

## LESSON 3

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# Building Better Relationships

Most of us understand that not all is well in our society. Hatred and anger spill across the globe. Crime reports fill our newspapers and televisions. Fear, anxiety, and depression are rampant. Spousal, child, drug, and alcohol abuse are destroying millions daily.

We are living in an infected society. The infection is sin with all of its ramifications! Society no longer knows how to get along with itself. Consider this: people spend thousands of hours studying in all fields of education. Some can speak several languages, and others are virtual reservoirs of knowledge. Yet many feel inadequate and unsuccessful in building quality relationships at work and at home. People have been deceived into thinking that education and possessions are all we need to be successful. The end result is an inability to build quality human relationships.

This condition is not limited to non-Christians. Many born-again believers also struggle with building relationships. Most of us have heard of pastors or great spiritual leaders who appear to have it all together in the public but whose home life is in shambles. One of the most important keys for being a successful follower of Christ is to excel in the area of building relationships. In fact, every success and failure we experience can be traced to some relationship. We all need to constantly improve our relational skills. If we do not, we and the people around us will suffer. Following are three important relationships that will be negatively affected by our failure to understand relationships and refusal to improve our relational skills: (1) our relationship with God; (2) our relationship with family members; (3) our relationship with others.

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to warn and encourage the ancient nation of Israel. In the following

passage, notice that God desires to help His people avoid harmful emotions and unhealthy feelings. The Israelites are a picture of how wounded people often feel about themselves and others. God says,

“Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—a wife who married young, only to be rejected,” says your God. (Isaiah 54:4–6)

Shame, humiliation, disgrace, reproach, grief in spirit, and rejection cause us to hide from God, ourselves, and others. It is important to understand that God created us for relationships. Life is all about receiving God’s love and giving that love away.

## LESSON OUTLINE

Common Emotional Needs  
The Effects of Brokenness  
Strengthening Friendships  
The Marital Relationship

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. *Identify four basic emotional needs that everyone has.*
2. *Explain how brokenness affects our lives.*
3. *Describe the steps to strengthening our friendships.*
4. *List the steps to enjoying relationship with one’s mate.*

## Common Emotional Needs

### *Objective 1:*

*Identify the four basic emotional needs that everyone has.*

God does not make junk. Perhaps you have heard that statement before. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

When I first read this, I thought that there had to be a mistake. Surely God’s plans for my life could not be a good thing. However, I have discovered that His plan and purpose for my life have always been to bless and not curse me, help not hurt me, prosper and not plunder me. Psalm 139:14–17 affirms,

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!”

While God does not make junk, often people devalue themselves. After Adam and Eve sinned, they felt a great sense of fear, insecurity, and guilt. Adam confessed, “I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid” (Genesis 3:10). Then, the first couple used fig leaves to cover their shame! However, in pursuing them (Genesis 3:9), God initiated a plan to restore His creation to right relationship with Him so that He might once again bless humanity.

God designed humans to have four basic emotional needs:

1. *Unconditional love:* This is love that is expressed without expecting anything in return. It is love that gives and does not take. It is love expressed in

word, thought, and deed. It is the kind of love God has for us, and we need from others.

2. *Security*: This is feeling secure and protected—prerequisites that enable us to receive love.
3. *Praise*: Praise from others provides a sense of value and affirmation, the feeling that you are admired and needed.
4. *Purpose*: Purpose is having a reason to be alive, something that gives us hope and a future.

Note that the world offers counterfeit versions of these basic needs. For instance, the counterfeit to love is lustful passion. The counterfeit to security is possessions. The counterfeit to praise is position. The counterfeit to purpose is power.

We all long to receive the blessing that comes from a healthy relationship with God and other human beings. When a person does not receive love and acceptance or if that love and acceptance are withdrawn, the result is rejection. Just because you are a Christian does not mean that you will not be hurt by others. Rejection, if not handled correctly, is one of the deepest wounds a person can experience. It can direct the course of his or her life for years to come.

After Jacob had deceitfully taken Esau's blessing, Esau cried to his father Jacob, "Bless me—me too, my father!" (Genesis 27:34). But it was too late. Jacob had taken the blessing of the firstborn, which rightfully belonged to his older brother. Esau, in his brokenness, decided to kill his brother.

There are many today whose hearts cry out because of the pain of rejection. The book of Proverbs describes a broken or crushed heart: "A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?" (Proverbs 18:14). "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). Let us examine brokenness and its relationship to the Christian experience.

## The Effects of Brokenness

### *Objective 2:*

*Explain how brokenness affects our lives.*

All of us have struggled, are presently struggling, or will struggle with brokenness. One false assumption many Christians have is that if they are relying on God and being obedient to Him, then they should have few problems or challenges. Once that assumption is recognized as false, people often feel free to share with each other the struggles and difficulties in their lives.

I remember one person telling me, "I'm trying to be more open, but it's hard. I've just had the hardest year of my life emotionally and financially. I don't know why, but I feel that I can share with my co-workers a lot easier than my church family. I think people at church might shun me. I wonder if it's right to deliberately dump all my burdens on someone else." My guess is that many of us have felt that way at one time or another. Please know that there is life-changing fellowship in an authentic community of believers. You do not have to face brokenness alone. The Bible teaches that true Christian fellowship has the power to revolutionize lives. Masks come off; hearts become vulnerable; lives are shared, accountability is established; and tenderness flows. Christians learn to shoulder each other's burdens. The key is finding a loving church family and getting involved.

It is amazing how many Christians suffer in silence. They do not seem to think it is proper or permissible to tell anyone they are having a problem. What happens? Families that may have attended services and sat in the same church pew for years suddenly disappear because the husband and wife are struggling with marital problems. Instead of opening up and coming for counsel, prayer, and support, they left the church family. They did not feel free to confess that their lives were unraveling. They believed false assumptions that Christians should

not have problems and that, if they did, they had better not talk about it around the church.

I learned that lesson growing up in church. After services, people would sometimes ask, “So, Phil, how are things in school?” I would give the response that I thought was expected. “Fine,” I would say, “things are just great.” I did not feel I could tell them that I was struggling with doing right while all my friends were doing wrong or that I was dying spiritually. I did not say anything because I felt that a good Christian—especially a pastor’s kid—just did not admit to having those kinds of real-life difficulties.

Here is a fact—everybody deals with brokenness. Let me share four reasons why.

1. First, we have a sinful nature. Some people think that their biggest struggle is against some specific sin. They say, “If I could just conquer this sin or overcome that bad habit, then I’d be on top of my game.” The Bible teaches us that our problem is not just one bad habit or one sin but the presence of evil or a sinful nature in our lives. As human beings, our natural tendency is to sin, rebel, disobey, and shun God. This creates a great deal of pain and brokenness.
2. Second, contrary to the thinking of modern idealists, human nature is not essentially good. The apostle Paul writes, “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature” (Romans 7:18). That is a serious statement. What it means is that you and I are going to be disappointed with our behavior and attitudes at times as well as face frustration at the failings of others.
3. Third, we will not be okay by just determining to do what is right. Notice the Apostle’s words in Romans 7:15: “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.” Have you ever felt like that? Paul continues, in verse 19, “For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.” Paul freely admits we are so broken that we do not have

the power within ourselves to consistently do right just because we make the determination to do so.

4. Fourth, we are wrong in assuming that God will remove all temptations now that we are Christians. Paul writes in Romans 7:21, "So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me." Brokenness runs so deep that even when we Christians desire to please God, the temptation to do wrong still dangles before us.

Some scholars think Paul is describing his life before becoming a Christian, while others believe he is describing his life as a mature Christian. In either case, the point still is that brokenness is a normal human condition. Left to our own devices, we are desperately imperfect. We may cry like Paul, "Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24). Paul answers his own questions in the next verse, "Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (v. 25).

Although we are all broken people, the One who suffered and died for our sins reaches out and loves us. Sin is never beautiful, but to Jesus broken people are. He looks past our sin and sees our needs. Broken people are eligible to participate in an authentic biblical community.

Often, however, it is difficult to admit to brokenness because such admission makes us look weak. We fear that others will assume we are not very spiritual. The passion to protect ourselves and to keep our wounds out of sight dominates our thinking. We feel that there may be a lot to lose if we share our struggles with others. We fear losing acceptance in someone else's eyes; losing a ministry position; or losing favor, love, image, popularity, status, influence, or trust.

Even worse, some of us may think that non-Christians better understand our struggles. But sharing our struggles with non-Christians may not be the best approach because it has the potential to discourage them from the faith. God established fellowship with believers for the purpose of building community and helping one another in the faith. The devil gains victory when he keeps us afraid

to share honestly with fellow believers. Sometimes the enemy convinces us that what we are going through is too embarrassing to share and that if we come clean, we will lose friendships and respect. He tries to convince us to stand alone and tempts us with the same things again and again. Then, we feel worse when we give in to sin.

Here are some scenarios. There are many you know who carry the guilt of an abortion but are too ashamed to talk about it. There are those dealing with temper and rage. Perhaps sitting next to you in church is someone who is hooked on pornography but too embarrassed to mention it. Week after week many go home from church activities with their deepest hurts and struggles unresolved and unmentioned. Because of that, they remain locked in a continuous cycle of sin, shame, and pain.

God wants to do miracles in broken people, and He often works within a community of believers, the church, to bring about His healing. The church was God's idea, not people's idea. In authentic Christianity, we are free to admit to our brokenness. We can confess that life's challenges and our experiences have hurt us. We can reach out to Jesus without embarrassment.

A central task of a community of believers is to create a place that is safe enough for each of us to reveal our brokenness. I encourage you to look for caring people in your church and build relationships with them. If you do not have a loving church home, now would be a good time to start looking. Seek a church where God's Word is preached faithfully, where the worship of God is alive and sincere, where people love and help each other, and where there is evidence of God's power at work in the members.

## Strengthening Friendships

### *Objective 3:*

*Describe the steps to strengthening our friendships.*

God made us social creatures with a desire to build relationships with other people. He could have made us

all solitary beings, but He did not. At the core of who we are is the need to relate to others, to establish friendships and family. But in our attempts to build relationships, there are times that we have struggled. Sometimes our relationships even break down because of neglect, unresolved conflict, or simple misunderstandings. Our world is littered with broken relationships: husbands and wives, parents and children, employees and employers, friends, neighbors, and families.

The bottom line as to why relationships break down is that we live in a fallen world. We do something wrong, and others do something wrong. We sin, and others sin. We all make mistakes. We hurt others, whether intentionally or unintentionally, and get hurt. But relationships can be restored!

While steps to restoring relationships include forgiveness, honesty, sensitivity, and humility, the fundamental key to great relationships is humility. The Bible suggests that we are to clothe ourselves with humility (see 1 Peter 5:5). We are not dressed for successful relationships until we have learned humility.

The Bible reveals that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. Read carefully the following quotations from Scripture:

- “There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:16–17).
- “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).
- “Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice” (Proverbs 13:10).
- “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom” (Proverbs 11:2).
- “Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life” (Proverbs 22:4).

So what is humility? Humility does not deny talents or abilities; people who do that are practicing false humility.

Humility, from a Christian perspective, includes loving others. The two great commandments Jesus gave us are to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we spend our time loving God and our neighbors, we will not have much time left over to get puffed up.

Since humility in relationships is the key to success, we must discover how it develops and manifests itself in our relationships. Here are vital truths that will enable us to have relationships built on humility.

First, we must ask God for help to root out pride. For some of us, this may not be easy. Our whole relationship with God begins with our admission that we need His help. James writes, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

Second, we need to intentionally honor others. Romans 12:10 says, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Philippians 2:3 tells us, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."

Third, we must acknowledge our responsibility. Galatians 6:5 says, "Each one should carry his own load." We cannot build strong, healthy relationships without accepting responsibility for our thoughts, speech, attitudes, and behavior. We cannot make others do all the work in building relationships. We must swallow our pride and be quick to apologize when we have hurt others. As humility grows in our lives, we will find ourselves being quicker to admit wrong and to halt destructive damage in our relationships. If you are dealing with a broken relationship, humility will break the gridlock. If you cannot say, "I was wrong," or "I'm sorry," or "Please forgive me," you will never have long-lasting, exciting relationships.

Fourth, we need to allow others to be human. Humans make mistakes. Sometimes we hold people to a standard they cannot possibly meet. Too many times we judge others by their actions while we judge ourselves by our intentions. We must make room for people who do not

always meet our high standards. Read Paul's advice: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).

## The Marital Relationship

### *Objective 4:*

*List the steps to enjoying relationship with one's mate.*

The most fulfilling yet challenging relationship is marriage. It can bring the greatest joy or the greatest sorrow. I realize that not everybody reading this lesson is married, but if you are not, you may be some day. This teaching will be good to remember.

All marriages experience some level of conflict and pain. A marriage is a journey of hills and valleys, highs and lows. Just as children go through developmental stages from birth to adulthood, marriages go through similar developmental stages. One day, I overheard my wife Rhonda reading a prayer that went something like this: "Father, God, I pray for wisdom to understand my man, I ask for love to forgive him, and patience for his moods. But Father, do not give me strength today, because if I have strength, I may beat him to death. Amen."

Psychologists have identified five stages couples pass through as they build strong and deeply satisfying marriages (Minirth et al., under "The Passages of Marriage").

1. The first stage is "young love"—the first two years of marriage. This is the time when couples must overcome idealistic notions of marriage and begin to function as a unit.
2. The second stage encompasses years three through ten of marriage. It is a time when a more "realistic love" should take place. This stage is

also one of the most dangerous stages, and many marriages do not survive this period. I will discuss this more in a moment.

3. The third stage encompasses years eleven through twenty-five. It has been called the “comfortable love” phase. This phase is compared to oatmeal—not exciting, but comfortable, warm, and satisfying. Researchers at Denver University discovered that most long-term marriages seem to decrease in satisfaction during the first ten years and then rebound. Eventually, the satisfaction level surpasses the years of young love.
4. The fourth stage is a time of “renewing love” and covers years twenty-six through thirty-five of marriage. It is a time of accepting inevitable losses such as the empty nest and aging parents. However, it is also a time of recommitment and rediscovering each other.
5. The fifth stage is a period of “transcendental love.” This covers years thirty-six to the end of the marriage. According to those who make it this far, it truly is the best stage of marriage. It is a time of achieving the oneness that Jesus talked about when He said, “The two will become one” (Matthew 19:5).

During the second stage of developing *realistic love*, many marriages fall apart. The challenge, then, is to learn how to navigate the occasional turbulent waters of this second stage when there can be great differences, stress, and a temporary drifting apart. How can we survive the second stage of marriage?

First, we must remember that men and women were created for mutual dependency (see Genesis 2:20–23). We are similar but different. And, often it is our differences that attract us to each other. Yet, the same differences that attract can also be a source of attack. Furthermore, our differences may divide us if we are not careful. Is it not interesting that after Adam and Eve sinned, they covered the parts of their bodies that were

the most obviously different from one another? They were ashamed of their nakedness.

In the heat of conflict and differences, we may also be afraid of exposing ourselves. So, we hide behind barriers of silence, anger, accusation, activity, and so on. Like Adam after the fall, we may blame our mate for our own failings. Then, the differences that first attracted us to our mate begin to annoy and divide us.

Since it is true that marriage involves two imperfect, needy people, it is important to understand some specific differences between men and women. For example, men and women are different psychologically. Studies of unborn babies have disclosed that female babies in the womb develop the left hemisphere of the brain faster than male babies. The left hemisphere is where the verbal skills originate.

We are also different sexually. A man's sexual drive can be turned off and on very quickly. A woman's sexual drive, on the other hand, takes more time. Can you think of other big differences between men and women?

Below are five factors in building a better relationship with our mates. First, spouses must assign top priority to their relationship with each other. Ephesians 5:25 tells us, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." In Revelation 2:4-5, Jesus speaks to a local church and declares, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first." Jesus wanted His followers in that church to repent and do the things they did at first so that their love for Him could be restored. Although Jesus was not referring to marriage here, the principle may still apply to marital couples who need their love restored.

Men need to put their relationship with their spouse at the top of their priority list. One husband tells about going shopping for a blouse for his wife. He said, "I wasn't shopping for a blouse. I was hunting for a blouse! I wanted to track it, shoot it, bag it, throw it in the back

of the truck, and go home.” Men tend to be conquest-oriented. It is often the case that once the courtship phase of a relationship is over and a woman has been *conquered*, a man thinks his job is done and can become neglectful in showing that his wife is still his top priority.

To the married men who are reading this, where would your wife say she is on your priority list? Does she have to compete with your work? Does she have to fight the TV for your attention? Does she feel left out of your day and your dreams? The things you did to captivate your wife’s love in the first place are the things you need to do to keep her love. If you are failing in your relationship with your wife, let her know you are putting her back on top of your priority list. And prove it by doing the things you did at first.

Second, listen to understand, without giving unwanted advice. James 1:19 tells us, “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” Proverbs 18:13 also notes, “He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.”

A common complaint I hear in counseling women is that their husbands do not listen to them and do not understand them. Their husbands, on the other hand, are bewildered and say, “But I do listen.” What is happening here? Generally, a wife wants to talk about a problem and share how she is feeling about it. The husband, on the other hand, quickly analyzes the problem and wants to solve it. Here is useful advice for men: the husband must resist the urge to solve any of the wife’s problems unless she specifically asks him. Instead, the man should listen to his wife, validate her, and let her know that he understands how she feels. He probably does not even have to solve the problem. The wife simply wants her best friend—her husband—to understand her and know what she is going through.

Third, be your spouse’s biggest fan. Ephesians 4:29 tells us, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others

up according to their needs." If your friends only knew your spouse by what you said about him or her, what would they think? Unfortunately, many couples complain about their mates instead of compliment them. Your spouse has great attributes that need to be admired. Praising your spouse has little to do with propping up his or her weak ego. Rather, admiration is a God-given way to express and receive love and appreciation.

Conversely, negatives hurt deeply and can be deadly to a relationship. Marriage experts have concluded that constant belittling is one of the most predictable causes for divorce, for negative statements have a greater impact than positive comments. Imagine you give a speech to two hundred people. When it is over, you get 199 positive responses and one negative response. Which one are you likely to dwell on? Similarly, it will probably take your spouse many positive affirmations to recover from one of your destructive criticisms.

So recall the ways you used to compliment and encourage your spouse, and then do those things again. Find ways to express how much you value him or her. Be sensitive to the situations when your spouse needs your admiration most. When you get together with your friends, do not belittle your spouse. Instead, brag on him or her in public.

Fourth, do not assume you will be able to change your mate. Many men and women go into marriage thinking that at some point they will be able to modify the strange personality traits or odd aggravating behaviors of their mates. They are seldom, if ever, successful.

So instead of attempting to alter your husband or wife, seek to understand him or her. It is your job to love your mate; it is God's job to change him or her. Every person is unique. Become an expert on what makes your spouse excel. Success in marriage does not depend as much on finding the right person as it does on being the right person. The apostle Paul advises in Philippians 2:4, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Fifth, do not expect your mate to meet all your needs. The only person who can meet them completely is Jesus. It is unfair to place that burden on anybody else. Seek God diligently; He must be number one. If you do this and treat your mate as God intends, he or she should never feel threatened by your spiritual passion. Furthermore, the deeper your love for God, the better will be your love for your spouse.

## Conclusion

Every success and failure in our lives can be traced to a relationship. A relationship with the wrong person can destroy you. I remember hearing a conference speaker say, "When God wants to bless you, He puts a person in your life. When Satan wants to destroy you, he puts a person in your life." We must trust the Holy Spirit to give us discernment regarding all our relationships. So, continually seek to understand the basic emotional needs people have. Discover where brokenness has affected your life, and look to Christ for hope and healing. Continue to develop and strengthen all your friendships. And pay close attention to those closest to you—your spouse, children, and parents.

## Reference List

- Minirth, Frank & Mary Alice, Brian & Deborah Newman, and Robert & Susan Hemfelt. "Passages of Marriage: Five Growth Stages." *Marriage Missions*. [http://www.marriagemissions.com/marriage\\_matters/passages.php](http://www.marriagemissions.com/marriage_matters/passages.php) (accessed May 2, 2006).

**SELF-TEST**

After studying the lesson, please read each study question carefully and circle the correct response. There is only one correct response for each question.

1. *Brokenness is a great value*
  - a) *only in heaven.*
  - b) *never.*
  - c) *in our relationship with God and others.*
  
2. *After Adam and Eve sinned, they felt a great sense of*
  - a) *fear, insecurity, and guilt.*
  - b) *fear, blame, and joy.*
  - c) *worry, anxiety, and fatigue.*
  
3. *The four basic emotional needs that everyone has are*
  - a) *unconditional love, anger, praise, and purpose.*
  - b) *unconditional love, security, praise, and purpose.*
  - c) *passion, possession, position, and power.*
  
4. *What is one of the four reasons mentioned as to why people experience brokenness?*
  - a) *People need to experience pain.*
  - b) *People feel broken when abused.*
  - c) *Human nature is sinful.*
  
5. *The key to great relationships is*
  - a) *strength.*
  - b) *individuality.*
  - c) *humility.*
  
6. *What are some of the steps to develop relationships built on humility?*
  - a) *Belittle yourself as often as possible.*
  - b) *Ask God for help, allow others to be human, and accept responsibility.*
  - c) *Never look another person in the eyes.*
  
7. *Every marriage has*
  - a) *mother-in-law problems.*
  - b) *two or more people.*
  - c) *conflict and pain.*

8. *According to the lesson, factors for building a better relationship with your mate are*
  - a) *money and more money.*
  - b) *having a good paying job, a house, car, and no children.*
  - c) *assigning top priority to your relationship, good listening habits, trying not to change your mate, and letting God meet your deepest needs.*
9. *Our societies are infected because of*
  - a) *God.*
  - b) *sin.*
  - c) *politics.*
10. *According to the author, our successes and failures can be traced*
  - a) *to our relationships.*
  - b) *by our genes.*
  - c) *by the angels.*

## ANSWERS TO STUDY QUESTIONS

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Note: You can check your answers by using the answer guide. The numbers in the parentheses indicate which objective in the lesson to check.

1. *c* (3.2)
2. *a* (3.1)
3. *b* (3.1)
4. *c* (3.2)
5. *c* (3.3)
6. *b* (3.3)
7. *c* (3.4)
8. *c* (3.4)
9. *b* (3.1)
10. *a* (3.4)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THIS LESSON

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Pastor Willingham has an undergraduate degree from Christian Life School of Theology, an M.Div. and Doctorate of Ministry. Pastor Phil is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. He and his wife, Rhonda, have been married for thirty-two years and have three children.

