



# A Disciple's Heart

Growing in Love and Grace

*Session 2: Where Do We Go from Here?*



# Overall Study Objectives

- To reclaim and reinterpret Wesley's understanding of heart transformation that he called "Christian perfection" (sanctification).
- To equip you and those journeying with you to continue to grow into the likeness of God's love in Christ and to become the living expression of that love in the world.





# *A Disciple's Heart:*

## **Session 2 Objectives**

1. To understand Wesley's concept of Christian perfection as the way in which our hearts are transformed by God.
2. To feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in community with others.
3. To take next steps along the way of discipleship that lead toward Christian perfection.





# OPENING PRAYER

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

—St. Richard of Chichester (1197–1253)



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What do you think of when you hear the word  
“perfect?”

[UCLA Gymnast – Perfect 10](#)



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Is that what you think of when you hear the word  
“perfect” or “perfection?”



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# BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.





# BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

<sup>46</sup> If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. <sup>47</sup> If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. <sup>48</sup> But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.—Matthew 5:43-48 NLT



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Greek word “teleios:”

- Complete
- Whole
- Entire, mature, full-grown

How would you summarize now what Jesus means by “perfect?”

Has your definition changed?



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27 The man answered, ““You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Luke 10:27 NLT



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## Disciples in the Wesleyan tradition:

- Christian perfection is...
- Aim of Christian life
- Love of God that came in the form of Jesus
- Take up residence in every area of our lives
- SO THAT
- We become the agents of God's transforming love at work in the world



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## Another way to look at it:

- Christian perfection is...
- What happens in our lives
- When God's spirit takes control of
- Our attitudes, values, commitments, relationships, and loyalties
- SO THAT
- We are increasingly motivated, led, and directed by nothing less than the love that became flesh among us in Jesus Christ.
- It is the love of Christ purifying our motives, refining our desires, liberating our spirit, and empowering our actions





This doesn't mean we will receive a perfect "10.0" on the floor exercise...

It doesn't mean that we will never mess up...

It means that our intentions, motives, aims are to love God... and love neighbor...



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**The direction we are to go is Christian perfection.**

Are we going there?

If not, where are you going?

Why would we want to go in any other direction?

What prevents us from going in the right direction?



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## A Call to Holy Living

<sup>13</sup> So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. <sup>14</sup> So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. <sup>15</sup> But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. <sup>16</sup> For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:13-16 NLT





<sup>24</sup> Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup> All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. <sup>26</sup> So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. <sup>27</sup> I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27



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# CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

- “*Lectio Divina*” – Matthew 5:43-48.





# Disciple Assessment Tool



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	<b>Searching Ignoring Strangers</b>	<b>Exploring Exploring Acquaintances</b>	<b>Beginning Getting Started Friends</b>	<b>Growing Going Deeper Good Friends</b>	<b>Maturing Centering Intimate Friends</b>
<b><i>Connect (Worship)</i></b>	Wondering if there is more to life.	Invited by a friend to attend worship. Attend worship when possible.	Begin to worship regularly; becoming more aware of God in each day.	Attend regularly and begin to recognize daily moments of worship.	Honor and worship every day in work and play. I invite others to worship.
<b><i>Grow (God's Story)</i></b>	The life and teachings of Jesus are intriguing.	Investigating the life of Jesus on my own by reading the Bible and attending my first Bible study.	Accept the call to follow Jesus and commit to the church; seek to become like Jesus and serve others.	Regularly apply the teachings of Jesus in everyday life.	I continue to grow in my faith daily to make Jesus real in all areas of my life. I invite others to explore the life and teachings of Jesus.
<b><i>Serve (Bless Others)</i></b>	I don't know my spiritual gifts, ministry role and/or passion for ministry and don't participate in serving.	Begin to serve as I have time and as opportunities arise.	I think I know my spiritual gifts, ministry role, and/or passion for ministry, but I don't know what to do with them and I want to know more about serving.	Serve more regularly and serve in areas that match my gifts, role and passions.	I know my spiritual gifts, ministry role, and passion for ministry and I am using them to serve Christ by blessing others. I invite others to serve.
<b><i>Give (Celebrating God's Generosity)</i></b>	Don't understand the relationship between God and my finances and a need to give to the church.	Open to give as I am able and as I am motivated to give.	I believe scripture provides good principles for handling money and possessions and begin to give regularly.	Moving toward tithing of time, talent and treasures given to me by God.	I seek to handle money and possessions God's ways for God's glory. I invite others to celebrate God's generosity by giving.
<b><i>Go (Into the World With Christ's message)</i></b>	Worship for me ends when the service ends, and I don't feel a need to engage others during the week.	I am drawn to meet others, Christians and non-Christians, outside of worship in order to show Christ's love.	I am beginning to understand that all of life is worship and moving toward showing my worship by offering Christ's love and hospitality to Christians and non-Christians during the week.	Intentionally looking for ways to offer Christ to non-Christians in what I say and do.	I understand my mission is to go into the world and "make disciples..." and I do it. I invite others to go into the world with me and also recognize that their mission is to "make disciples..."



# NEXT STEPS

- How are you currently engaging in spiritual practices?
- What is one practice you could engage more fully?
- How might you work on this practice in the coming week?





# TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

What was your “take-home” message—the one thing that spoke most loudly or clearly from today’s session?



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