

## CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

### CHAPTER THREE: I AM THE KING OF WHATEVER

*(A dark October evening in Owosso—the clouds hang in suspended animation. The air is wet and stifling. Men arrive one at a time—all within 5 minutes of each other. They climb the stairs to the Upper-Room and assemble around the table. They exchange small-talk until Roger begins.)*

**ROGER** Hello, men . . . Jeremy, I'm glad you're back with us. I hope everything is OK?

**JEREMY** Sure. I-I-a- couldn't make it last week . . . I had some stuff to do.

**ROGER** Well you made it this week. That's good.

**KEN** I had something happen this week, guys, and I'm really upset about it.

**PHIL** What's that, Ken?

**KEN** Some of you know my son-in-law—

**ROGER** Jeff?

**KEN** Yeah. Jeff. I could strangle him!

**PHIL** Why?

**KEN** My daughter, Julie, was cleaning under their bed two days ago and found a movie. She put it in the VCR. She couldn't believe what she was seeing. The stuff was—I can hardly even talk about it I'm so upset.

**PHIL** That's okay, Ken, we're here for you, Buddy...

**KEN** It was about these perverts—having sex together!  
My son-in-law was watching this stuff!

**JEREMY** You're sure it was his?

**KEN** Of course, I'm sure! No one else would have that stuff...

**ROGER** Did Julie tell you about it, Ken?

**KEN** Yeah. She was totally devastated. She called her mom. She was beside herself. Crying—and she could hardly talk. We both went over there right away. About 30 seconds of the movie was all we needed to know what she was talking about.

**JEREMY** Maybe Jeff didn't really know what it was—Maybe he picked it up by mistake and was going to take it back.

**KEN** That's the craziest thing I ever heard!

**ROGER** Ken, Jeremy is just trying to get you to think clearly.

**PHIL** You need to settle down, Ken. We'll get through this.

**KEN** It was not some mistake. The title of the thing of the thing was...I can't even say those words! I'm not afraid to tell you it's all I can do to keep from strangling him. And now, Julie's pregnant again. Gonna have another baby. And that—that *pervert*—is the father.

**JOHN** It's just a movie—

**KEN** It isn't just a movie! You guys don't get it! This is my daughter we're talking about. And that pervert is not fit to be a husband . . . .

I can't believe you guys . . . I, I, I can't stand this—

**ROGER** Ken, please sit down. Let's talk.

**KEN** I told you, there's nothing more to say—not if you're going to make all kinds of excuses for the jerk. And I thought you guys were my friends.

**PHIL** We are—

**KEN** Some friends . . . I'm out of here.

**ROGER** Ken, Ken, come back!

**PHIL** . . . Wow. . . That went well.

**ROGER** Oh, Ken. Ken.

**GEORGE** What can we do Roger?

**ROGER** I-I-I guess we need to pray for him—

**JOHN** —that he doesn't do anything stupid—

**GEORGE** Maybe I should go after him. See if I can settle him down some.

**ROGER** OK. OK . George, why don't you.

*(There is a dark shadow over the men's group as they sit for a while in silence. Roger eventually bows his head and begins praying fervently for Ken and his family. Several others lead out in prayer also.)*

**ROGER** Men. I had planned to go over some things from last Sunday's sermon. It was on the subject of repentance and I thought it would be helpful—but I don't know for sure—

- PHIL** I think you should go ahead with it. Maybe now more than ever.
- ROGER** Well, OK. Hopefully George can get a hold of him and rein him in.
- ROGER** We were studying II Corinthians 7:10, 11. Paul is talking about that word “repentance.” It’s a very important term in the Bible. It’s the basis for our salvation and it’s the basis for our victory over sin. Let’s read Paul’s words again. John? How would you like to read it for us?
- JOHN** Sure. Let me find and read it . . .  
*“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.”*
- ROGER** So, what is going on in this passage? Do you remember?
- PHIL** I took notes, so let me see... *“Paul was contrasting two kinds of repentance . . . There is a repentance that leads to salvation—a good repentance; and one that leads to death; a bad repentance . . . The repentance that leads to salvation bears good fruit and the repentance that leads to death bears rotten fruit.”*
- ROGER** So, what does that really mean in our daily lives?
- JEREMY** Rotten fruit is when a person doesn’t acknowledge his sin, doesn’t admit what he’s doing is wrong.
- PHIL** I don’t think it’s really talking about the consequences of sin but about how a person’s heart reacts to the sin that’s there.
- ROGER** That's right, Phil. This passage is all about the heart.

Here is a chart I put together, based on this passage, contrasting the two kinds of repentance. Let’s take a look at this together. I think this speaks very directly to the problem of Internet pornography—and a host of other integrity challenges we face in our lives.

As we get into this passage, let’s remember the main point that Paul is discussing. I would summarize it like this: “When I try to be the king of my own life, it leads to sin and death. When I admit that God is the king of my life, and submit my heart and my desires to him, it leads to life.” This is what repentance is all about and illustrates the two kinds of fruit.

For example, notice that first word on the chart: “earnestness.” It can also be translated, “diligence” or “eagerness.” It has a sense of making it your purpose in life or your business in life to avoid the sin. That’s the good fruit. But there’s some bad fruit too. And this is what I’m especially concerned about. What’s the bad fruit on the chart?

## The Fruit of Repentance

II Corinthians 7	Good Fruit	Rotten Fruit
<p>“Earnestness” (Gk. Spoude) Also: diligence, eagerness</p>	<p>Responding to my sorrow for sin by making diligent effort to avoid it.</p>	<p>Responding to my sorrow for sin by replacing it with other things.</p>
<p>“Eager to Clear” (Gk. Apologia) Also: defense, Reason, evidence.</p>	<p>Giving evidence through my actions of a change of life</p>	<p>Attempting to defend myself through the words that I speak</p>
<p>“Indignation” (Gk. Aganaktesis) Also: Displeasure, Affliction.</p>	<p>Hating the sin</p>	<p>Hating the sinner</p>
<p>“Alarm” (Gk. Phobos) Also: fear, terror</p>	<p>Fearing that I might offend God’s holiness</p>	<p>Fearing that I will experience the consequences of my actions</p>
<p>“Longing” (Gk. Epipothesis) Also: vehement desire, craving</p>	<p>Gratefulness for God’s plan in my life</p>	<p>Discontent with God’s plan for my life</p>
<p>“Zeal” (Gk. Zelos) Also: hot or fervent passion</p>	<p>Passionate crusade against the sin in my life and turning toward God for my deliverance.</p>	<p>Passionate crusade against sin (especially in others) relying on my own self-effort for deliverance</p>
<p>“Ready to see justice done” (Gk. Ekdikesis) Also: indignation, vindication</p>	<p>Willingness to suffer the consequences of sin desiring God’s holiness above all.</p>	<p>Wanting to avoid the consequences for my actions, blaming others for the sin/sorrow in my life</p>

**JEREMY** Umm, the bad fruit is “Responding to my sorrow for sin by replacing it with other things.” But isn’t that a good thing?

**ROGER** What do you mean?

**JEREMY** I mean, isn’t it OK to try to replace bad things with good things? I used to be addicted to cigarettes and we were told that if we chew gum when we felt the need to smoke, it would help us. So we were replacing a bad habit with a good one.

**ROGER** That’s not a bad thing, Jeremy. But that’s not what Paul wants us to see. If we focus too much on the outward behavior we will miss the issues of the heart. And what Paul wants us to see through this passage is that the condition of our heart is the most important in genuine repentance.

**PHIL** I used to smoke two packs a day. And it wasn’t enough for me just to quit smoking. I had to come to the point of realizing that it was destructive to my body—the body God made for me. Replacing smoking with chewing gum was a tool to help me but it wasn’t my primary motivation.

**ROGER** What about the second fruit? Paul says that the fruit of repentance is being “eager to clear.” What’s the good fruit?

**JEREMY** You have here, “Giving evidence through my actions of a change of life.” And the rotten fruit is, “Attempting to defend myself through the words I speak.”

**ROGER** So, what does this mean? John?

**JOHN** I’m not really sure . . .

**ROGER** Phil?

**PHIL** I guess it means “actions speak louder than words.” It’s not enough just to say, “I’m a Christian.” The proof is in the pudding.

**ROGER** That’s a good way of putting it. What about the rotten fruit? What is the evidence that this is not godly repentance?

**PHIL** Remember that youth pastor story I told you? He went to church every Sunday. He taught the youth group. If someone would have asked him if immorality was wrong he could have recited the Bible verses to prove it. He was leading a double life. He could tell you what was right, but he wasn’t doing it.

**ROGER** Exactly. How about the third fruit?

**JEREMY** “Indignation.”

**ROGER** When the apostle Paul used that word, he meant “to be greatly displeased or afflicted about something.” What does that mean when talking about sin? John?

**JOHN** I’m not really sure. I guess it means that I’m angry with myself because I’m sinning.

**ROGER** Not exactly. In fact, that’s the bad fruit or rotten fruit of wrong repentance. Look at the chart

again. The good fruit is that “I hate the sin,” the bad fruit is that “I hate the sinner.” What’s the difference?

**JEREMY** The difference is that when I hate the “sinner,” I’m mad at myself because of what I did. But I should really be mad at the sin itself. I should reject the sin but I tend to reject myself.

When my twelve-year-old son does something wrong, I correct him. I tell him he did something wrong. But I don’t reject him because of it—kind of like God’s love for me. God doesn’t reject me just because I do something wrong.

**ROGER** Yes. And while that’s true, Jeremy, we have to be careful we don’t use that as an excuse to keep on sinning. It’s true that God doesn’t reject us because of our sin. But repentance doesn’t stop here. Paul warns in Romans 6:1 that we should never continue sinning just because God’s forgiveness and grace is there for us. Let’s keep reading. What’s the next one?

**JEREMY** “Alarm.”

**PHIL** When a fire alarm goes off, it gets everybody’s attention. Everybody stops what he’s doing. That’s exactly what happened when Ken’s daughter found that x-rated movie under the bed!

**ROGER** There are two general categories of fear or alarm in the Bible. There’s the fear of the Lord and there’s the fear of man. Paul says that the good fruit of repentance is a proper fear and reverence for God. The bad fruit is being afraid of what others might think about us or do to us if they knew what we were involved in.

The next one, Jeremy?

**JEREMY** “Longing.” Good fruit means that we have gratitude for God’s plan in our lives; bad fruit means we are discontent.

**ROGER** The good fruit of repentance means that we “long” or “yearn” just to be close to God. We trust Him, even though we may not like our circumstances. The bad fruit means that we’re discontent. We think it’s unfair that God would put us through this. The Bible uses the word “delight” to describe this. The word means “*what brings a smile to our face;*” or “*what brings light to our eyes.*” Psalm 37 says that you should “*delight yourself in the Lord.*” So what makes you guys smile? What brings light to your eyes?

**PHIL** I’d like to see that BMW sitting in my garage when I get home! That would make me smile.

**ROGER** Unfortunately, that’s often what it takes to make us smile. But what should really make us smile, Phil?

**PHIL** Just knowing that my greatest problem in life has been solved—

**ROGER** And that is?

**PHIL** The sin that separates me from God. That’s my greatest problem. And the Bible says that God has solved it. That’s the “gospel,” the whole message of the Bible. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price that was on my head! “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God!*”

**ROGER** That's right. Romans 3:23. That's the gospel. And don't forget, He didn't just die on the cross. He's not in the grave anymore. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

What about the sixth fruit of repentance, Jeremy?

**JEREMY** "Zeal."

**ROGER** Notice this, guys. The fifth one, "longing" has a passive component to it. It's something we're waiting for. Zeal is more active. It refers to something boiling away inside. The good fruit?

**JEREMY** Crusading against the sin in my life; looking to God for deliverance—

**ROGER** If we are truly repentant, it will show up in us by our hot, boiling, fervent desire *to deal with this sin*—and we will realize that God's the only one who can make that happen. The rotten fruit?

**JEREMY** Passionate crusade against sin (especially in others) relying on my own self-effort for deliverance.

**ROGER** Do you see the difference here?

**JEREMY** I think so. Back when I smoked, I knew I was hurting my body. It's God's temple. I knew I had to give it up. And I did. And I haven't taken a puff since. I tell the guys at work, "Don't keep putting that stuff in your body!"

**PHIL** Well guys, forgive my saying so, but that sounds more like the bad fruit of repentance rather than the good fruit. We are supposed to crusade against sin. But we know that God is the only one who can help us. When you tell the guys at work not to put that stuff in their bodies, it sounds like you're relying on self-effort.

**ROGER** In our crusades against sin we have to be so careful of what the Bible calls "self-righteousness." Self-righteousness means that I'm too quick to take credit for the good things I've done in my life, and I forget that it was God who made me able to do them.

Jeremy it was good that you quit smoking. But make sure you don't give the impression that you did it yourself because you are such a strong person.

**JEREMY** I guess I see that—we have to be careful not to be judgmental. And a lot of the guys at work aren't Christian, so I don't want to sound self-righteous.

**ROGER** Sounds like you guys get the gist of that one. How about the last fruit? Jeremy?

**JEREMY** "Ready to see justice done."

**PHIL** I'm not sure I follow that one.

**ROGER** Let's think of it in terms of "consequences for actions." The good fruit means I not only take responsibility for my own sinful actions but that I am willing to accept the consequences. So, my "readiness to see justice done" means I am not going to shift responsibility or blame to someone else.

The bad fruit of ungodly repentance means that when I think about my sin, I look for other people

to blame, or I blame it on my circumstances. Wherever I look, it's not my fault.

**ROGER** Instead of taking responsibility ourselves—

**JEREMY** We blame others.

**ROGER** Exactly. This reminds me of something the person I used to be . . . George—Ken!

**GEORGE** Hi Roger. We're back.

**ROGER** I'm so glad. Ken. I'm so sorry we let you down. Will you please forgive us?

**PHIL** I guess we were getting the cart before the horse—a bit too quick to preach at you.

**GEORGE** Ken?

**KEN** You guys are my friends. I'm sorry for running out on you. I was just so upset—

**ROGER** We know. You don't have to apologize—

**KEN** Yes. Yes I do. It was very immature of me. I guess I have some pretty bad attitudes right now.

**ROGER** You know, Ken, while you were gone we were talking about repentance. I think all of us need to examine our hearts right now. One of the themes that come through in Scripture is that repentance always begins with a humble and honest evaluation of the sin in our own hearts. It means that, in Jesus' words in Matthew 7:1, we don't pull out the speck of dust (the little sin) in our neighbor's eye until we've first pulled out the log (the big sin) in our own.

I think we should have spent some time pulling splinters out of our eyeballs before we started telling you what to do.

**KEN** Yeah. Well, I always have been a hot-head. George, thanks for coming after me.

**GEORGE** That's what friends are for.

**KEN** Sometimes I get so angry. It just comes at me like a freight train barreling down the tracks. And I don't feel like I can do anything about it.

**ROGER** You're really hurt and angry with your son-in-law. He has hurt your daughter. We would all be angry in your situation.

**KEN** Oh, I know. But, guys, when I get angry—it's—it's sometimes scary—like I have lost control.

**ROGER** Anger is a real problem for some of us.

**KEN** Oh, it's not just a problem, Roger. It's a sin. I know it. I just don't feel like I can help myself.

**ROGER** Have you struggled with Jeff over other things also?

**KEN** Yeah, I suppose I have. We never thought he was good enough for our Julie. And this just proves

it! He's said things to me that have made my blood boil. One time we got into such a shouting match I threw him out of the house and told him I never wanted to see him again!

**ROGER** Have you ever tried to forgive him?

**KEN** Oh, Roger. That's what's so hard! I mean, I can't just let him off the hook.

**ROGER** Of course not. No one here would say Jeff should get off the hook. Jeff was wrong. His actions were wrong. There must be consequences. But, Ken, what's inside your own heart?

**KEN** It's a pretty ugly place right now.

**ROGER** What about Julie? What has she been feeling? Men, give me some words to express how Julie probably feels right now?

**JEREMY** How 'bout violated?

**GEORGE** Betrayed. Suspicious.

**JOHN** Probably angry.

**PHIL** Alone. Insecure.

**ROGER** Right. Let me add another word. "Trapped."

Ken, would you agree that Julie feels all these things?

**KEN** And more.

**ROGER** How about you? You've admitted that you have a real problem with anger toward Jeff? Do you feel trapped also?

**KEN** Yes . . .

**ROGER** Ken, I'm going to write a word on the board here that I don't know if you've seen before. The word is "JUBILEE." Does anyone know what that means?

**GEORGE** When I was a boy scout...

**PHIL** —Wow, you were a boy once?

**GEORGE** Very funny—when I was a boy scout we went to a scout jubilee one year. It was a big celebration where troops from all over the country came together for a week of fun.

**ROGER** Yes. And they got that idea of "jubilee" from someplace else. Does anyone know?

**JEREMY** I don't know.

**ROGER** Well, it goes way back, thousands of years to a practice in Bible times.

In ancient Israel, the Year of Jubilee was a time when slaves were set free from their slavery, when debtors were released from their debts. Imagine how a slave would feel when the Year of Jubilee came around and he was finally set free from his captivity.

I'll talk more about it in a few weeks. But I wanted to introduce the concept to you today. What Julie really needs—and what Jeff needs—is to experience a “Jubilee” right now; she needs to experience freedom from the feelings and the habits that are trapping them. And Ken, I say this with all love, but you need to experience freedom as well. You're really hurt; you're angry; you're upset. You want revenge. I understand that. But those feelings, if they continue, will enslave you to bitterness. Ken, you also need Jubilee. And then, you'll be ready to help Jeff and Julie.

This relates to what we were talking about last week. Jeremy, you weren't here last week when we talked about the numbers. 70% of guys—even Christian guys—have struggled with Internet pornography. Obviously, Jeff has struggled with it. And it has had a severe impact on him and his wife, as well as Ken, here.

It's right here in our own group, guys. The effects of sin are not always obvious. Jeff is part of the statistics, but we all are. Last time I went around the group and asked each of you if you were struggling with pornography. No one said anything. But, I've got an idea. You guys are reluctant to talk about it openly. And I understand that. But we need to make sure we are free ourselves. We too need a jubilee. So let's do something right here, right now.

Let's all stand up and get in a circle. Close your eyes.

Now, there are six of us here.

What I'd like you to do is close your eyes and take the hands of the guys next to you. That's right, make a circle. Now keep your eyes closed.

If that 70% is accurate, it means that among us guys, four of us have struggled with Internet pornography in the last month. In other words, between you and the two guys you are holding hands with, two of you have this struggle. I want to expand this beyond Internet pornography, however, *to any* kind of sexual struggle. I don't know if Jeff has a problem with the Internet but we know he has a struggle with lust . . . And which one of us doesn't?

Think about it! Be honest . . .

If you have struggled with Internet pornography in the last month, or have had some major battles with sexual sin, would you have enough guts to squeeze the hand of the guys you're standing next to? Do it . . . if you have had a struggle like that, squeeze both of your hands.

Now, I don't know if some of you squeezed a hand or not. But I do know this. If you didn't squeeze any hands there can only be two reasons: either you've overcome your struggle or you don't have enough courage to admit it. It's that simple.

I also know this, if you don't have a problem, statistically speaking, the guys on either side of you do. And if they didn't squeeze any hands it's because they're living a lie.

Think about that, men! Jeremy? John? George? Phil? Ken? Who is on the throne of your life right now? Who is the king? Who is calling the shots? Is it you? Or is it God? What kind of fruit are

you bearing in your life right now? I pray that we are all bearing the “good fruit of repentance.” And if we are, it will show itself in the seven qualities we talked about tonight . . .

**ROGER**

I want you guys to know you can talk to me anytime about this stuff. Maybe you’re not ready to admit things now. But if you get home and realize you’re living a lie, don’t put it off. You need a Jubilee! Call me. You know my heart. I’m not going to tell anyone else what you’ve done. I promise that I will only try to help you and give you the tools you need to battle the sin. It will be confidential. But don’t wait. You’re not only hurting yourself. You’re also hurting each other.

*(As the group dispersed, Phil, Ken and Roger huddled to weep together, exchange some hugs, and pray for Jeff. Ken went home with much to think about—not only his son-in-law, but also himself.)*

## **STUDY GUIDE: Chapter Three**

There are a variety of ways you can use the lesson material in Celebrate the Jubilee—by individuals, by accountability partners, families or groups. You have permission to duplicate or distribute the materials freely for non-commercial use. Here are some suggestions for ways to get the most out of Chapter Three. Feel free to pick and choose from among them. If you have ideas to improve this study, we'd be happy to hear from you.

### **FOR ONE**

- Read through the lesson in the chapter.
- What are the two kinds of fruit of repentance described in the lesson? In a Bible, read the passage in II Corinthians 7:10, 11 again with the chart in front of you. Do you understand how this section of scripture contrasts the two kinds of fruit of repentance?
- Think about ways these two kinds of fruit have been grown in your life.
- Have you ever reacted to someone else's sin like Ken did? If so, how could or should you have handled it?
- Roger introduced the word “jubilee” to the group. Do some research on this word as used in the Bible. Do you agree that everyone in the story needed to experience some kind of jubilee? What about yourself?

### **FOR GROUPS**

- Distribute copies of the lesson or ask the others in the group to download it for themselves and read it prior to coming together.
- If you have at least three people in your group, have each person read one of the parts out loud in the group. Some may need to read more than one part. If you want, you can even act it out (but you don't have to).
- Print out copies of the Two Fruits of Repentance chart from the lesson and distribute them to each one in the group. After reading II Corinthians 7:10, 11 discuss the chart together and ask for personal examples of each type of fruit.
- Ask the group to consider how they would deal with the situation that presented itself with Ken if it happened here. How might they handle it differently?
- Talk about the word “jubilee.” Assign someone to do some research about the Bible's teaching on jubilee and be prepared to share it with the group next time.
- Discuss whether they agree that everyone needs to experience some kind of jubilee?

### **FOR EVERYONE**

- Be sure to spend some time in prayer. Pray that God will teach you about integrity through these lessons. Ask God to open your eyes to see areas where you can improve in this area.
- If you are using the material in a group and any personal problems were shared, remind everyone about the importance of respecting the person's privacy and not sharing personal information outside the group.

Copyright © 2007, 2008 by Covenant Eyes, Incorporated.

This document may not be reproduced or printed  
in any form without written permission,  
except for non-commercial use.

Covenant Eyes, Inc.  
1525 W. King Street  
Owosso, MI 48867  
877.479.1119

[www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)

"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible<sup>®</sup>,

Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,  
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))