

Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. Now that we're God's children, we're supposed to see life differently: **instead** of rebelling against and disrespecting those above us, we honor, submit to, and obey those in authority, **instead** of going through life clueless, aimless or bored, we're always ready and prepared to say and do the right thing, **instead** of slandering people, we refuse to malign them, **instead** of being quarrelsome, we seek unity wherever possible, **instead** of being harsh and intolerant, we're gentle and longsuffering, and **instead** of thinking highly of ourselves, we refuse to be impressed by our own status whether in front of VIPs or anyone else (3:1-2).
2. Without God we are completely lost: we're foolish, rebellious, blind, thoroughly selfish, arrogant, mean, and miserable (3:3).
3. God refused to let us die in our own sin and misery. Instead, His love and kindness came to our rescue, requiring nothing of us—good behavior or otherwise. He simply saved us according to His mercy (3:3-5).
4. Regardless of what happened in your past, Jesus gives you a brand new start at life (3:3-7).