

## Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. Since we are now completely united with Jesus and His Father—they are in us and we are in them—God implores us to live like it, to respond to people and life the way His Son did with complete humility, gentleness, longsuffering, and loving tolerance, 4:1-6.
2. As a church God wants us to put a premium on unity: we must never let anything divide us because the Holy Spirit made us part of Christ's Body and there's only one. Just as there's only one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all, who is above all, through all, and in us all, in other words, do not tear His Body apart! 4:1-6.
3. Jesus gave you an important and vital role to play in this life, 4:7...do you know what it is?
4. Do you know that you were Satan's captive and that Jesus freed you? 4:9
5. Jesus is not a God who's indifferent about your circumstances: when Satan was having his way with you and everyone else in this world, He stepped off His throne, came to earth, defeated Satan, set you free and gave you a brand new life, led by His Spirit and guided by His truth, 4:7-24.
6. Our goal as Christians is to become like Christ in every way, to think like Him, speak like Him, and act like Him, 4:13-32.
7. The purpose of the various leadership gifts that Christ gave those in authority within the church is to show others how to live life the way Jesus did, 4:11-16.
8. Listening to Jesus will guard you from the erroneous and deceitful ways of this world, 4:14-15, 20-21.
9. We're not supposed to think the way we used to or act the way we used to when we walked in Satan's darkness and were completely blinded and separated from God's life...that's not us anymore, 4:17-24.
10. Walking away from God leads to the worst depths of depravity, 4:17-19.
11. When you read or hear God's Word, this is not an impersonal Bible study between you and God; it is actually Jesus' voice you hear, He's the one teaching you, 4:20-21.
12. Our conduct as Christians should mirror Jesus': when we get angry, it should be without sin and we should never hold on to our anger overnight. We mustn't give Satan opportunity to take us back into our old way of life, our old darkness. We should look to provide for those in need. Our words should not be harmful and evil but instead something that edifies and builds up. We must not do things that grieve the Holy Spirit (Satan-like behavior vs. Christ-like behavior). Our speech should not be bitter, angry, or malicious. Instead, we must be kind to each other, tender, and forgiving as God forgave us. Why should our conduct be different now that we're Christians? Because we've taken off Satan's lie and put on Jesus' truth, 4:20-32.
13. Why should you be able to think, speak, and act like Jesus? Because Jesus has made you part of Him, therefore, everything He is, you are. Everything He has, you have. You have His Spirit, His hope, His calling, His Lord, His faith, His baptism, and His Father. This not only means that you have a specific role in this life, but you have all the truth, power, and ability to carry it out. Nothing is stopping you but you...and Satan whispering in your ear, "All this is a pipedream," 4:1-32.