

SESSION # 1
"BORN TO CONNECT"
(Acts 7:25; Hebrews 2:3)

We Were Created by God for a Personal, Forever Connection to Him – Jo 17:22-24

- Connected to partake in the provision of God for life as He intended – II Pet 1:3,4
...to live it out as “bondservants”: one who lives by the permission and provision of his owner
...always being invited to make a voluntary offering of ourselves to God – Ro 12:1-2
- We all started “dis”-connected/separated – Ro 5:12-21
...“in Adam”: sin, death, condemnation “ruled” – Ro 5:12-14; Eph 2:1-3
...we organized “life” around the created: “entropic” – I Jo 2:17; Jo 1:11; Eph 5:18 (“dis”-solving)
- We were created with “eternity in our hearts” – Ecc 3:11
...made for eternal – “anti-entropic” – life – Jo 3:16; I Pet 1:3-5
...God wills to connect Himself to “whosoever” is willing to be connected – Jo 1:12; I Cor 6:17;
Jo 14:20

God’s Great Delight Is to Give Himself Away – Heb 12:2; Is 62:4-5; Jo 15:11; 17:23

- “But God...” – Eph 2:17
...something/someone is “lost”... “found”... “rejoices” – Lk 15:1-32
- The unrestrained joy of God in delivering us from “dis”-connection – Zeph 3:14-17
...an indivisible, indestructible connection/oneness – I Cor 6:17; Ro 8:31-39
...none of the world’s “negatives” can “negate” this oneness – Ro 8:1; Jo 10:28-29
...apart from this “Way”, we are wayless... this “Truth”, we are truthless... this “Life”, we are lifeless – Jo 14:6

To Be Connected to God in Christ Is to Live in a “New World” – II Cor 5:17

- The old order/world (of “dis”-connect) is gone; the new order (of connection/oneness), has already begun – Eph 4:22-24; Col 2:8-10
...there is now an immeasurable gulf between who/what we are and who/what we were – Ro 6:4
...we are: Christo-alphic (origins in Christ)... Christo-omegic (destiny in Christ)...
Christo-pleromic (full supply in Christ) – Rev 21:6; Col 2:9-10
- Walk in His Life... and crush underfoot every “serpent” that gets in the way – Gen 3:14,15; II Cor 2:14

SESSION # 2
"BORN AGAIN CONNECTED"
(Acts 7:25; Hebrews 2:3)

Three Options for "Being":

- Can be "God" (Is 44:6-8)... creature separated from God (Gen 1-3)... creature connected/joined to God (I Cor 6:17)
 - ...Jesus came to give us His life (as a "gift" – precludes merit, earning, self-generative Contributions) – Eph 2:8-10; Col 2:6
 - ...by the gift of His Saving life we overcome the "dis"-ordering effects of sin/separation – I Jo 5:4-5,11-12

We Are Born Again/from Above... FULLY CONNECTED – Jo 10:30; Col 2:9,10; II Pet 1:3,4

- We are connected to God "for us" – Jo 3:16; Ro 5:8-10
 - ...unendingly, non-dimensionally being loved – Eph 3:18
 - ...demonstrative – Ro 5:8; 8:32; I Jo 4:9
 - ...freely volitional... extremely personal... uncommonly sacrificial – Eph 5:2
 - ...His love is a holy passion for oneness that compels Him in the direction of need – Jo 3:16
 - ...to address the "need" behind the "fault/flip" – Lk 2:10-11
 - ...He is trustworthy for every one of His directives – I Pet 2:6
 - We are connected to God "in us" – Col 3:4; Jo 14:20; II Cor 13:5; Ga 2:20; Col 1:27
 - ...we are "in Christ" (context); Christ is "in us" (contents) – we have both the context and the contents necessary for life pleasing to God – Col 2:9,10; II Pet 1:3,4
 - ...making us "new creations" – II Cor 5:17; Jo 3:3; Ro 6:4
 - ...justified (Ro 5:1; 8:30)... sanctified (I Cor 1:2; Heb 10:10)... glorified (Ro 8:30; II Thess 1:12)
 - ...the self-in-separation has been replaced by the self-in-union – Col 2:9-10; I Cor 3:22-23; Jo 16:33
 - We are connected to God "through us" – Jo 15:1-5
 - ...oneness with God has an inherent orientation to participation – Matt 10:8; Eph 4:1; I Jo 2:6
 - ...we are free to cooperate with His operation – Ga 5:1,13
 - ...all true "knowing" is in the action – Jo 7:17; Matt 7:24; Jo 13:7; (the "obedience of faith")
 - ...all of life is "sacramentalized" into a means of conveying Christ – Ja 1:2-4
- (Not by trying hard, but by trusting Him! Not by learning more, but from learning Him! – Jo 7:38; 17:3; Eph 4:20)

SESSION #3
"CONNECTED TO CRUCIFIED, RISEN LIFE"
(Acts 7:25; Hebrews 2:3)

Human beings are born "treasure hunters" – "Where are the goods?" – Ps 4:6

- the answer is "in Christ" – Col 2:2-3; II Cor 4:7
- ...Jesus puts Himself between the "seeker" and the thing being "sought"! – Jo 14:6

To Be Connected to a Full and Perfect Savior Is to Be Fully and Perfectly Saved - Eph 1:3; Col 2:10; II Pet 1:3-4

- In God's family, we become what we receive – Jo 1:12-13
- ...we are forever joined to the present tense, crucified, risen Life of Jesus Christ – Ro 6:3-11; Col 3:3,4
- (the resurrected Christ freely flows where the crucified Christ fully reigns)

THE SEVERING POWER OF THE CROSS – "Let there be death" – Col 3:3 (representative examples)

(You must be disconnected from "disconnected" you – Ga 2:20)

- To the "Adam" life – Ro 5:12-21; I Cor 15:21-22
- ...the "life" of transgressions, judgment, condemnation, death... - Ro 5:12-21
- To the "sinful" life – Ro 5:8,19; I Tim 1:15; Heb 9:26
- ...sins forgiven – Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; 2:13; I Jo 1:9
- ...sinner killed – Ro 6:2,7,11
- To the "condemned by the law" life – Ro 7:1-7
- ...released from its claims – Ro 7:6

(Our "new life" doesn't come out of our "old life" – but only out of the DEATH OF OUR OLD LIFE!
– Ga 2:20)

THE ENABLING POWER OF THE RESURRECTION - "Let there be life" – Ro 6:4; Col 3:3,4

- To Trinitarian God Life in you – Jo 14:3,16,21,26; 15:26
- ...no fear of adversaries – Ro 8:31... want – Ro 8:32... condemnation – Ro 8:33-34
- ...separation – Ro 8:35-39
- To righteous, holy Life in you – II Cor 5:21; Eph 1:1,4
- ...we always have righteous, holy options for any contingency – Col 3:17
- To loving/lawkeeping Life in you – Ro 8:4; II Cor 5:14; Ro 13:8-10
- ...operate out of His Life in you, and you will not sin – I Jo 3:9

We Are Signed, Sealed, and Delivered to Live in the Newness of Life – Ro 6:4; II Cor 5:17

- A new covenant relationship:

- ...signed in the indelible blood of Jesus Christ the Lord – Matt 26:28; Heb 9:15-28
- ...sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise – Eph 1:13,14; 4:30
- ...fully and perfectly delivered from _____ for _____ - Ga 1:4; Col 1:13; II Cor 1:10
- Fully connected and integrated: - I Thess 5:23
 - ...spirit indwelt by God – I Cor 6:17; Col 1:27
 - ...soul tuned and turned to spirit – Ja 1:21
 - ...body presented to God as an instrument of righteousness – Ro 6:12-18; Ro 12:1

Free to Respond

- Our new life is a participatory life – Eph 4:1
 - ...free to work “out” what God has already worked “in” – Phil 2:12-13
 - A suggested prayer:
 - ...“I want to know You” – a loving attentiveness to Him in the “all things” of life – Jo 17:3
 - = the “reward”? The self-disclosure of God – Heb 11:6
 - ...“And to be an expression of Your Life” – the willing expression of our possessions – Col 3:17
 - = the habit of immediate obedience where I am – Eph 4:24
- (Transformation is not for the life I wish I were in... but for the one I am in! – Ps 119:91; Eph 5:20)

SESSION #4
“CONNECTED FOR INTERCESSION”
(Acts 7:25; Hebrews 2:3)

Most of life's problematic issues can be traced back to two things:

1) The un-received Life – Jo 14:6

2) The un-released Life – I Jo 2:6

(Ga 5:1,13 – We have no freedom that contradicts the self-giving nature of Jesus Christ!)

“INTERCESSORS”: Those learning to identify with God's interests in others – Heb 7:25

Once Connected with God, We Are Brought into the Forever Embrace of a Living and Loving Union with Him – Jo 14:3

- God “made us live together with Christ” – Eph 2:5

...“co-crucified” (Ro 6:6; Ga 2:20)... “co-buried” (Ro 6:4; Col 2:12)... “co-raised” (Ro 6:4; Eph 2:6)

= CO-RECTED! Rectified: put back on course of God's original and ultimate intention
– Eph 1:3-6

...“co-missioned” to be “co-laborers” – Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; II Cor 6:1; Jo 20:21

(freely give away all we've freely received – Matt 10:8)

- We must learn to think (and choose!) according to the mind of Christ – I Cor 2:16; Eph 4:15

...tethered to the Truth – Jo 8:31-32,36; Jo 17:17

...fueled by the Love of God – II Cor 5:14; Jo 17:23

- Jesus never once exploited His oneness with His Father for self-serving purposes – Jo 10:30; 10: 11,18

...He was no self-for-Himself subject – Phil 2:3-8

...He identified Himself as a “servant” – Mk 10:42; Lk 22:27; I Jo 3:16

(We are all likely to become “Pharisees” until we are willing to intercede – Oswald Chambers)

Intercession Is Not a Job We Perform, It Is a Life to Be Lived – Heb 7:25; 9:24

- The voluntary pursuit of God's interests in/for others – Eph 5:2; Phil 2:6-7; Phil 2:21

...“although _____, He did not _____, but rather _____”

...specific others: “I'll be the altar upon which You pour out Your intercessory life!”
– Phil 2:17,19-21,30

- It is nothing less than the Uncommon Life of Christ flowing through our common selves – Jo 7:38; Acts 7:48

...Jesus “threw out” the spirit of self-interest/service/glorification from God's “Temple”
– Jo 2:13-16

Intercession Is the Result of Our Willingness to Cooperate with His Operation – Is 6:8

- Calls for “emptying” ourselves of our own concerns and taking upon ourselves God's concerns for the other

...the consequence of such a choice: the “fruit of the Spirit” – Ga 5:22,23

Flesh/Self-Interest

Spirit/God’s Interest

- what’s in it for me?
 - fault-finding/complaining
 - exposing “dirty feet”
 - rationalizing/excusing
 - Expressions of Intercession: (representative, not exhaustive)
 - ...His acceptance – Ro 15:7 (can touch the other’s “want to”)
 - ...His compassion – Mk 1:41 (stretches out to address need)
 - ...His service – Mk 10:45; Lk 22:27; Jo 13:1ff (usually shows up as a “slave/servant”)
 - Mostly, It Looks Like **“DYING”** – II Cor 4:10
 - ...a “no” to self-interest, self-preservation, self-service, demandedness – Jo 14:6
 - ...when the “seed” of self-for-selfness dies, the Self-for-others in us bears His fruit – Jo 12:24
 - ...we become God’s “sacraments” (means of conveyance) – Ro 12:1-2
 - ...our “supply” + another’s “need” = the ministry of intercession – Phil 2:3-4
- (God’s ultimate intention becomes our ultimate privilege – I Jo 3:16)