

The Sin of Comparison

Lesson "A"

Robert Morris



- ✚ The Curse – Lesson "A"
- ✚ The Cause – Lesson "B"
- ✚ The Cure – Lesson "B"

➤ THE CURSE: John 21:18-23 (NKJV)

Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." ¹⁹This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."²⁰ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" ²¹Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"²² Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."²³ Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but "If I will that he remains till I come, what is that to you?" (Robert shares about how the disciples compare amongst themselves in video:

<https://youtu.be/EfADMTJOGIE> - Fear of Martyrdom is what caused Peter to deny Jesus in the first place!

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We are “continually” comparing ourselves with others (You don’t even realize how much and how often you do it!)

➤ **#1 THE CURSE- (1)** Inferior or Superior Attitudes

- Insecurity or Pride
- Worse than or Better than
 - **No other choices**
 - Curse of Comparison are all Lies of Satan
 - My job is better than yours
 - You prettier than I am
 - You have more talents than I do
 - You more spiritual than I am
- You are more blessed than I am
- Your house is bigger and better than

➤ **#1 THE CURSE-(2)** Produces anger and resentment toward God.

God is in control

- God, why are you blessing them and not me?
- God likes you better than me
- God's favor is on them more than me
- You will resent God and the person you are comparing yourself with
- You hate yourself-you think there is something wrong with you.
 - One of the commandments in the bible that tells us to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves, you won't love others if you don't love yourself (Not a love that's prideful)
- Something happens good to someone=envy. Why doesn't that happen to me?
- Something bad happens to someone, we are jealous, therefore we are glad something bad happened. (Let's be honest with ourselves and God, know one else knows when and how we have had to deal with this, thankful to God for that!)

- **#1 THE CURSE (3)** – It opens the door to Satan
 - **John 3:14-16** But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.
- Don't envy others giftings
- Envy is the ROOT of comparison
- Envy opens the door to rebellion and deception
- **2 Corinthians 10:12**- For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
- Comparison is not WISE!
 - Jealousy is towards people
 - Envy is towards things

Scriptures for Studying:

2 Corinthians 10:12 -Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

Galatians 1:10- For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 6:4 -But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to **boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.**

Philippians 2:3 -Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

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[2 Timothy 2:15](#) -Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

[1 Corinthians 4:7](#)- For who sees anything different in you? **What do you have that you did not receive?** If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

[Romans 12:3](#) -For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among **you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

[Exodus 20:17](#) -“You **shall not covet** your neighbor's house; you **shall not covet** your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

[John 21:22](#)-- Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remains until I come, what is that to you? **You follow me!**”

[James 1:17](#) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

[Galatians 6:3-5](#) -For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. **For each will have to bear his own load.**

How to Magnify God

- Devotional by [John Piper](#)

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. ([Psalm 69:30](#))

There are **two kinds of magnifying**: *microscope* magnifying and *telescope* magnifying. The one makes a small thing look bigger than it is. The other makes a big thing begin to look as big as it really is. Then David says, “I will magnify God with thanksgiving,” he does not mean, “I will make a small God look bigger than he is.” He means, “I will make a big God begin to look as big as he really is.”

We are not called to be microscopes. **We are called to be telescopes.** Christians are not called to be con men who magnify their product out of all proportion to reality, when they know the competitor’s product is far superior. There is nothing and nobody superior to God. And so, **the calling of those who love God is to make his greatness begin to look as great as it really is.**

That’s why we exist, why we were saved, as Peter says in [1 Peter 2:9](#), “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, *that you may proclaim the excellencies* of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” The whole duty of the Christian can be summed up in this: feel, **think, and act in a way that will make God look as great as he really is. Be a telescope for the world** of the infinite starry wealth of the glory of God. This is what it means for a Christian to magnify God. But you can’t magnify what you haven’t seen or what you quickly forget. Therefore, our first task is to see and to remember the greatness and goodness of God. So, we pray to God, “Open the eyes of my heart!” ([Ephesians 1:18](#)), and we preach to our souls, “Soul, forget not all his benefits!” ([Psalm 103:2](#)).

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What Does the Word ‘Magnify’ Mean in Hebrew and Greek?

As a follower of Christ, I’m sure that you’re quite familiar with the work magnify. It’s something that we associate with worship. That is true. Nonetheless, I still would like to look at what the word magnify means in Hebrew and Greek.

Webster’s Dictionary:

- “1. To make great or greater; to increase the apparent dimensions of a body. A convex lens magnifies the bulk of a body to the eye.*
- 2. To make great in representation; to extol; to exalt in description or praise. The ambassador magnified the king and queen.*
- 3. To extol; to exalt; to elevate; to raise in estimation.”*

All scriptures are taken from NKJV unless otherwise marked.

Hebrew?

gadal- to be great, make great.

Gadal means to become strong, be great or wealthy, or grow up. This verb can mean the increase in size and age (Genesis 21:8). It can also represent the status of one who is great or wealthy. It’s often applied to kings

Greek?

doxazo- to render, esteem glorious.

As a verb, it means to extol, praise, magnify. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify** your Father in heaven.”*— Matthew 5:16 It’s used in glorifying: God-the Word of God (Acts 13:48)-the name of the Lord (Revelation 15:4)-oneself (John 8:54)- Also, it can mean ‘full of glory’. This is said of Christ (John 7:39) and the Father (John 13:31).

megaluno- to increase or extol.

This word is translated into enlarge (Matthew 23:5)-shew great (Luke 1:58)-to magnify (Luke 1:46)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the word magnify means to praise or make great. **Therefore, every time we praise God, we are magnifying Him. This holds incredible power because as we focus on God, our problems seem to get smaller.** That’s because we know that God is more powerful and greater than anything this life could ever hold. Make praising God a regular pastime and just see how your life changes.

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Lesson “A” Review Questions

1. In John 21:20-21, who is Jesus talking to?
2. What is the main focus in verse 19? (two words)
3. What was Jesus question to Peter in John 21:23?
4. We are _____ comparing ourselves with others.
5. What was the 1st side affect under the outline for the word **CURSE**?
6. What was the 2nd side affect under the outline for the word **CURSE**?
7. What was the 3rd side affect under the outline for the word **CURSE**?
8. You will _____ God and the person you are _____ yourself to.
9. What does John 3:15 say?
10. _____ is the “root” of comparison.
11. _____ is not wise.
12. _____ is toward people _____ is toward things.
13. In a few words, what does 2 Corinthians 10:12 tell us?
14. In Galatians 1:10, who are we seeking approval from?
15. In Philippians 2:3, what are we supposed to do for others?
16. What does 2 Timothy 2:15 say?
17. In Galatians 6:3-5, what does each of us bear?

The Sin of Competition

LESSON "B"

#2 THE CAUSE – A lack of acceptance

- No one has the whole package! Everyone has stuff and they don't have it all together
- God, what gift do I have? Not just those people in the spotlight have gifts.
- Lack of identity, God has specific gifts for you.
- **1 Corinthians 12:24-25** but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks that it, there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.
 - Ask God what gift you have, don't seek other gifts, you are unique
 - **Covetousness: greed and selfishness with a mask**
- I want what they have because I don't like what you have given me God.
- #2 THE CAUSE- A lack of identity

- **2 Corinthians 10:12** For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
- Comparing yourself with others is NOT wise!
 - Not understanding who we are in Christ
 - God has a specific gift for YOU
 - Jealousy and envy are what takes place when we compare ourselves with others

- Jealousy has to do with people
- Envy has to do with things
- **Pride/Comparison goes back to the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve – Eat this fruit and you will be like God**
 - Satan got Adam and Eve to compare themselves with God – PRIDE started there also!

➤ #2 THE CAUSE – Covetousness

- This is greed and selfishness with a mask
- “I want what she has, I want what he has”
- “I want his/her life, because I don’t like the one you gave me”
- “I want his/her job, because I don’t like the one you gave me”
- ***This is INGRATITUDE at the highest level with our fist in Gods face.***
 - **Colossians 3:5** ^{Therefore} put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and *covetousness, which is idolatry.*
 - Covetousness is idolatry – an idol takes the place of God
 - OUCH----By your not wanting to bless others could be stopping Gods blessings over you.
 - What is your attitude about others being blessed?
 - You should be 1st person to congratulate someone when they accomplish something or get blessed.

#3 THE CURE- Glorify God - **Romans 1:21-25** because, although they knew God, they did not **glorify Him** as God, nor were **thankful**, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, **they became fools,** ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

They began to lust after, desire, want things other people had instead of what God had for them.

- They desired what others had
- They weren't thankful
- They did not glorify God -**MAGNIFY GOD**
- They needed to renew their minds
- When you stop focusing on God, you will focus on others!
- They focused on the creation instead of the creator
 - This is when they went into bondage and satisfied their flesh.



- Don't focus on things and people focus on God – **Magnify Him**. What **does it mean to magnify the Lord?** It **means** to make Him large in our lives. I am sure you have noticed that an object looks small from far-away, but it appears to get larger as you approach it. The object did not get any bigger, but your perspective, or view of it, changed (Robert Morris ant story)
- We magnify others homes, callings, looks, talents
- Don't **MAGNIFY** anything other than **GOD**-Don't build up in your mind anything other than God

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- **#3 THE CURE – Be Thankful**
- Be thankful – Gra attitude
 - **GRACE Attitude**
 - Attitude of Grace
 - Nothing you have do you deserve
 - It's all yours because of God
 - Gratitude= **Gratitude** is a warm feeling of thankfulness towards the world, or towards specific individuals. The person who feels **gratitude** is **thankful** for what they have and **does** not constantly seek more.
- Learn to be thankful – this will diminish comparison
- Un-thankfulness opens the door to all kinds of evil in our lives
- Thankfulness is a habit
 - Thank God every day for 10 things when you get up
- Develop an attitude of thankfulness
- **#3 THE CURE – Renew Your Mind**
- **Colossians 3:2 – Set your mind on things above** - Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.
 - You renew your mind by studying the word of God
- The video Link for this Teaching is at www.gatewaypeople.org – the sermon title to plug in to the “watch” box is “The Sin Comparison”.
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➤ Scriptures for Studying:

[Galatians 6:4-5](#) But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own

[Romans 12:6](#) Having **gifts that differ** according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith.

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[Isaiah 45:9](#) “Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! **Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’** or ‘Your work has no handles’?”

[1 Timothy 6:6-8](#) Now there is great gain in godliness with **contentment**, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

[1 Thessalonians 4:11-12](#) And to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to **work with your hands**, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

[Ephesians 4:1-3](#) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ...

[Psalm 23:1](#) A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

[1 John 2:15](#) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

[2 Peter 2:3](#) And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Lesson “B” Review Questions

1. What are the sins we face under the CAUSE of competition?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
2. What are the answers to defeat comparison under the CURE of competition?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. Covetousness is _____ and _____ with a mask.
4. In 2 Corinthians 10:12, what does it say about comparing ourselves?
5. _____ and _____ are what takes place when we compare ourselves with others.
6. _____ and _____ goes back to the Garden of Eden.
7. What did Robert Morris say about in-gratitude?
8. What does Colossians 3:5 say comparison is?
9. What do we do that could be stopping God from blessing us?
10. Who should be 1st to congratulate someone that has been blessed with something or accomplished something?
11. In Romans 1:21-25:
 - a. They did not _____ God.
 - b. They weren't _____
 - c. They became _____
 - d. God gave them up to _____
12. When you stop focusing on God your focusing on _____.
13. What does magnify mean?
14. We should have an _____ of Grace.
15. What are we to set our minds on in Colossians 3:2?
16. What does Romans 12:6 say?
17. In 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, what are we to work with?