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Class Handout

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Conforming to Christ

Week 1: Overview of KFCA

I. Why Do We Exist?

A. To Glorify God

Isaiah 43:6-7 Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth--⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Ephesians 1:4-6 In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace

Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

God's glory is the radiant display of his attributes. To glorify God is to put his attributes on display for others to see:

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Nothing in all the universe glorifies God so much as the full salvation of his elect through Jesus Christ!!

B. Glorifying God in the Two Journeys

1. The Internal Journey of Sanctification

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2. The External Journey of Evangelism and Missions

Matthew 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Matthew 28:18-20 *... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

II. A Salvation that Comes in Stages

A. A Mysterious Healing... a Picture of Our Salvation

Mark 8:22-25 *They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*

B. Stage 1: The Process of Calling, Drawing

John 6:44 *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

C. Stage 2: The Instant of Justification

1. Repentance and faith in Christ results in justification... the instantaneous and full forgiveness of all sins, past, present, and future

Matthew 9:2 *Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."*

Luke 23:42-43 *Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*

Ephesians 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace*

2. At that moment, we are seen to be perfectly righteous in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

3. At that same moment, the person is born again, made alive spiritually, adopted into the family of God, and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit

John 3:3 Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

D. Stage 3: The Process of Sanctification

1. This is the gradual transformation of a Christian from a habitual lifestyle of sin to a habitual lifestyle of Christlikeness (holiness)

Romans 6:19 Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

2. This progressive transformation occurs by the mysterious cooperation of the Christian with the power of the Spirit within him/her
 - a. Positively... conformity to Christ and his virtues

Galatians 5:22-23 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

- b. Negatively... killing sin

Romans 8:13-14 if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

E. Stage 4a & b: The Instant(s) of Glorification

1. At death... the perfection of the soul

Hebrews 12:23 You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect...

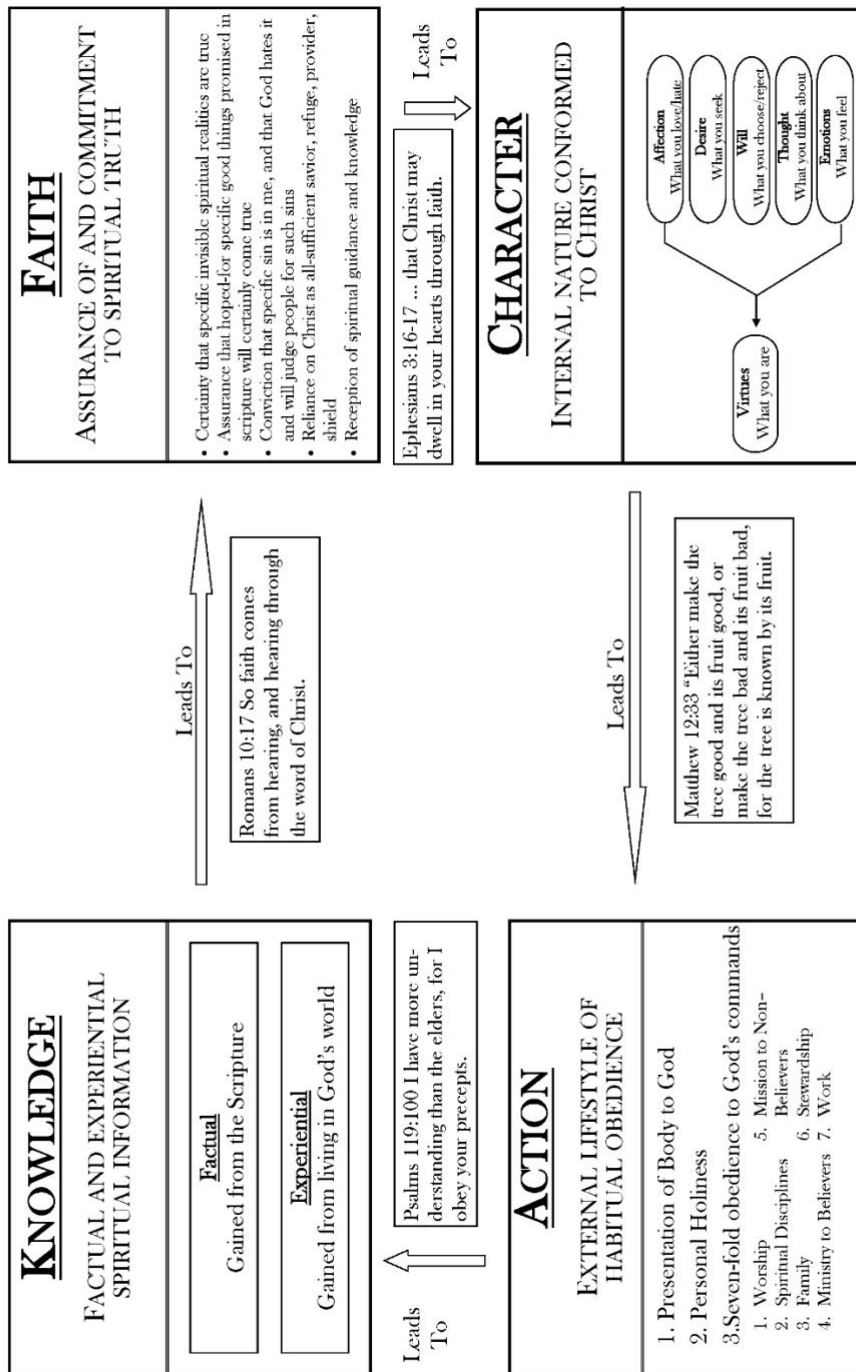
2. At the resurrection... the perfection of the body

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body

F. Our Focus in this Class: Sanctification

III. An Overview of Progressive Sanctification: K-F-C-A

A Pathway to Christian Maturity



Maturing Christians Develop:

Knowledge:

- a wide-ranging and deep knowledge of the Bible
- a wealth of rich spiritual experience

Faith:

- a strong sense of the reality of invisible, spiritual truths-past, present, and future
- a vibrant hope in a bright future based on the promises of God
- a deep and detailed conviction of personal sin
- a firm and consistent reliance on Christ
- a consistent sense of practical guidance by the Holy Spirit

Character:

- a heart that loves what Christ loves and hates what Christ hates
- an array of passionate, godly desires that direct daily life
- a will consistently submissive to the will of God, regardless of the cost
- a thought-life that is pure and excellent
- a healthy emotional life patterned after Christ's
- a consistent display of virtues appropriate to the moment

Action:

- a habit of constantly presenting the body to God in holy obedience
- a lifestyle pure from sin in sex, speech, relationship, and pleasures
- a consistent habit of personal and corporate worship
- a life of daily habit in prayer, Bible intake, and confession of sin
- a pattern of biblical faithfulness in marriage and parenting
- a habit of blessing other Christians with spiritual gift and general ministry
- a regular habit of bold witness to lost people
- a track record of faithful stewardship of money and generosity to others
- a habit of diligent labor for the glory of God