**Lesson 2**

**Who or What Will be my Authority for Answers?**

**DEFINITION:** Moral injury happens when actions (ours or others) have violated our conscience and thereby impacting our emotions and our mind and ultimately influencing our decisions.

* + We were created by God with a moral conscience (Rom. 2:14-15 {NT pg. 218}).

1. We must recognize moral injury as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ problem to remedy.
   1. Whatever physical injury a person has, then a physical remedy must be sought.
   2. Whatever spiritual injury a person has, then a spiritual remedy must be sought.
   3. It is true that the spiritual part of a person can affect the physical part; likewise the physical part of a person can affect the spiritual.
2. There was a perfect start as God created all things. No wrongs, no war, no killings, no troubles, no death, no hurt, no anger, no bitterness, no depression/discouragement, nightmares, etc. (Gen. 1:31{OT pg. 2})
3. Then something happened that has caused all the bad, war, death, hurt, guilt, anger, bitterness, etc. – Eve and then Adam \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. Gen. 2:16-17{OT pg. 3}; Gen. 3{OT pg. 3-4} gives the record of this event.
   2. In this you will find the command and then the free-will disobedience.
   3. You will find the guilt that disobedience caused.
   4. You will find the consequences that disobedience caused.
4. Here would be a good place to define sin and its scope of impact because moral injury happens as the result of \_\_\_\_\_\_ – either your sin or the sin of someone else!

***“A right concept of sin is therefore imperative for if man errs here, he errs everywhere. If he does not have scriptural views of sin’s nature, he will not have scriptural views of sin’s efficacious remedy. Man’s estimation of sin will differ considerably. But to accept the Bible’s verdict on sin is to accept the Bible’s provision of salvation from sin by the Saviour.***

* ***We cannot rightly understand salvation unless we understand sin.***
* ***We will never learn to walk in holiness until we learn abhorrence of sin.***

**(Herbert Lockyer)**

1. Sin defined:
2. *“Parabasis”* = To overstep a forbidden line. (As illustrated by the 1st sin = disobeying a command of God.)
3. Any lack of conformity to the character of God whether in act or state. It is a hopeless incurable ‘disease’ of the soul. Characteristic of the old nature, the flesh, and finds daily expression.
4. I John 3:4{NT pg. 337} – sin is the transgression of the Law.
5. Sin is a state – the fallen state of man without righteousness.
6. Sin is a nature – An inherited force that seeks to control us or place us in bondage as its slave. Sin does not equal freedom (Romans 6:17-18{NT pg. 223}).
7. Sin is an act. One act (James 2:10{NT pg. 323}) of sin always leads to more or greater sin. (Anger begets murder, murder begets lying, lust & covet begets adultery, etc.)
8. Sin emboldens pride to seek justification for itself.
9. The scope of sin’s impact:
10. No one has escaped the curse of sin (Rom. 3:10-23{NT pg. 220}; 5:12{NT pg. 222}); not even the earth and all that is in it. (Cp. Romans 8:22{NT pg. 225})
11. Brought death (Gen. 2:17{OT pg. 3}); and brings death (James 1:13-15{NT pg. 322}) ***[Sin brought immediate spiritual death (Eph. 2:1{NT pg. 274}) as well as eventual physical death]***
12. Sin alienated us from God; for one sin:
    * + 1. God condemned 1/3 of the angelic host to a future home in Hell.
        2. God placed the curse upon man and the earth. (Gen. 3{OT pg. 3-4})
        3. Was ultimately responsible for all the evil which now exists in the world.
13. Caused man’s understanding to be darkened (Eph. 4:18{NT pg. 277}; I Cor. 2:14{NT pg. 238}).
14. Caused man’s heart to be deceitful (Jer. 17:9-10{OT pg. 972}).
15. Defiled the mind and conscience (Gen. 6:5{OT pg. 7}; Tit. 1:15{NT pg. 304}).
16. Defiled the flesh and spirit (II Cor. 7:1{NT pg. 260}).
17. Defiled the will (Rom. 7:18{NT pg. 224}).
18. Sin cannot bring satisfaction, only temporary gratification.
19. Sin can cause consequences that even redemption and forgiveness cannot cancel or remove.
20. Sin destroys individuals, marriages, families, relationship, churches, communities, countries, etc.
21. Sin condemns us (John 3:18{NT pg. 134}).
22. Sin cannot be hidden from God (Num. 32:23{OT pg. 240}; Prov. 28:13{OT pg. 858}).

***As you can see, sin impacts every part of our being – our body, mind, emotions, conscience, and our will. These are the very faculties that we use to identify our problems and seek the solutions. Sin deceives us about our problems, lies about the solutions, and then makes promises that are not real. Hence, all our problems are rooted in the spiritual problem of sin.***

1. God’s remedy for the sin problem that is the root of our spiritual problems.
2. John 1:29{NT pg. 131}; 3:16{NT pg. 134}; 5:8{NT pg. 137} – the redemptive work of Christ pays the penalty of sin for every person who will repent of their sin and put their faith in Christ. (I John 3:5{NT pg. 337})
3. Eph. 1:7{NT pg. 273} – He provides the forgiveness of sins. (guilt, but will deal more with later)
4. He then provides real Biblical solutions that will remedy the issues of our life in the same greatness as He has provided salvation and eternal life. We will study those solutions in the coming lessons.
5. Who or what will be the authority for the remedy of a spiritual injury?

**Truth: “Everything in my life is either “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” my control or it is “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_” my control. Lord, please give me the wisdom and discernment to know the difference.”**

**Webster defines authority: The power to give orders or make decisions; the power or right to direct or control someone or something.**

* **There are basically two levels of authority:**
  + **Primary authority: Has the right to make the laws, enforce the laws and/or delegate the enforcement of the laws.**
  + **Secondary authority:** **Has the right to apply and enforce the laws ordered by the primary authority.**
* **Illustrate the value of authority having a chain of command by the military chain of command:**
  + **What happens to a subordinate who changes or disobeys the commands of his superior?**
  + **What could happen to those affected by the subordinate’s failure?**

**Agreement?/! I think we would all agree that life and society needs to be governed by authority; that there is a need for descending levels of authority and enforcement; and then there should be consequences for following or rejecting authority.**

* **Three important questions about authority:**
  + **Why do we have problems with authority?**
  + **What is God’s order for authority?**
  + **How can our life be greatly changed and improved by accepting and honoring God’s order of authority?**
  1. What is God’s order of authority?
  2. The most superior level of authority is God by the fact that He is God and by the fact that He is our creator. (Col. 1:16-17{NT pg. 285}; Ps. 75:7{OT pg. 784})
  3. God has ordained at least five levels of authorities subordinate to Him:
     1. Personal – (Gen. 2:17{OT pg. 3}; e.g. I Cor. 9:17{NT pg. 244}; Phil. 4:8-9{NT pg. 283-284}).
     2. Marital – (Gen. 3:16{OT pg. 4}; Eph. 5:21-22{NT pg. 278}).
     3. Parental – (Gen. 1:27-28{OT pg. 2}; Deut. 6{OT pg. 258-259}; Eph. 6:1-2{NT pg. 278}).
     4. Pastoral – (Hebr. 13:7{NT pg. 320}, 17{NT pg. 321}).
     5. Civil – (Gen. 9:5-6{OT pg. 10}; Rom. 13:1-7{NT pg. 231}; I Pet. 2:13-14{NT pg. 328}).
  4. Four very important truths about God’s delegated levels of authority:

1. In the Bible we see God’s delegated authorities as God designed and intended.
2. In life and reality we see God’s delegated levels of authorities as sin has defiled them.
3. The primary purpose for all levels of God’s delegated authority to humans is for the purpose of applying and enforcing God’s laws and will for humanity.
4. When we honor God’s order of authority, we can eliminate the negative consequences in our lives (in our societies) that result from disobedience to God’s laws and will.

**Question: How would a nation be impacted if its leadership accepted the truth that their authority was delegated by God for the purpose of applying and enforcing God’s laws? (See Rom. 13:1-7{NT pg. 231})**

**Question: How would your childhood, family, and parents be impacted if your parents would have fully accepted the truth that their authority as parents was delegated by God for the purpose of applying and enforcing God’s laws? (Duet. 6{OT pg. 258-259}; Prov. 22:6{OT pg. 851})**

**Question: How would your life be impacted if you accepted the truth that your delegated authority over your life is for the purpose of applying and enforcing God’s laws and will?**

* 1. How can our life be greatly changed and improved by accepting and honoring God’s order of authority?
     1. You will recognize rebellion against authority as a sin against God; confess it and then turn from it (I John 1:9{NT pg. 335}).
     2. You will recognize that your life is not yours to govern as you please and will not be in personal conflict with God.
     3. You will eliminate many of the consequences that are associated with sinful behavior. (Rom. 6:17, 20{NT pg. 223}; James 1:15{NT pg. 322})

**Question: What are some of the consequences associated with sinful behavior?**

* + 1. You will understand what is yours to control in life and what is not yours to control in life.
    2. Many issues of depression (and bad choices) are related to one’s inability to control that which is not yours to control 🡪 it is out of your authority level.
    3. Many issues of depression (and bad choices) are related to one’s failure to rightfully control that which is yours to control 🡪 it is within your level of authority.

1. Concluding thoughts:
   1. Moral injury is a spiritual issue that happens as the result of sin – either my sin or the sin of another.
   2. Since moral injury is a spiritual problem then it necessitates a spiritual remedy.
   3. Since moral injury is a result of the sin problem, then we must turn to God and His Word for the truth about moral injury and His remedy.
   4. We must also accept God’s order of authority regarding moral injury and His remedy.