

TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING



The Enemies of Godly Stewardship



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING

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GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Procrastination

Introduction: We have recently studied about sacrifice, dedication, and what it takes to give God our very best. What happens when we DON'T give God our best? What gets in our way? If we don't figure that out, or we live in denial, our Christian walk can become toxic! We can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies that will lead us down the road to TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. Let's start our study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Don't delay your offering (**Exodus 22:29-30**).
- B. Don't boast about tomorrow (**Proverbs 27:1**).
- C. Don't ignore your work (**Haggai 1:2-5**).
- D. Don't postpone following Christ (**Matthew 16:24**).
- E. Don't overlook the finish line (**Philippians 3:12-16**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Pharaoh (**Exodus 8:8-10**)
 - * *What can we learn from Pharaoh's example?*
- B. Elisha (**I Kings 19:19-21**)
 - * *What can we learn from Elisha's example?*
- C. Esther (**Esther 5:5-8**)
 - * *What can we learn from Esther's example?*
- D. The foolish virgins (**Matthew 25:1-13**)
 - * *What can we learn from the example of the foolish virgins?*
- E. Felix (**Acts 24:24-27**)
 - * *What can we learn from Felix's example?*

Conclusion: Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. If we continue this cumbersome course, without repentance, we will fail ourselves and obstruct others. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Then follow Him daily. Do you believe in the Bible? Then obey what it says. Why are you waiting? Don't procrastinate! It's time to give God what He deserves... your very best!

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Fear

Introduction: We have begun a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? How do these things hinder our Christian walk to the point it becomes toxic? How can we cripple our own spirituality along with those around us? We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them. Today we will talk about fear. There's nothing wrong with having a healthy fear (reverence) of God, but God has not given us the spirit of fear (**II Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:28-39**). What is toxic about fear? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Fear can take away your confidence (**Matthew 6:19-34, Hebrews 13:5-6**).
- B. Fear can take away your perspective (**I John 4:4, Luke 22:31**).
- C. Fear can take away your reality (**Matthew 22:29, Psalm 23:4**).
- D. Fear can take away your spirituality (**Matthew 10:16-42, Lamentations 3:57**).
- E. Fear can take away your understanding (**I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:15**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Adam & Eve (**Genesis 3:8-10**)
 - * *What can we learn from Adam & Eve's example?*
- B. The Nation of Israel (**Isaiah 53**)
 - * *What can we learn from the nation of Israel's example?*
- C. Jeremiah (**Lamentations 3:1-24**)
 - * *What can we learn from Jeremiah's example?*
- D. Peter (**Matthew 14:22-33**)
 - * *What can we learn from Peter's example?*
- E. Jesus (**Matthew 26:36-46**)
 - * *What can we learn from Jesus' great example?*

Conclusion: Consider the parade of the fairy penguins of Australia (**I John 4:18**). What can we learn from them? Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let fear starve your faith! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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Covetousness

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Today I want us to talk about covetousness. Consider some great Bible teachings on this subject (**Matthew 6:21-24, I Corinthians 4:1-5**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Covetousness leads to death (**Proverbs 1:19**).
- B. Covetousness leads to deficiency (**Proverbs 11:28**).
- C. Covetousness leads to destruction (**Proverbs 15:7**).
- D. Covetousness leads to deception (**Proverbs 22:16**).
- E. Covetousness leads to denial (**Proverbs 30:8-9**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Jacob (**Genesis 25, 27**)
 - * *What can we learn from Jacob's example?*
- B. Balaam (**Numbers 22-24**)
 - * *What can we learn from Balaam's example?*
- C. David (**II Samuel 11-12**)
 - * *What can we learn from David's example?*
- D. Gehazi (**II Kings 5:20-27**)
 - * *What can we learn from Gehazi's example?*
- E. Simon the Sorcerer (**Acts 8:24-27**)
 - * *What can we learn from Simon's example?*

Conclusion: We do not know the hour of our eternal departure and we are not promised tomorrow. Therefore, before we die we need to put to death some things in our lives (**Colossians 3:5-6**). Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let covetousness overcome you! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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Greed

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Earlier we talked about covetousness, but we also have to consider some close relatives: greed and envy. I would like for us to start by recognizing one of Jesus's teachings on greed (**Luke 12:15**). Why should we avoid greed? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Greed leads to deception (**Proverbs 1:10-14**).
- B. Greed leads to division (**Proverbs 15:27**).
- C. Greed leads to desire (**Proverbs 23:1-6**).
- D. Greed leads to destruction (**Proverbs 29:4**).
- E. Greed leads to discontent (**Proverbs 30:15-16**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Judah's Leaders (**Isaiah 56:9-12**)
* *What can we learn from Judah's example?*
- B. Ahab (**I Kings 21:1-16**)
* *What can we learn from Ahab's example?*
- C. Zacchaeus (**Luke 19:1-10**)
* *What can we learn from Zacchaeus' example?*
- D. Judas (**John 12:1-8**)
* *What can we learn from Judas' example?*
- E. Felix (**Acts 24:24-27**)
* *What can we learn from Felix's example?*

Conclusion: We must not forget **Philippians 4:19** and **Ephesians 1:3**. God abundantly blesses us! Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let greed get in your way! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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Envy

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Thus far we have considered covetousness and greed, but what about envy? How are they any different? Consider what Paul says in **I Corinthians 3:1-4**. Why should we avoid envy? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Envy leads to disgrace (**Proverbs 3:31-35**).
- B. Envy leads to danger (**Proverbs 6:30-35**).
- C. Envy leads to degradation (**Proverbs 14:30**).
- D. Envy leads to delusion (**Proverbs 23:17-18**).
- E. Envy leads to devastation (**Proverbs 27:4**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. The First Family (**Genesis 1-4**)
 - * *What can we learn from the example of the first family?*
- B. The Philistines (**Genesis 26**)
 - * *What can we learn from Philistine's example?*
- C. Joseph's Brothers (**Genesis 37**)
 - * *What can we learn from the example of Joseph's brothers?*
- D. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (**Numbers 16**)
 - * *What can we learn from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram's example?*
- E. The Older Brother (**Luke 15:11-32**)
 - * *What can we learn from the example of the older brother?*

Conclusion: Envy is not from God because it is toxic (**Galatians 5:16-26**). Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let envy rule your life! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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Laziness

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Today we are going to talk about laziness. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Laziness leads to weakness (**Psalm 1:1**).
- B. Laziness brings poverty (**Proverbs 10:4-5, 26**).
- C. Laziness causes waste (**Proverbs 14:23**).
- D. Laziness destroys your life (**Proverbs 24:30-34**).
- E. Laziness emphasizes bad habits (**II Thessalonians 3:10-11**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. The Vineyard Workers (**Matthew 20:1-16**)
* *What can we learn from their example?*
- B. The Athenians (**Acts 17:16-34**)
* *What can we learn from their example?*
- C. The Ephesians (**I Timothy 5:13**)
* *What can we learn from their example?*
- D. The Cretans (**Titus 1:10-16**)
* *What can we learn from their example?*
- E. The Thessalonians (**I Thessalonians 5:1-6**)
* *What can we learn from their example?*

Conclusion: Remember what Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 9:10**. This should be the attitude of a Christian. We should want to serve God with everything we have to His glory and not our own! Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let laziness rule your life! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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Selfishness

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Tonight we are going to talk about selfishness. We have to realize that selfishness is the antithesis of the Golden Rule (**Matthew 7:12**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Selfishness ignores humility (**Matthew 18:2-4**).
- B. Selfishness ignores responsibility (**Matthew 18:5-7**).
- C. Selfishness ignores temperance (**Matthew 18:8-10**).
- D. Selfishness ignores compassion (**Matthew 18:11-14**).
- E. Selfishness ignores discipline (**Matthew 18:15-18**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. The Prophet Jonah (**Jonah 1-4**)
* *What can we learn from Jonah's example?*

- B. The Rich Young Ruler (**Mark 10:21-27**)
* *What can we learn from his example?*

- C. The Rich Fool (**Luke 12:13-21**)
* *What can we learn from his example?*

- D. The Unjust Steward (**Luke 16:1-13**)
* *What can we learn from his example?*

- E. The Rich Man (**Luke 16:19-31**)
* *What can we learn from his example?*

Conclusion: Remember what Paul said in **Philippians 2:4**. We need to be concerned about the needs of others. Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let selfishness rule your life! It's time to give God your very best!

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Materialism

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Today we are going to talk about materialism. We have to realize that materialism sends us in the wrong direction (**Luke 12:15**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Materialism cultivates sinful desires (**Proverbs 21:17-21**).
- B. Materialism contributes to anxiety (**Matthew 6:25-34**).
- C. Materialism causes instability (**Matthew 7:24-27**).
- D. Materialism complicates difficulties (**James 1:13-17**).
- E. Materialism creates pitfalls (**I John 5:19**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Lot (**Genesis 13, 19**)
 - * *What can we learn from Lot's example?*
- B. Solomon (**Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**)
 - * *What can we learn from Solomon's example?*
- C. The Disciples (**Luke 9:1-6, 10:4**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*
- D. The Pharisees (**Luke 16:14-15**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*
- E. The Early Church (**Acts 2-5**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*

Conclusion: Remember what Jesus said in **Mark 8:36**. We need to be concerned about our own soul and spiritual condition. Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let materialism rule your life! It's time to give God your very best!

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Apathy

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us? We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Today we are going to talk about apathy. We have to realize that materialism sends us in the wrong direction (**Romans 12:11-12**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Apathy reflects insincerity (**Joshua 24:14-15**).
- B. Apathy resembles laziness (**Proverbs 15:19**).
- C. Apathy rejects godliness (**Zephaniah 1:12-13**).
- D. Apathy resists good work (**Haggai 1:7-9**).
- E. Apathy restrains spirituality (**I Thessalonians 5:18-22**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Ham (**Genesis 6-10**)
 - * *What can we learn from Ham's example?*
- B. King Saul (**I Samuel 9-31**)
 - * *What can we learn from Saul's example?*
- C. Gomer (**Hosea 1-3**)
 - * *What can we learn from Gomer's example?*
- D. Demas (**Philemon 24, Colossians 4:14, II Timothy 4:10**)
 - * *What can we learn from Demas' example?*
- E. The Laodiceans (**Revelation 3:14-22**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*

Conclusion: Remember what Paul said in **Romans 12:11-12**. We need to remind people of the difference between darkness and light. Maybe God has given us this generation for a reason. We must not be silent or indifferent. We need to be concerned about our own spiritual walk. We need to change the things that are destroying us. Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Why are you waiting to make things right? Don't let apathy rule your life! It's time to give God your very best!

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Pride

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us? We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. Tonight we are going to talk about pride. David said: "*Though the Lord is supreme, He takes care of those who are humble, but He stays away from the proud*" (**Psalm 138:6**). Have you ever wondered why God resists the proud? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Pride leads to selfishness (**Proverbs 8:13**).
- B. Pride leads to shame (**Proverbs 11:2**).
- C. Pride leads to strife (**Proverbs 13:10**).
- D. Pride leads to separation (**Proverbs 16:5**).
- E. Pride leads to stubbornness (**Proverbs 16:18-20**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. The Babylonians (**Genesis 11:1-9**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*
- B. Michal (**II Samuel 6:16, 20-23**)
 - * *What can we learn from Michal's example?*
- C. Haman (**Esther 3-7**)
 - * *What can we learn from Haman's example?*
- D. People of Jerusalem (**Isaiah 2:6-3:5**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*
- E. Satan (**Revelation 12**)
 - * *What can we learn from Satan's example?*

Conclusion: **Proverbs 3:34** says, "*God is against the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.*" Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Why do we allow pride to consume us? Don't let pride rule your life! It's time to give God your very best!

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Lust

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us? We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. In this lesson we will talk about the dangers of lust. Lust is defined as an intense desire, appetite, covetousness or eagerness. Why should we avoid lust? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Lust can entrench you (**Proverbs 6:20-29**).
- B. Lust can extinguish you (**Proverbs 6:30-35**).
- C. Lust can enable you (**Proverbs 7:1-9**).
- D. Lust can embarrass you (**Proverbs 7:10-20**).
- E. Lust can entrap you (**Proverbs 7:21-23**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Potiphar's Wife (**Genesis 39:6-13**)
** What can we learn from her example?*
- B. Samson (**Judges 13-16**)
** What can we learn from Samson's example?*
- C. David & Bathsheba (**I Samuel 11-12**)
** What can we learn from their example?*
- D. Amnon & Tamar (**II Samuel 13**)
** What can we learn from their example?*
- E. The Romans (**Romans 1:20-32**)
** What can we learn from their example?*

Conclusion: Remember the wisdom of the Proverbs (**Proverbs 1:1-3, 23:23**). What is the solution? We must learn self-control! Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Why are you waiting to make things right? Why do we allow lust to consume us? Let's learn self-control. It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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Anger

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We seek to recognize the things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What things can cripple our own spirituality along with those around us. We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. We have considered procrastination, fear, covetousness, greed, envy, laziness, selfishness, materialism, pride, lust, etc. Today we will talk about anger. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Anger is a real problem (**Matthew 5:21-23**).
- B. Anger leads to reproach (**Matthew 7:1-6**).
- C. Anger can start with a righteous cause (**Mark 3:5**).
- D. Anger can be reckless (**Ephesians 4:26-27**).
- E. Anger must be resolved (**Hebrews 10:30**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Cain (**Genesis 4:5-6, I John 3:12**)
 - * *What can we learn from Cain's example?*
- B. Esau (**Genesis 27:45**)
 - * *What can we learn from Esau's example?*
- C. Moses (**Exodus 4:14, 11:8, 16:20, 32:19, Numbers 12:3**)
 - * *What can we learn from Moses' example?*
- D. David (**II Samuel 6:8, 12:5, 13:21**)
 - * *What can we learn from David's example?*
- E. Nehemiah (**Nehemiah 5:6**)
 - * *What can we learn from Nehemiah's example?*

Conclusion: We look to Jesus who experienced anger but did not use wrath (**Mark 3:15, John 2:13-17, I Peter 2:22**). Violence and vengeance is not the answer (**Colossians 3:12**). Toxic Christian living consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Learn to control your anger. Look to Jesus! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!

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Hypocrisy

Introduction: We are studying a series on TOXIC CHRISTIAN LIVING. We need to recognize things that happen when we DON'T give God our best. What gets in our way? What cripples our own spirituality? We need to recognize these enemies and defeat them before they become toxic. We have considered procrastination, fear, covetousness, greed, envy, laziness, selfishness, materialism, pride, lust, and anger. Today we will emphasize the dangers of hypocrisy. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Biblical Principles

- A. Hypocrites are inconsistent (**Matthew 23:1-3**).
- B. Hypocrites are inconsiderate (**Matthew 23:4**).
- C. Hypocrites are insincere (**Matthew 23:5-7**).
- D. Hypocrites are invalid (**Matthew 23:8-10**).
- E. Hypocrites are insolent (**Matthew 23:11-12**).

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Judah (**Genesis 38:1-30**)
 - * *What can we learn from Judah's example?*
- B. David (**I Kings 2**)
 - * *What can we learn from David's example?*
- C. The Priest & Levite (**Luke 10:25-37**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*
- D. Ananias & Sapphira (**Acts 5:1-11**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*
- E. The Jews (**Romans 2:17-24**)
 - * *What can we learn from their example?*

Conclusion: The world needs to see the light of God. They need to see Christians doing the work of God (**James 1:22-25**). Throughout all of these lessons we have pointed out that "Toxic Christian Living" consists of a hypocritical walk. Are you ready to defeat these enemies? Then take action immediately. Do you believe in Jesus? Are you following Him daily? Do you believe in the Bible? Are you obeying what the Bible tells you? Learn to be humble, genuine, and real. Look to Jesus! It's time to give God what He deserves... our very best!