1. In our born-again spirits, we are as Jesus is right now (1 John 4:17).

   “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he [Jesus] is pure” (1 John 3:1-3, brackets mine).

   A. Every person who is truly born again has this inner drive for purity.
   B. You may not be fulfilling that drive very well—but it’s there.

2. As you start truly understanding grace—the Gospel, the power of God—it’ll break the dominion of sin in your life and bring the benefits of salvation.

   “Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14).

   A. If you are truly born again and understand grace, you’ll manifest holiness.
   B. Deep down, you’ll desire to fulfill your inner drive for purity.
   C. Anyone who takes what I’m teaching here and says “Well, then, this frees me up to go live in sin” needs to be born again.

3. When you have a sin nature, it produces—earns—death in your life.

   “For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

   A. Anything that’s a result of sin is death and causes separation from God.
   B. If you truly understand grace—the gift of God—then you can experience intimacy with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ.

      “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

   C. As long as you’re in a performance mentality, you cannot experience intimacy with God.
   D. Regardless of how well you perform, it’s always going to fall short.
4. Many people hear these things I’m saying and think I’m totally wrong because they’ve been so thoroughly indoctrinated in a performance mentality.

A. They reason, “This guy must be preaching this so he can justify an unholy lifestyle. It’s just a way for him to excuse his sin. He’s advocating sin.”

B. Grace hasn’t caused me to go live in sin.

C. I’m living holier than many people have ever thought about living.

5. As long as I trusted in my righteousness, Satan could condemn me.

A. Satan can’t discredit the righteousness of Jesus.

B. As I began believing and receiving righteousness as a gift—receiving the Gospel, the good news—then power started operating in my life.

C. Once your mind is renewed and you really understand the true Gospel, you’ll live holier accidentally than you ever did on purpose.

D. I live as holy as I possibly can because it limits the devil’s inroads into my life, but I don’t trust in that holiness for my relationship—right standing—with God.

E. I trust in His mercy and grace.

6. In the same way that Jesus is far above all sickness, disease, poverty, and depression, so is my born-again spirit.

A. I’m in the process of renewing my mind so I can think like Christ (1 Pet. 4:1, Phil. 2:5, and Rom. 6:11).

B. I’m fighting from a position of victory, not trying to get to one.

C. My born-again spirit is as changed as it will ever be throughout eternity.

D. The rest of the Christian life is just renewing my mind to what is already a reality in my spirit.

7. Sin’s dominion over you has been broken.

A. You are now dead to sin and alive to God.

B. As you renew your mind to this truth, you’ll start experiencing it in your everyday life.
Desiring Purity
LESSON 10 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does 1 John 3:1 encourage us to behold?

2. What should we be called?

3. Why doesn’t the world know us?

4. According to 1 John 4:17, what should born-again believers have on the Day of Judgment?

5. Why?

6. According to 1 John 3:2, when are we the sons of God?

7. Although it doesn’t yet fully appear what we shall be, what do we know?

8. Why is that?

9. According to 1 John 3:3, what does everyone who has this hope mentioned in verses 1 and 2 do?

10. Romans 6:14 says that sin shall not have ______ over us.

11. Why?

12. What are we under instead?

13. According to Romans 6:23, the wages of sin is what?

14. God’s gift is what?

15. Through whom?

16. What is eternal life, according to John 17:3?

17. According to 1 Peter 4:1, who suffered for us in the flesh?

18. What do we arm ourselves with?

19. Since Christ has suffered in the flesh, He has (and we have) ceased from what?

20. According to Philippians 2:5, what should we let be in us?

21. Romans 6:11 tells us to reckon ourselves what?

22. Through whom?
“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:1-2).

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17).

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:3).

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14).

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

“They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:18).

“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin” (1 Pet. 4:1).

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5).

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).