

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Can We All Just Get Along?

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

John Weaver

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Can We All Just Get Along?

Part Two

February 04, 2018

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-20.

Major Themes

Sovereignty of God in Illumination

God alone grants understanding of His Word; He may give or withhold it at His pleasure, and He owes no one enlightenment.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God is not only sovereign in salvation, He's also sovereign in illumination... God does not give light to all equally, nor does He give the same light to the same people at the same time.' (00:03:32.4) and cites Job 39:17 on God depriving the ostrich of wisdom.

The Necessity of Diligent Study

2 Timothy 2:15 commands believers to study as hard-working laborers who rightly divide the Word; lack of study is a primary cause of division.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'One of the greatest causes of division is a lack of and or a failure to study the Word of God.' (00:07:24.8) and expounds the Greek words spoudazo and orthotomeo.

Unity Through a Common Mind

Scripture commands believers to be of the same mind (Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2), which is only possible by submitting to the same truth from Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver reads multiple passages and asks, 'How in the world can we have the same mind and the same judgment? We have to submit to the same truth and the same authority.' (00:11:55.8)

The Role of Pastor-Teachers and the Duty to Hear

God gave pastor-teachers to equip the saints for unity and maturity (Ephesians 4:11-16); believers must listen, learn, and verify truth like the Bereans.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'As a pastor-teacher, I have the duty... of studying, preaching and teaching. But... there is a corollary duty... on your part. Which is? You're required to listen and to learn and apply the truth.' (00:30:30.4)

The Principle of Use It or Lose It

Mark 4:24-25 teaches that God measures truth to us according to our application; failure to apply truth results in losing even what we seem to have.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'If you don't use the truth, you lose the truth... unless you apply the truth, it's not really yours to begin with.' (00:44:24.5) and cites Luke 8:18.

Human Responsibility and Divine Dependence

Believers must use the means of study, hearing, and application, yet remain humble, recognizing that understanding is ultimately God's gift.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must understand that even when we use the means that God has ordained, that God is still sovereign in illumination.' (00:47:59.9)

Key Arguments

Divisions among Christians stem primarily from failure to study Scripture.

Most Christians know only what they have been taught, not what they have studied for themselves, leading to ignorance and inability to agree on doctrine.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Most Christians never really study... they have never, ever studied the Scriptures for themselves.' (00:08:27.3) and 'It is practically impossible for one to agree with another who is biblical if the former is completely ignorant of Bible doctrine.' (00:09:45.1)

Real study is hard work, which most avoid.

The Greek word for 'study' implies diligent labor like a field worker; consistency and discipline are required, and few are willing to pay the price.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Study is hard work, which is why most people never engage in it... consistency in and of itself is hard work. And study requires discipline and sacrifice.' (00:23:53.9)

Unity of mind is commanded and possible only through shared submission to Scripture.

Multiple New Testament passages command believers to be of the same mind; this unity comes from studying the same book and thinking alike.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Romans 12:16, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:2, and others, then asks, 'How in the world can we have the same mind if we do not study the same book?' (00:15:23.1)

God gave pastor-teachers to bring believers to unity, requiring hearers to listen and learn.

Ephesians 4 shows that pastor-teachers are gifts for perfecting the saints until we all attain unity of the faith; believers must therefore be teachable.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Why did God give pastor-teachers? ...for the perfecting of the saints... till we all come into the unity of the faith.' (00:29:43.6)

Failure to apply truth leads to losing it, causing ignorance and division.

Mark 4:24-25 establishes that God measures truth to us according to our use; unapplied truth is lost, and we only seem to have it.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'If you don't use the truth, you lose the truth... from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.' (00:45:55.9)

Even with diligent effort, understanding remains God's sovereign gift.

God may deprive wisdom as He did with the ostrich (Job 39) or Samson; believers must seek God for illumination while using the means He ordained.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If God doesn't open my mind and my understanding, I could sit here and read until I died, and I'd still never understand it.' (00:47:59.9)

Scripture References

2 Timothy 2:15

The central command to study to show oneself approved, a workman rightly dividing the word of truth; Weaver expounds the Greek words for study, workman, and rightly dividing.

Luke 12:51-53

Jesus said He came not to bring peace but a sword, causing divisions even within families; cited to show Christ is a source of division.

John 9:16

The Pharisees were divided over Jesus because of His Sabbath healing; an example of division concerning Christ.

Job 33:13

Elihu's question, 'Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters,' used to illustrate God's sovereignty and that He owes no explanation.

Proverbs 2:6

The Lord gives wisdom; out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding; cited to show understanding is God's gift.

2 Timothy 2:7

Paul tells Timothy to consider what he says, and the Lord will give understanding; used to show the link between human consideration and divine gift.

Romans 12:16

Command to be of the same mind one toward another; part of the series of commands for unity of mind.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Paul beseeches believers to speak the same thing, have no divisions, and be perfectly joined in the same mind and judgment.

Philippians 2:2

Paul desires believers to be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Philippians 3:16

Command to walk by the same rule and mind the same thing.

Philippians 4:2

Paul beseeches Euodia and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord; an example of addressing division between two women.

1 Peter 3:8

Command to be all of one mind, having compassion; another call for unity.

1 Peter 4:1

Arm yourselves with the same mind as Christ suffered; referenced in the context of having Christ's mind.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus; the ultimate example of the mind believers should share.

Proverbs 2:1-6

The conditions for gaining understanding: receiving words, crying for knowledge, seeking as silver; then the Lord gives wisdom.

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honor of kings to search out a matter; applied to believers as kings and priests.

Ephesians 4:8-16

Christ gave gifts including pastor-teachers for perfecting the saints and bringing unity of the faith; the basis for the duty to hear and learn.

Acts 17:11

The Bereans were more noble because they received the word with readiness and searched the Scriptures daily; the model for hearers.

Mark 4:23-25

Take heed what you hear; with what measure you mete it will be measured to you; the principle of use it or lose it.

Luke 8:18

Take heed how you hear; whoever has will be given, and whoever has not, even what he seems to have will be taken; reinforces the principle.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'study' Scripture in the sense of 2 Timothy 2:15, and how does that differ from casual reading?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes the Greek word *spoudazo*, meaning diligent labor, and the imagery of a workman cutting straight.

2. Why is a failure to study the Bible personally a major cause of division among Christians?

Consider: Weaver argues that ignorance of doctrine makes agreement impossible and that most Christians rely on secondhand knowledge.

3. How can believers practically 'be of the same mind' as commanded in Romans 12:16 and Philippians 2:2?

Consider: Weaver says unity comes from submitting to the same truth in Scripture, not from uniformity of vocation or background.

- 4.** What is the role of pastor-teachers according to Ephesians 4:11-16, and what responsibility does that place on hearers?

Consider: Weaver explains that pastors are given to equip the saints for unity and maturity, implying a duty to listen and learn.

- 5.** How does the principle 'with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you' (Mark 4:24) apply to our study and application of Scripture?

Consider: Weaver teaches that God gives truth in proportion to our diligence and that unapplied truth is lost.

- 6.** In what ways can we 'lose' truth we have heard, and how can we prevent that?

Consider: Weaver says failure to apply truth leads to losing even what we seem to have, using the analogy of muscle atrophy.

7. How should the sovereignty of God in illumination affect our attitude when we do understand Scripture?

Consider: Weaver says it should produce gratitude and humility, recognizing that understanding is a gift, not an achievement.

8. What are some practical ways to cultivate a habit of diligent Bible study despite a busy schedule?

Consider: Weaver acknowledges not everyone can study for hours but encourages taking even one verse to meditate on throughout the day.

Applications

Commit to diligent, personal Bible study

Believers must move beyond secondhand knowledge and engage in hard, consistent study of Scripture as commanded in 2 Timothy 2:15.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Most Christians never really study... they have never, ever studied the Scriptures for themselves.' (00:08:27.3) and urges obedience to the command to study.

Be a teachable hearer of God's Word

Since God gave pastor-teachers for our growth, we must listen attentively, take notes, and verify teaching against Scripture like the Bereans.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You're required to listen and to learn and apply the truth that is being taught.' (00:30:30.4) and cites Acts 17:11.

Apply the truth you learn

Truth must be put into practice; otherwise, it is lost. God measures further understanding according to our application.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If you don't use the truth, you lose the truth... unless you apply the truth, it's not really yours to begin with.' (00:44:24.5) and expounds Mark 4:24-25.

Seek God for understanding with humility

Recognize that illumination is God's sovereign gift; pray for it while using the means of study, and be grateful and humble when you receive it.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must understand this. God is never, ever going to give us enlightenment and illumination unless we use the means that He has ordained and ask Him for His gift.' (00:55:22.9)

Pursue unity through shared truth

Strive to be of the same mind with other believers by submitting to the same biblical truth, not by compromising doctrine.

Lecture support: Weaver reads multiple commands to be of one mind and says, 'We have to submit to the same truth and the same authority.' (00:11:55.8)

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Can We All Just Get Along?

Part Three

February 11, 2018

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 21-36.

Major Themes

Stages of Christian Maturity

Christians progress through distinct stages - babe, little child, young man, father - each with unique characteristics and needs, and failure to recognize these leads to division.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds 1 John 2:12-14 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 to outline the stages and their traits.

Patience and Respect in the Body of Christ

Believers must exercise patience, tenderness, and respect toward one another according to maturity levels, just as a parent deals gently with a baby.

Lecture support: He illustrates with the story of a foster baby with broken bones and commands to entreat elders as fathers (1 Timothy 5:1).

The Word of God as Source of Growth and Strength

Spiritual growth from babe to young man depends on desiring and abiding in the Word; strength to overcome comes from the Word dwelling richly.

Lecture support: 1 Peter 2:1-3 and 1 John 2:14 are cited to show that milk and meat of the Word are essential for growth and victory.

Knowledge of the Father as Distinctive of Christianity

Even young children in the faith know God as Father through the Spirit of adoption, which is foundational to Christian identity.

Lecture support: Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6 are used to show the cry 'Abba, Father' as a mark of spiritual childhood.

Honoring Spiritual Fathers

Older, mature believers (fathers in the faith) are to be honored and entreated with respect, not rebuked harshly, in accordance with Old and New Testament commands.

Lecture support: Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 16:31, and 1 Timothy 5:1 are quoted to establish the principle of honoring the aged.

Key Arguments

Divisions often stem from expecting mature behavior from immature believers.

Weaver argues that many conflicts arise because we fail to recognize that not all Christians are at the same stage of growth, and we demand father-level knowledge from babes.

Lecture support: He states, 'If you expect mature knowledge from a baby, you're going to be sorely disappointed' and applies this to each stage.

A professing Christian who rejects the Word may not be a true believer.

Just as a baby naturally desires milk, a genuine Christian will desire the Word; refusal indicates a stillborn spiritual state.

Lecture support: He says, 'If a baby is born, and the baby does not want milk... it means the child is stillborn. That is, he's dead.'

Strength to overcome the wicked one comes from the indwelling Word of God.

Young men overcome not by natural vigor but because the Word abides in them, making them strong in the Lord.

Lecture support: 1 John 2:14 and Isaiah 40:28-31 are linked to show that divine strength is given to those who wait on the Lord.

Fathers in the faith have a deep, experiential knowledge of Christ that detaches them from the world.

The repetition in 1 John 2:13-14 emphasizes that fathers have known Christ from the beginning and are satisfied with Him alone.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Fathers have reached the place in their lives where Jesus Christ is everything... the world has no attachment to them.'

Spiritual elders must be corrected with honor, not harsh rebuke.

While old men may sin and need correction, Scripture commands entreaty and respect, not disrespectful confrontation.

Lecture support: He cites 1 Timothy 5:1 and Leviticus 19:32 to argue that even necessary correction must maintain honor.

Scripture References

1 John 2:12-14

Primary text for the sermon, outlining the stages of little children, young men, and fathers.

Luke 12:49-53

Referenced from the first message to show Jesus came to bring division.

Proverbs 2:6

Cited in review to show God gives wisdom and understanding sovereignly.

Job 33:13

Used to argue God owes no account of His matters, emphasizing His sovereignty.

2 Timothy 2:15

Command to study, cited as a remedy for division caused by ignorance.

1 Corinthians 8:2

Shows that thinking one knows everything reveals ignorance, hindering teachability.

Mark 4:23-25

Principle that unused truth is lost, applied to failure to apply biblical truth.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Describes carnal babes in Christ characterized by envying, strife, and divisions.

Hebrews 5:11-14

Parallel passage on babes needing milk and being unskillful in the word of righteousness.

1 Peter 2:1-3

Exhortation to desire the sincere milk of the word to grow, marking transition from babe to child.

Romans 8:15

Spirit of adoption causing believers to cry 'Abba, Father,' a mark of knowing the Father.

Galatians 4:6

Parallel to Romans 8:15, showing the Spirit crying 'Abba, Father' in believers' hearts.

John 17:3

Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ, foundational to Christianity.

John 21:15-17

Jesus' command to Peter to feed lambs and sheep, illustrating different care for different maturity levels.

Luke 11:21-22

Parable of the strong man overcome by a stronger, illustrating Christ's victory over Satan.

Colossians 3:16

Letting the word of Christ dwell richly, paralleling the Word abiding in young men.

Revelation 12:11

Overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of testimony, connected to young men's victory.

Isaiah 40:28-31

God gives power to the faint; young men who wait on the Lord renew strength.

Leviticus 19:32

Command to rise before the hoary head and honor the old man, applied to spiritual fathers.

Proverbs 16:31

The hoary head is a crown of glory if found in righteousness, reinforcing honor for aged believers.

Discussion Questions

1. How can we practically discern which stage of spiritual maturity a fellow believer is in, and why is that important for avoiding division?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes recognizing stages to deal with each believer appropriately.

2. What are some signs that a person might be a 'babe in Christ' according to 1 Corinthians 3, and how should we respond to such a person?

Consider: Babes are characterized by carnality, envying, and divisions over personalities.

3. In what ways does the desire for the Word of God serve as evidence of genuine spiritual life?

Consider: Weaver compares a baby's natural desire for milk to a Christian's desire for Scripture.

4. How does knowing God as 'Abba, Father' impact a young Christian's identity and obedience?

Consider: The knowledge of the Father is distinctive of Christianity and fosters a teachable spirit.

5. What does it mean for the Word of God to 'abide' in a young man, and how does that produce strength to overcome the wicked one?

Consider: 1 John 2:14 links abiding Word with strength and victory.

6. Why does John repeat the statement about fathers knowing Him from the beginning, and what does that repetition teach us about spiritual maturity?

Consider: Weaver notes the repetition in 1 John 2:13-14 and explains its significance.

7. How should we balance the biblical command to honor spiritual fathers with the need to correct them when they err?

Consider: 1 Timothy 5:1 and Leviticus 19:32 command honor, yet old men may need correction.

Applications

Be patient with immature believers

Recognize that new or carnal Christians will act like spiritual babies; respond with gentleness and repeated instruction rather than frustration.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'you have to be more gentle and more patient and understanding in dealing with a baby' and applies this spiritually.

Cultivate a desire for God's Word

Just as a baby craves milk, believers must actively desire the sincere milk of the Word to grow; if that desire is absent, examine your spiritual state.

Lecture support: 1 Peter 2:1-3 is paraphrased as 'Shut up... Drink your milk. Get nourished and grow.'

Honor spiritual fathers

Treat older, mature believers with respect and entreaty, not harsh rebuke, even when correction is necessary, in obedience to Leviticus 19:32 and 1 Timothy 5:1.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'you don't rebuke them like that. You entreat them as a father. You speak respectfully.'

Adjust expectations according to maturity

Do not demand father-level knowledge from a babe or young child; tailor your teaching and fellowship to the individual's stage of growth to prevent unnecessary division.

Lecture support: He warns, 'If you expect mature knowledge from a baby, you're going to be sorely disappointed.'

Abide in the Word for strength

To overcome temptation and the wicked one, let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, relying on God's power rather than natural strength.

Lecture support: 1 John 2:14 and Isaiah 40:28-31 are used to show that strength comes from waiting on the Lord and His Word.

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 3

Pastor John Weaver - Can We All Just Get Along?

Part One of Four

April 03, 2018

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 37-52.

Major Themes

Divine Sovereignty in Salvation and Illumination

God is absolutely sovereign, controlling all things, including who is saved and who understands spiritual truth; illumination is a sovereign act of the Holy Spirit.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If you understand that God is sovereign in salvation, you must also understand that God is sovereign in illumination.' He cites Matthew 11:27, John 5:21, and 1 Corinthians 4:7.

The Necessity of Division Caused by Christ

Jesus Christ is the great divider, separating the righteous from the wicked, and this division is biblically mandated and unavoidable.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Luke 12:49-53 where Jesus says He came to bring division, and references John 7:43, 9:16, 10:19.

The Problem of Strife Among Believers

Despite Christ's prayer for unity, Christians often exhibit division, lack of compassion, and even hatred over minor doctrinal differences.

Lecture support: Weaver expresses dismay at pastors who cannot get along over issues like eschatology or baptism, and notes the prayer in John 17 for oneness.

Spiritual Immaturity Hinders Reception of Truth

Many Christians remain carnal babes, unable to digest deeper truths, which explains varying levels of understanding among believers.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 and Hebrews 5:11-14, where Paul and the author of Hebrews rebuke believers for being dull of hearing and needing milk.

Patience and Meekness in Teaching

Because only God can open eyes, believers must instruct opponents with patience and gentleness, not strife, trusting God to grant repentance.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds 2 Timothy 2:24-26, emphasizing the servant of the Lord must not strive but be patient, instructing in meekness.

Thankfulness for Revealed Truth

Recognizing that all understanding is a gift from God should produce humility and gratitude rather than pride or resentment toward those who disagree.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Every doctrine that you and I know and understand and love... was a gift from God,' and references 1 Corinthians 4:7.

Key Arguments

God's sovereignty extends to who understands truth

Just as God sovereignly chooses whom to save, He sovereignly chooses whom to illuminate, giving different measures of understanding at different times.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from Matthew 13:11, 'Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries... but to them it is not given,' and states God does not give the same truth to all.

Revelation has ceased; illumination continues

God's full revelation is complete in Christ and Scripture; the Spirit's ongoing work is to illuminate what has already been revealed, not to give new revelation.

Lecture support: Weaver distinguishes revelation (truth never known before) from illumination (opening understanding), citing Hebrews 1:1-2 and John 1:17-18.

Spiritual maturity determines capacity for truth

Believers who are carnal and disobedient cannot bear deeper doctrines; God withholds further light until they obey what they already know.

Lecture support: Weaver notes Jesus spoke 'as they were able to hear it' (Mark 4:33) and Paul fed Corinthians milk because they were not able to bear meat (1 Corinthians 3:1-2).

Human responsibility is to teach patiently, not to open eyes

Preachers and teachers must instruct with gentleness and patience, leaving the work of opening minds entirely to God, avoiding strife and bitterness.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Timothy 2:24-26, emphasizing 'the servant of the Lord must not strive' and that repentance is granted by God.

Disagreement should not lead to personal animosity

Understanding divine sovereignty in illumination should free believers to agree to disagree without resentment, since only God can change minds.

Lecture support: Weaver shares his personal practice: 'I can agree to disagree. I'm just not going to fuss. I'm not going to fight with them.'

Scripture References

Luke 24:15-16

Introduction to the Emmaus road disciples whose eyes were holden, illustrating divine control over recognition.

Luke 12:49-53

Jesus declares He came to bring division, not peace, even within families.

John 7:43

Division among the people because of Jesus.

John 9:16

Division among the Pharisees over Jesus' healing on the Sabbath.

John 10:19

Division among the Jews over Jesus' sayings.

Genesis 3:15

The Protevangelium: God puts enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

Titus 3:10-11

Command to reject a heretic after first and second admonition.

John 17:20-24

Jesus' high priestly prayer for unity among all believers.

Matthew 11:27

No one knows the Son except the Father reveals Him, and no one knows the Father except the Son reveals Him.

John 5:21-23

The Son quickens whom He will, demonstrating divine sovereignty in healing the impotent man.

1 Corinthians 4:7

Who makes you to differ? What do you have that you did not receive? Why boast?

John 1:17-18

Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ; He has declared the Father, the full revelation.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God spoke in times past by prophets, but in these last days by His Son, the final revelation.

John 15:26; 16:12-15

The Holy Spirit will guide into all truth, illuminating what Christ has revealed.

Luke 24:44-45

Jesus opened their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures.

Luke 24:14-15, 31

The disciples' eyes were holden then opened, illustrating illumination.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit; they are spiritually discerned.

Mark 4:33

Jesus spoke the word as they were able to hear it.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Paul could not speak to Corinthians as spiritual but as carnal babes, feeding them milk.

Hebrews 5:10-14

Believers dull of hearing need milk, not strong meat; mature have senses exercised.

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding Jesus as 'the great divider' help us accept necessary divisions while still pursuing peace?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that Christ came to bring division between righteousness and wickedness, which is unavoidable.

2. In what ways might we be guilty of causing strife over minor doctrinal differences rather than showing patience?

Consider: Weaver laments pastors who cannot get along over issues like eschatology or baptism.

3. How does the distinction between revelation and illumination affect the way we approach Scripture and share truth with others?

Consider: Weaver argues revelation has ceased; the Spirit now illuminates the completed Word.

4. Why is it dangerous to claim God is giving new revelation today, according to Weaver?

Consider: Weaver says such claims imply something beyond Christ and Scripture, which is blasphemy.

5. How can recognizing that God sovereignly withholds or grants understanding change our attitude toward those who disagree with us?

Consider: Weaver teaches that only God opens eyes, so we should be patient and not bitter.

6. What does it mean to be 'dull of hearing' spiritually, and how can we avoid that condition?

Consider: Weaver cites Hebrews 5:11, where believers were unable to receive deeper truth due to immaturity.

7. How does 1 Corinthians 4:7 ('Who maketh thee to differ?') challenge pride in our theological knowledge?

Consider: Weaver uses this verse to show that all understanding is a gift, eliminating grounds for boasting.

Applications

Cultivate patience and gentleness with those who do not see truth as you do

Since only God can open eyes, believers must instruct opponents with meekness, not strife, trusting God to grant repentance.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds 2 Timothy 2:24-26 and states, 'I should not abuse them. I should not reject them. I should not despise them.'

Agree to disagree without personal animosity

Weaver models a commitment to not fight or hold bitterness over doctrinal differences, recognizing that only God can change minds.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I can agree to disagree. I'm just not going to fuss. I'm not going to fight with them.'

Examine your own life to ensure you are not a source of division

Listeners are urged to self-reflect and make sure they are not causing strife among believers.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I want you to make sure that you examine your life so that you can see and make sure that you are not a source of any division or strife.'

Be thankful for the truth God has revealed to you

Recognizing that all understanding is a gift should produce humility and gratitude rather than pride.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It ought to make us more thankful when we understand that everything we have was given to us.'

Do not hold bitterness, remembering Christ's forgiveness of your greater sins

Weaver argues that since Christ forgave our far greater wrongs against Him, we should not hold resentment against others.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'My wrongs to Christ are far greater than any wrongs that anyone has ever done to me.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 4

Can We All Just Get Along?

Part Four

February 18, 2018

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 53-68.

Major Themes

Sovereignty of God in Illumination

God sovereignly opens eyes and gives understanding; He does not give the same light or amount of light to everyone at the same time, which explains differences among believers.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If God does not open our eyes, we do not see... God does not give the same light to everyone. Nor does He give the same light at the same time. Nor does He give the same amount of light.'

Receiving Weak and Strong Brethren Without Contempt or Judgment

Believers must receive the weak in faith without engaging in disputes, and avoid the tendencies of the strong to despise the weak and the weak to judge the strong.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Him that is weak in the faith receive ye... Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth.'

Biblical Love Covers a Multitude of Sins

Fervent love leads believers to overlook faults and imperfections in others, not being eager to take offense, as love is the bond of perfection.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 Peter 4:8 and explains, 'It means that we are to overlook or we would be willing to overlook the sins in those that we love.'

Forgiveness Modeled After God's Forgiveness

Forgiveness must be genuine, unending, and based on repentance; believers are to forgive as God forgave them, which includes not holding sins against others or remembering them.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When God forgave us our sins, He forgot them... He does not hold those sins against us... He acts as if we had never sinned.'

Differences Do Not Necessitate Divisions

While differences among believers are inevitable due to varying maturity and illumination, they need not lead to strife if biblical principles are applied.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'There's always going to be differences between Christians... But there does not necessarily have to be divisions.'

Key Arguments

The strong must not despise the weak, and the weak must not judge the strong.

Paul commands that the strong brother not treat the weak with contempt, and the weak brother not condemn the strong, as both are servants of God.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'The tendency of the strong is to despise the weak... the tendency of the weak is to judge the strong.'

Love enables believers to overlook faults and maintain unity.

Fervent charity covers a multitude of sins, meaning love leads to overlooking imperfections rather than stirring up strife.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins... when we love someone with a biblical love, we're willing to overlook those imperfections.'

Forgiveness requires repentance and must mirror God's forgiveness.

God does not forgive without repentance, and believers must forgive others as God forgave them, which includes not holding grudges or bringing up past sins.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Not even God forgives without repentance... once you forgive as God, for Christ's sake, forgave you, you forget it.'

Stubbornness and rebellion lead to divine chastisement.

Some divisions are caused by hard-headedness and rebellion, and God will deal with such individuals through chastisement, as described in Hebrews 12.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When someone just wants to be plain mean and stubborn and hard-headed and rebellious, you're just asking for the Father to deal with you in chastisement.'

Scripture References

Romans 14:1-7

Weaver reads the passage to introduce the topic of weak and strong brethren, emphasizing receiving the weak without disputes.

Luke 12:51-53

Weaver references Jesus' statement that He came to bring division, not peace, to show that Christ is a divider of believers and unbelievers.

2 Timothy 2:7

Weaver quotes this verse to support that understanding is a gift from God, given as we consider His word.

Job 33:13

Weaver cites Elihu's words to show that God does not owe us an account of His matters, emphasizing His sovereignty in illumination.

2 Timothy 2:15

Weaver mentions this verse to highlight the failure to study as a reason for divisions.

1 Corinthians 8:2

Weaver quotes this to illustrate that those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought, emphasizing the need for a teachable spirit.

Mark 4:23-25

Weaver references this passage to explain the principle that obedience to truth leads to more truth, while disobedience leads to loss.

1 John 2:12-14

Weaver refers to John's classification of believers as little children, young men, and fathers to discuss levels of maturity.

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

Weaver mentions Paul's reference to babies in Christ to further illustrate spiritual maturity levels.

Colossians 2:16-17

Weaver reads this passage to show that issues of food, drink, and days are shadows fulfilled in Christ, understood by the strong.

Titus 3:9

Weaver quotes this verse to instruct believers to avoid foolish questions and contentions that lead to strife.

1 Peter 4:8

Weaver reads this verse to emphasize that fervent charity covers a multitude of sins.

Proverbs 10:12

Weaver quotes this proverb to contrast hatred stirring up strife with love covering all sins.

Proverbs 17:9

Weaver cites this verse to show that covering a transgression seeks love, while repeating a matter separates friends.

Colossians 3:14

Weaver reads this verse to show that charity is the bond of perfectness.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Weaver quotes this verse to emphasize that love is the greatest virtue.

Hebrews 13:1

Weaver mentions this verse to command that brotherly love continue.

Matthew 18:21-35

Weaver reads the parable of the unforgiving servant to illustrate the necessity of forgiving others as God has forgiven us.

Luke 17:3-5

Weaver reads this passage to show that forgiveness requires repentance and that the disciples needed faith to forgive repeatedly.

Ephesians 4:31-32

Weaver reads these verses to command putting away bitterness and forgiving as God forgave.

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding God's sovereignty in illumination help us be more patient with believers who hold different convictions?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that God does not give the same light to everyone at the same time, which should foster humility and patience.

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2. What are practical ways we can receive a weaker brother without engaging in 'doubtful disputations'?

Consider: Weaver explains that the strong must receive the weak without arguing over non-essential matters, as outlined in Romans 14:1.

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3. In what ways might we be guilty of despising a weaker brother or judging a stronger brother, and how can we guard against these tendencies?

Consider: Weaver describes the tendency of the strong to despise the weak and the weak to judge the strong, urging self-examination.

4. What does it mean for love to 'cover a multitude of sins,' and how can we cultivate such love in our relationships?

Consider: Weaver teaches that fervent love leads to overlooking faults and not being eager to take offense, based on 1 Peter 4:8.

5. Why is repentance necessary for forgiveness, and how should we handle situations where a brother does not repent?

Consider: Weaver points out that God does not forgive without repentance, and we are to rebuke a sinning brother and forgive if he repents.

6. What does it practically mean to forgive 'even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you,' especially regarding forgetting sins?

Consider: Weaver explains that forgiving as God forgives means not holding sins against others or bringing them up again.

7. How can we agree to disagree on non-essential matters without bitterness or division?

Consider: Weaver concludes that differences will always exist, but believers can maintain unity by applying the principles taught in the series.

Applications

Receive weak brethren without contempt or argument

Believers should welcome those weak in faith without engaging in disputes over non-essential matters, showing grace and patience.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations... the strong brother is not called upon to settle all of the scruples of the weaker brother.'

Avoid despising or judging fellow believers

Strong believers must not look down on the weak, and weak believers must not condemn the strong, recognizing that God is the master of both.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth.'

Exercise fervent love that overlooks faults

Cultivate a love that covers a multitude of sins by being willing to overlook imperfections and not taking offense easily.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'When we love someone with a biblical love, we're willing to overlook those imperfections.'

Forgive others as God has forgiven you

Forgive genuinely and completely, not holding past sins against others or bringing them up, mirroring God's forgiveness in Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Once you forgive as God, for Christ's sake, forgave you, you forget it... never to speak about it, not to dwell on it.'

Agree to disagree without bitterness

Recognize that differences will exist due to varying illumination and maturity, but maintain unity and love without strife.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We can agree to disagree without being upset with each other... without bitterness and resentment and hard feelings.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

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