

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 99

Love for the "brothers":

How to become a "brother"  
(or "sister")

**BROTHERS  
(& sisters)**

People who  
love GOD

**LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR**

People who  
DON'T love GOD

**OTHERS**

**BROTHERS  
(& sisters)**

People who  
love GOD

**LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR**

Pe  
DON'

**TODAY**

We will begin:

**Definitions are important!**

**Our use of this word "brother"**

focuses on a relationship, not a  
gender.

(In other words, "sisters" are included.)

**This is the same way that Scripture  
uses this term.**

<When describing our relationship to Jesus  
and to each other.>

**? THE BIG QUESTION**

You started life as an "other."

Have you become a "brother"?

**WHO are the "Brothers"?**

**"BROTHERS" refers to:**

- ALL who demonstrate a desire and willingness to follow Jesus and to live a righteous life.
- NOT unsaved people or church-going fakes.  
– We learned about these people last week.

## What makes them "Brothers"?

### Adoption by God:

- They have been adopted into God's family. Jesus is now their "older brother."

[God] predestined us to be **adopted** as his sons through Jesus Christ, ...

Ephes. 1:5a (NIV)

Both the one who makes men holy [= Jesus] and those who are made holy [= us] are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them **brothers**.

Hebrews 2:11 (NIV)

## ? Another QUESTION

HOW do we know if we are adopted?

## This is NOT how!



Just **blurting** out the statement "I'm adopted!" doesn't cause it to happen!



"**Feeling**" adopted doesn't mean that it has happened!

- The devil works with feelings and opinions.

## How do we KNOW we're adopted?

- It's because we have **the character traits of God's family** in our lives!
  - These traits won't be there 100%, because we are not yet sinless...
  - But they are growing in us; and we are willing to strive for their growth.

**These character traits can be summarized as...**



(The **RESULTS** of adoption...)

### A love for holiness and righteousness:

- Members of God's family desire to have and to share these "family character traits."
- Though still sinners, they desire godly values and conduct, and they strive for them.

Becoming a genuine follower of Jesus implies a rejection of what the world values, and what the world does.

### What is "holiness"?

- Separation from the ways of the world.
- A willingness to live pure and upright before God.

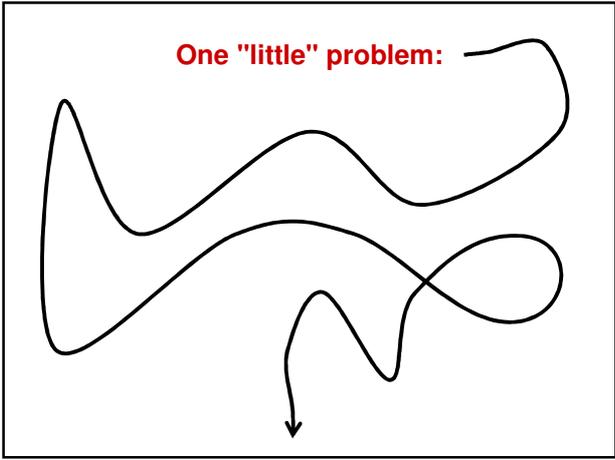
### What is "righteousness"?

- Uprightness, goodness.
  - It involves proper behavior and moral uprightness.
  - It impacts both personal life and public life.

"Following Jesus" will include a willingness to grow in holiness and righteousness.

**God gave us the power to grow; we just need to use it.**

[These short definitions focus on ways these terms apply to us.]



One "little" problem:

**YOU DON'T HAVE ANY HOLINESS OR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- Neither do I.
  - Nor the preacher.
    - Nor anyone else.

.....

★ Only Jesus does. ★

**NO HOLINESS / RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- Even the best of our good deeds is tainted by sin – not only sinful acts, but also sinful thoughts and motives.

We've **all** become unclean, and **all** our righteous acts are like permanently stained rags.  
**All** of us shrivel like leaves, and our sins carry us away like the wind.

Isaiah 64:6 (GW)

**> How much is included in "ALL"? <**  
**100% of us!**

As the Scriptures say,  
**"No one** is good—**not even one.**  
**No one** has real understanding;  
**no one** is seeking God.  
 All have turned away from God;  
 all have gone wrong.  
**No one** does good,  
**not even one."**

Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

- Ever wonder what "not even one" means?  
 It means "not even one!"
- And guess what "no one" means!

**NO HOPE IN OURSELVES.**

- Hope? A big "zero" from start to finish.

Surely I was **sinful at birth**,  
 sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psalms 51:5 (NIV)

The heart is deceitful above all things  
 and **beyond cure**.  
 Who can understand it?

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV)

Who can bring what is pure from the **impure**?  
 No one!

Job 14:4 (NIV)



### ADMIT THE TRUTH!

- Until you face the facts:

1. You have NO holiness/righteousness,  
- and -
2. ONLY holy, righteous people can remain in God's presence,  
→ YOU CANNOT BE SAVED.

... you cast [the wicked] down to ruin.

Psalm 73:18b (NIV)

... without holiness **no one** will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14b (NIV)

### TRUST (with repentance)!

- When we trust Jesus for salvation...
  - He takes the penalty for our sin, and imparts his righteousness to us. He "justifies" us.

**JUSTIFY:** He "declares us righteous," based on his merit, not ours.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 (ESV)

- You can't earn it. You can only trust Jesus.

### CHANGE and LEARN!

- Many things happen in salvation; many changes take place.

- The Spirit of God uses Scripture to TEACH us!

Finally, **brothers**, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living.

Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

1 Thes. 4:1 (NIV)

PAUL'S TEACHINGS ARE NOW IN SCRIPTURE!

THE NEED FOR GROWTH IS ONE OF THOSE TEACHINGS!

- One of the changes involves a willingness
  1. to reject our way of life  
- and -
  2. to pursue his way of life.
- God gives us the power and desire to do this.

**You were taught**, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

Ephes. 4:22-24 (NIV)

### GROW! GROW! GROW! (in righteousness)

- Growth can't "not happen."
  - That would mean you are dead.

Desire God's pure word as newborn babies desire milk. Then you will **grow** in your salvation.

1 Peter 2:2 (GW)

- We grow because of what God does – his work in us, his people.

... the whole body [of Christ] ... **grows as God causes it to grow.**

Col. 2:19 (NIV)

### GIVE CREDIT WHERE DUE

- If we gave ourselves credit for the good in our lives, we would be lying.

Not that we are competent in ourselves ... but our competence comes from God.

2 Cor. 3:5 (NIV)

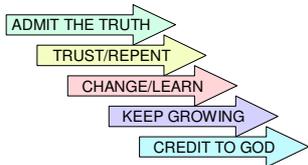
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephes. 2:10 (NIV)

... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philipp. 2:12b-13 (NIV)

**PUT IT ALL TOGETHER...**



• It's ALL a *living* demonstration that Jesus Christ's righteousness is in us!!!

• People who have done these things are described as "brothers." They realize that:

SALVATION has a *purpose*. It is **FROM** the way of *death*, and **TO** the way of *life*.

[The way of life = the way of our brother, Jesus.]

**QUESTION / EXCUSE #1**

**"I've seen unsaved people do good things!"**

**How do you define "good"?**

• *By God's grace*, they can do things that are "good" on the *surface*.

– We can often benefit from such acts of "goodness."



• But God sees the *heart* and *motives*, and this is where the sin comes in.

– *AT BEST, what they do is done within the context of rebellion against GOD!*

**They are unwilling to obey this command:**

... whatever you do, you must do *all* for the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31b (NLT)

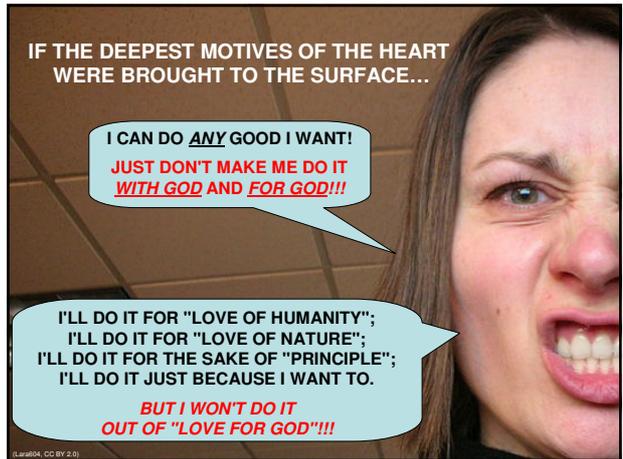


IF THE DEEPEST MOTIVES OF THE HEART WERE BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE...

I CAN DO ANY GOOD I WANT!  
JUST DON'T MAKE ME DO IT WITH GOD AND FOR GOD!!!

I'LL DO IT FOR "LOVE OF HUMANITY";  
I'LL DO IT FOR "LOVE OF NATURE";  
I'LL DO IT FOR THE SAKE OF "PRINCIPLE";  
I'LL DO IT JUST BECAUSE I WANT TO.

**BUT I WON'T DO IT OUT OF "LOVE FOR GOD"!!!**



**QUESTION / EXCUSE #2**

**"But all this 'righteousness' stuff doesn't describe my life!"**

**You need to ask yourself "WHY"**

- Are you a fake?
  - Admit it and decide if you want to change.
- Are you trying to "sit on the fence"?
  - You are living an unstable life. →

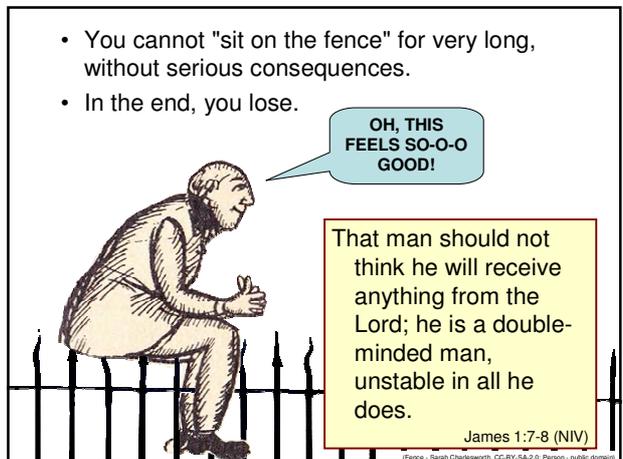


- You cannot "sit on the fence" for very long, without serious consequences.
- In the end, you lose.

OH, THIS FEELS SO-O-O GOOD!

That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

James 1:7-8 (NIV)



## If the characteristics of a "brother" don't describe you...

### What are you going to do about it?

- Change Scripture to match your conduct?
  - Most people prefer this choice.

[Paul's] letters ... which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:16b (NIV)

- Change your conduct to match Scripture?
  - This a much wiser choice!
  - To do this, you'll need to humble yourself before God.

## YOUR MISSION:

### Make sure you are a "brother"!

- Then the characteristics of a "brother" will be obvious (and growing) in your life!

All of us ... are being changed into his image with ever-increasing glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Cor. 3:18 (GW)

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