Whether you turn to the right or to the left, you will hear a voice saying, "This is the road! Now follow it." Isaiah 30:21

Decisions

Week 4

Liberty Towers Church of the Nazarene Men's study





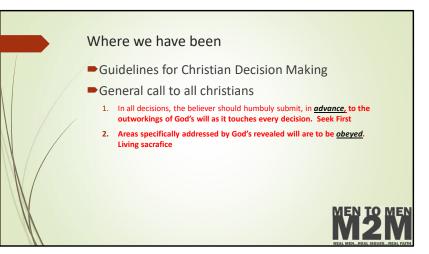
Shine - What do you remember for last week that had the brightest light

Question – What idea or concept raised a question

Cross – What idea or concept revealed something about the character or ministry of Jesus

Think – What idea or concept made a difference in your life this past week

Apply – What did you different this week because of the lesson



Where we have been Guidelines for Christian Decision Making General call In all decisions, the believer should humbuly submit, in <u>advance</u>, to the outworkings of God's will as it touches every decision. Seek First Areas specifically addressed by God's revealed will are to be <u>obeyred</u>. Living sacrifice Specific or individual call In those areas where there is no specific revelation of God's will, the believer is free and responsible to choose the course of action.





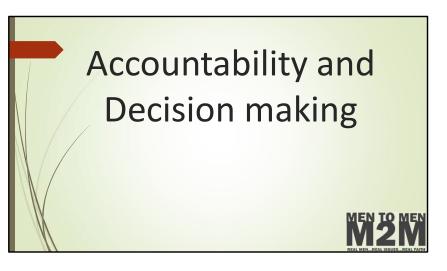
Last week Biblical understanding of Morals a definition of right and wrong set by a society or organization or belief Tonight understanding of ethics

The world the two are almost synominous (the same thing)

A person who knows the **difference between** right and wrong and chooses right is **is seen as moral person.**

A person whose **morality** is reflected in his willingness to do the right thing – even if it is hard or dangerous – is **ethical**. **Ethics** are **moral values** in action. Morals is derived from the Greek word MOS meaning custom

Ethics is Derived from the Greek word Ethikos meaning character



Object lesson Drinking demonstration

What is wrong with drinking at Men's Study time?

I am a Christian

I have been made righteous by God's mercy

I study to make myself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth

I make my decisions according to the will of God as I understand it.

Some of you drink coffee – there are those who believe that coffee not a good thing Catholics drink...

Benedictine Monks make and sell alcohol

Jesus drank wine. He even made wine at his first miracle at Cana of Gallaly What is wrong with a little wine for your stomach's sake. I Timothy 5:23

Throughout the first 1,800 years of <u>Church history</u>, <u>Christians</u> generally consumed <u>alcoholic beverages</u> as a common part of everyday life They held that both the <u>Bible</u> and <u>Christian tradition</u> taught that alcohol is a gift from <u>God</u> that makes life more <u>joyous</u>,

over-indulgence leading to <u>drunkenness</u> is <u>sinful</u> or at least a <u>vice</u>.

Anglicanism, Lutheranism, Roman Catholicism, and Eastern Orthodoxy.

Free Will to choose

In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle the believer is free and responsible to choose the course of action

- Our decisions are about who we are
- Responsibility for the choice
- Personality
- Our character and Gods character
- Spiritual gifting
- Opportunity Col 4:5





If there is no command Fir there is no principle If there is no example If it is not a moral decision YOU ARE FREE to CHOOSE the course of action And each of these actions have responsibilitie associated with it.

There are effects of our free will

SO we have to decide here and now... ARE YOU FREE?

BETTER QUESTION.... HOW MUCH CONTROL DO I HAVE NO CONTROL I AM NOT FREE.

SNEEZE ---- little control

Sneeze in your coffee. Quite a bit.

Control = responsibility

Something we currently have no control. I have a bad liver Doctor. Caused by thousands of choices I had control over Some I did not. Genetics and predisposition... could well blame it on

my MOM

But now I know

I can make decisions to limit additional damage I can

live on 10% of a liver

If I don't Liver transplant or death

So I control my salt, I have to loose an additional 35

pounds I can't smoke marijuana, I can't trink 120 proof whiskey.

When I was a baby I urinated any time I wanted

Now I have learned to control myself. I am glad most of you have also learned this lesson.

I Corinthians 13:11

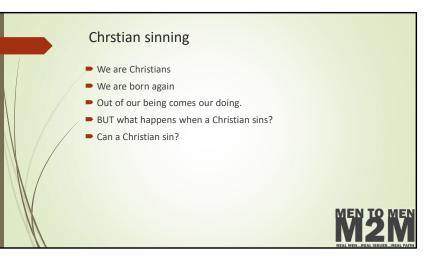
When I was a child I talked, thought, reasoned as a child But now Ihave have did away with childish things.

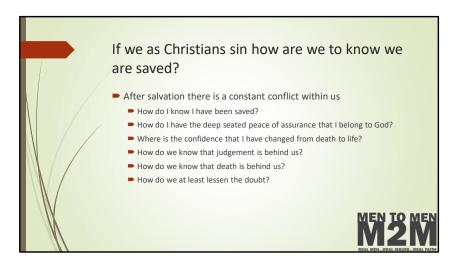


Old Show on TV Barretta main character Robert Blake "Don't do the crime if you can't do the time."

Control and concequence.

The Third rule is all about Personal accountability when you exercise free will.





Jesus died once for all it was a one time thing. John

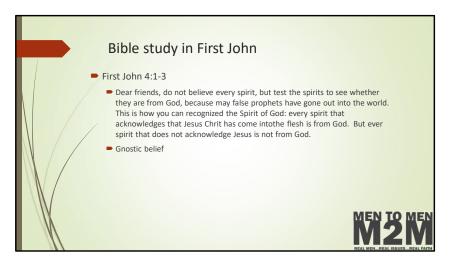
Jesus tells us in the gospel of John 5:24

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

John restates it in 1 John 5:13-14

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so thy you may know the you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God.





Gnostics line of thought.

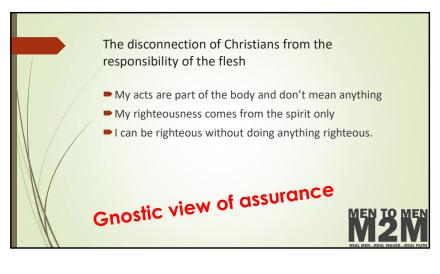
- 1. Christ was always a spirit
- 2. Christ was always separated from the flesh
- 3. When Jesus was born as a physical being not any different from you or me
- 4. The Spirit of Christ filled Jesus and were separated by a gulf of perfection and imperfection
- 5. Christ the invisible within Jesus the visible
- 6. Christians are like this Jesus/Christ existence
- 7. We are born of God and filled with his spirit at our conversion
- 8. Our physical never touches the spiritual. Great gulf of perfectiona and imperfection
- 9. The physical can do as it likes but it will nover affect the spiritual
- 10. Sin is a physical thing, a doing thing that is apart from the spiritual
- 11. Once saved the immortal soul can not be touched by what the body does.

Trying to disconnect Christ from the flesh

Didn't like the idea of a pre-existent Christ becoming a physical Jesus

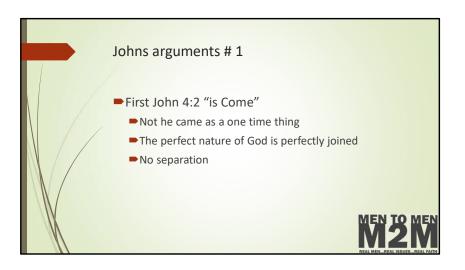
There had to be a separation. Between Christ and Jesus

-----If there was a separation then Christians had a equally separated existence.



If jesus was sparated from the fless If thre was little concern for the body If the acts of righteousness of the body are not relevant to the spirit If the knowledge, the intellectual, possesses spirit. If the spirt knows God The body does not matter

Live like you want you are a child of God There is no requirement of doing anything Doing is a physical thing.



Christ in the flesh

Not came as a one time thing

Is Come, Has always been and will always be

Jesus Christ is not a symbolic relationship for a while then over

Christ nature is totally, perfectly united and will ever be so.

He came in the flesh and will ever be in the flesh forever

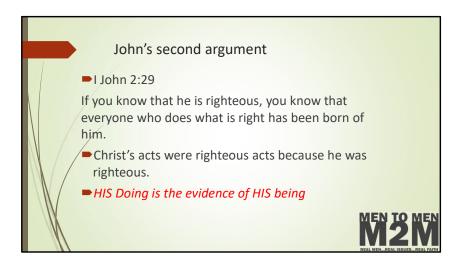
The physical being of Jesus was not a spector, a ghost, an illusion, or a

mirages

His body is not secondary to who he is. His body is inextricably joined

for all eternity

It is who He is then now and forever.



Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who doest what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous

The spiritual life **cannot** be separated from the physical doing Gnostics Be righteous in your spirit but you don't hae to practice righteousness

John's third argument

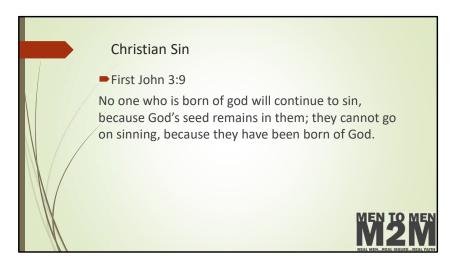
False teachers disconnected the physical from the spiritual in the Christian

I john 3:7

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous

Our Doing confirms our being





Practicing sin is theother side of the coin.

If the flesh is joined with the spirit is there a responsibility for our sin? There is a seed planted in every believer. And it remains in him The evidence of habitual sin is the evidence of the lack

of this seed.

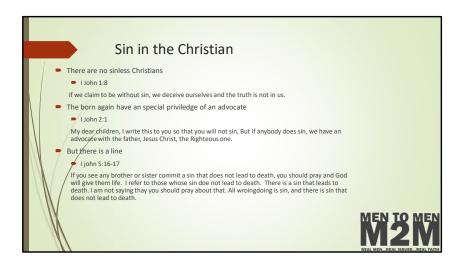
Just as Jesus in the incarnation is united, meltend into a single inseparable perfect. Body – the physical, Spirit –God

In regeneration, the new creation, (Christian) Christ is real in us. The

Seed

Greater is he who is in me than him who is in the world

This union inevitably effects our physical life of obedience



I John 1:8 inclusive WE – JOHN

I john 2:1 John is not saying if you sin you are not born again

But only those who are born again have a special, perfect, advocate

with the father

This advocate is fully aware of your struggle of your inner despair.

1 it is your brother or sister. They have been born again. They have the seed of Christ.

2 This sin that leads to death is not a specific to a big list of rules and regulations. Not a kind or category of Sin

3 it is in the persistence of sin, the rootedness

a habidtual persistence

There is a line of no return

When the seed dies.



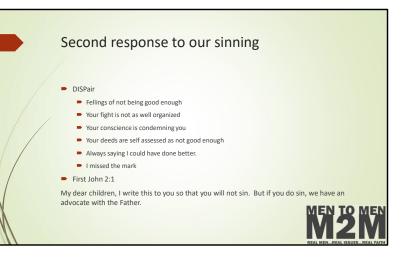


It is the seed within the Saved that recognizes the issues.

And we are driven to the advocate.

If we don't we I john 3:9 you cant to on sinning and be born of God. Mutual exclusiveness.

The preference of anything over God is separation from God.



In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle the believer is free and responsible to choose the course of action

Both Good things and bad things.



