

Chapter 2: The Sinners Need of Christ (Pt1, p.17,18; Pt.2, p.18-22)

Steps to Christ

Part 1: Sin entered the human experience through disobedience and rebellion. As sinners, we are not fit for heaven and would destroy rather than enjoy it; it would be a place of torture. In addition, it is essential that we recognize that we cannot, through our own efforts, escape the pit of sin and the burden of guilt it brings. The only way to be set free is through Jesus.

Self-reflection Questions (*You need share your answers only with God*)

- Under what circumstances are you most likely to say and do things you know are wrong or at least you are not proud of? When I am:
a. Hungry b. Tired c. Frustrated d. In pain e. Sad f. Angry g. Bored h. Alone
- Into what pits of sinful behavior have you fallen lately (today, yesterday, this month)?
a. Hatred b. Greed c. Lust d. Gluttony e. Gossiping f. Laziness g. Unkind words h. Selfishness i. Dishonoring parents j. Breaking the Sabbath
- Have you ever tried to cover or hide your feelings of guilt and sinfulness from God, or think you can fix the problem yourself?
- On the other hand, how often do you feel like *I am a pretty good person, there is little about me that Jesus needs to change?*

Discussion Question

- Imagine yourself as Adam or Eve, living in the Garden of Eden. What do you think you would have liked the most? Put differently, once you were thrown out due to your own rebellion and sin, what do you think you would have missed the most?
a. The un-spoilt creation b. The perfect relationship with your husband/wife c. The face-to-face talks with God d. All of the above and more

Activity

Stand as close as you can, safely, to the tallest building or tree in your neighborhood. Look up for 20 seconds and think about how big that building or tree would have to be to properly represent the love, kindness, and compassion of God. Then look around at other objects in your surroundings and think, in comparison, what size they would need to be to accurately represent the size of those traits in you.

Part 2: Recognition of our true state (fallen, selfish, sinful, and in need of rescue) is an important beginning. It involves being properly aware of our sorry condition, far inferior to the immense goodness, holiness, love, and compassion of God, and fallen from the perfection we had at Creation. But, for us to be rescued, we must also earnestly desire that rescue, desire to be restored to how our Creator God made us in the beginning. Thankfully, the rescue ladder from heaven to earth has been let down; it's Jesus. Will you accept the offer?

Discussion Questions

- Can you think of any Bible characters or groups of people described in scripture who were deceived into thinking that they were fine the way they were, were not in need of a new heart, not in need of a radical change by God's power in order to be saved?
- Human nature and church history indicate that when people are economically and socially comfortable, they are more likely to be deceived into thinking that they are spiritually rich and not in need of a new heart to be saved. What is the risk level of being deceived today? **a. Low b. Medium c. High** State your reasons?

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Activity

In your family or study group, set a phone timer for 3 minutes and have everyone stay still and silent with their eyes closed for the 3 minutes. Think about how much you would have to love someone to be tortured to death willingly so that they could have eternal life. Imagine what that experience would be like. Open your eyes. Take a few minutes to share your thoughts with each other; then go around the circle and offer a short prayer of thanks to God for the amazing gift of Jesus' sacrifice and what He endured for all.

--- Notable Quotes Activity & Discussion ---

Locate and underline the quotes below in your copy of *Steps to Christ*. Read them at least 2x. Which of them do you think is the most **a. Reassuring b. Amazing c. Exciting d. Thought provoking**? Are there others that caught your eye?

Chapter 1 Refs. Ps. 145: 15, 16; Gen 3: 17; Ex. 33: 18,19; Johah 4: 2; Micah 7: 18; John 1: 18; Matt 11: 27; John 14: 8,9; Luke 4: 18; 1 Tim 3: 16; Isa 53: 5; Matt 27: 46; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5: 19; John 10: 17; Heb 2: 11; 1 John 3: 1

It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men (p.10).

Christ was the medium through which He (God the Father) could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world (p. 13).

...nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity (p.14).

Through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ the sons of Adam may become the sons of God (p.15).

Chapter 2 Refs. Col 2:3; Job 14:4; Rom 8:7; John 3:3; 1 Cor 2:14; John 3:7; John 1:4; Rom 7: 12,14,16; Acts 4:12; Rom 7:24; John 1:29; John 1:51; James 1:17; John 14:6

The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him (p.17).

It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them (p.17).

The idea that it is necessary only to develop the good that exists in man by nature, is a fatal deception (p.18).

Christ connects fallen man in his weakness and helplessness with the Source of infinite power (p. 20).

The heart of God yearns over His earthly children with a love stronger than death. In giving up His Son, He has poured out to us all heaven in one gift (p.21).

Let us avail ourselves of the means provided for us that we may be transformed into His likeness, and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son (p.22).

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