train up Biblical protectors >> Want to help? You can! << 1) Ask (Steven.H3@gmail.com) 2) Pray 3) Contribute ideas 4) Be a pure, safe haven
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