



# INSTRUMENTS IN THE REDEEMER'S HANDS

## Lesson 12 – Do II: Applying Change to Everyday Life

### Concepts and Objectives

- Concept: Human beings always live out of some sense of identity. It is vital for the believer to understand his identity in Christ.
- Personalized: I must always ask myself, “Do I view my life and myself from the vantage point of who I am in Christ?”
- Related to others: Do I seek to provide encouragement and accountability to those who are following God’s call to change?

### Lesson Content

This lesson teaches that encouragement and accountability are very important parts of the truth application process.

Four things are essential:

1. Establishing your personal ministry agenda.
2. Clarifying responsibility.
3. Instilling identity in Christ.
4. Providing accountability.

### 3. Instilling Identity in Christ (2 Peter 1:2-9)

- Peter proposes that there will be people who know the Lord, but whose lives are ineffective and unproductive (v. 8).
- Peter says that these people do not produce fruit because they are missing essential character qualities (v. 5-8).
- Peter says these people are missing character qualities that result in good fruit because they have forgotten who they are (v. 9).
- Peter reminds us of one significant aspect of our identity: that in Christ we have been given “everything we need for life and godliness” (v. 3).
- Peter tells us the purpose of this great provision: that we would become participants in God’s divine nature (v.4).

- Peter tells us what will happen when we start living out our identity in Christ: it will change the way we live (v. 5-8).

#### 4. Providing Accountability

As we help restore a person to where God wants him to be, we should carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

We should encourage one another daily (Hebrews 3:13).

Five things accountability is *not*:

- It is not about being a private detective.
- It is not about trying to do the work of the Holy Spirit.
- It is not about being someone's conscience.
- It is not about forcing someone to obey.
- It is not about chasing someone who is running or looking for someone who is hiding.

Accountability is about providing...

1. loving structure,
2. guidance,
3. assistance,
4. encouragement, and
5. warning

...to a person who is fully committed to the change God is working in his life.

Three questions to ask as you seek to provide ongoing accountability:

1. What kinds of ongoing help will this person need?
2. How often will I need to be in contact with him for change to continue?
3. Are there other resources in the Body of Christ that would be helpful during this period of change? How can I connect this person to resources?

# The Big Question: Do you help others bear the burden of change by providing biblical accountability and affirming their identity in Christ?

## CPR

### Concepts

1. Human beings always live out some sense of identity.
2. Every believer needs to understand his union with Christ.
3. In times of change, each of us needs loving accountability.

### Personalized

1. Do I look at myself and my life from the perspective of who I am in Christ?
2. Does a daily recognition of my identity in Christ shape the way I think, speak, and act?
3. Do I humbly seek and receive accountability as God calls me to change?

### Related to Others

1. Do I look for opportunities to remind others of their identity in Christ?
2. Do I look for where and how I can help others bear the load of change?
3. Am I willing to provide loving accountability to others as they apply new insights and commitments to their daily lives?

### Make It Real

1. What kind of accountability do you need to supply so that change and growth will continue to take place?

2. Where has this person (group) tended to forget who he is in Christ? What Scripture passages could you use to encourage a clear sense of this identity?
  
3. Describe how you would use one of these passages with the person.
  
4. Look back over your work on your Personal Ministry Opportunity and list some of the specific things you have learned about being an instrument of change in God's redemptive hands.
  
5. What prayer requests do you have for the person you have sought to serve? What prayer requests do you have for yourself?