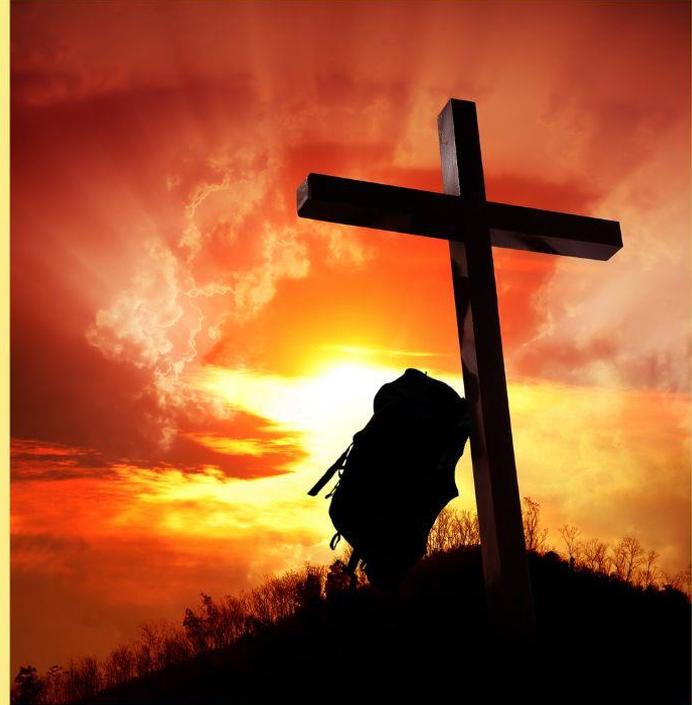


CERTAIN ETERNITY



THE LETTER OF FIRST JOHN

Moving From Victim to Victor



“1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

Victim: LOVE



Definition

Love is conditional, based on how others treat me or affirm my pain. Often confused with indulgence or emotional validation.



Quote

“If you loved me, you’d agree with me.”



Actions

Demands support without accountability, manipulates relationships, equates love with permissiveness.



Verses

2 Samuel 13:15
Proverbs 27:6

Loving Support

The background of the slide features a silhouette of two people standing on a mountain peak, holding hands next to a large cross. The scene is set against a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones, and a range of misty mountains in the distance.

Teach that true love includes truth and correction. Model Christlike love that is sacrificial, not sentimental.

Victor: LOVE



Definition

Love (agapē - ἀγάπη): selfless, covenantal commitment for the good of another, rooted in God's character.



Quote

“Love rejoices with the truth and seeks what's best for others.”



Actions

Speaks the truth in love, forgives, serves others selflessly.



Verses

1 John 4:9-11

Victim: SIN



Definition

Sin is something mostly done to me—by others or by circumstances. Rarely acknowledged as personal rebellion.



Quote

“I wouldn’t be like this if others hadn’t hurt me/I didn’t experience _____.”



Actions

Blames others, avoids responsibility, may justify sinful responses



Verses

Genesis 3:12
Proverbs 28:13

Loving Support

The image features a silhouette of two people standing on a mountain peak next to a large cross. The background is a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones, and a range of mountains in the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Encourage biblical literacy about personal responsibility for sin. Gently confront with truth and love.

Victor: SIN



Definition

Sin (hamartia - ἁμαρτία):
missing the mark,
lawlessness,
personal offense against a
holy God.



Quote

Sin (hamartia - ἁμαρτία):
missing the mark,
lawlessness,
personal offense against a
holy God.



Actions

Sin (hamartia - ἁμαρτία):
missing the mark,
lawlessness,
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Verses

Sin (hamartia - ἁμαρτία):
missing the mark,
lawlessness,
personal offense against a
holy God.

Victim: SUFFERING



Definition

Suffering is proof that God is distant or unfair. It becomes the basis of identity or justification for self-pity.



Quote

“If God really loved me, this wouldn’t have happened.”



Actions

Complains, withdraws, blames God or others, refuses comfort or counsel.



Verses

Job 3:11
Lamentations 3:19-20

Loving Support

The background of the image is a sunset over a mountain range. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a bright yellow and orange near the horizon. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a mountain peak is visible. On top of this peak, two human figures are silhouetted, standing side-by-side and holding hands. To their right is a large, simple cross symbol. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

Gently affirm God's presence in pain. Share testimonies of hope. Encourage lament as a path to worship.

Victor: SUFFERING



Definition

Suffering is a refining tool from a sovereign God who uses pain for His glory and our good (theodicy).



Quote

“God is near to the brokenhearted and is using this for His purposes.”



Actions

Clings to Christ, seeks prayer and fellowship, trusts God's character in the storm.



Verses

1 John 3:13
John 16:33
Romans 5:3-5
1 Peter 1:6-7
2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Victim: SALVATION



Definition

Rescue from pain or circumstances rather than from sin and God's wrath. Often misunderstood as entitlement to blessing.



Quote

"God should help me – I've suffered enough."



Actions

Seeks relief over repentance, trusts in feelings or experience rather than Christ alone.



Verses

John 6:26
Matthew 7:21-23

Loving Support

The background of the slide features a silhouette of two people standing on a mountain peak next to a large cross. The scene is set against a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The mountains in the background are layered and hazy, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Clarify the gospel: salvation is by grace through faith in Christ to reconcile sinners to a holy God. Emphasize repentance and faith.

Victor: SALVATION



Definition

Salvation (sōtēria - σωτηρία): deliverance from sin and judgment through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Quote

“I have been saved by grace alone through faith in Christ.”



Actions

Repents, believes the gospel, lives in grateful obedience to God.



Verses

1 John 2:1-2
Ephesians 2:8-9
Titus 3:5
Romans 10:9-10

Victim: CONFESSION



Definition

Often sees confession as optional, superficial, or unnecessary unless forced.



Quote

“I guess I’ve made mistakes, but it’s not really my fault.”



Actions

Minimizes sin, generalizes confession, often confesses others’ sins more readily.



Verses

Jeremiah 17:9
1 Samuel 15:24

Loving Support

The background of the image shows a silhouette of two people standing on a mountain peak next to a large cross. The scene is set against a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The mountains in the background are layered and hazy, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Model honest confession. Teach
the freedom and healing found
in true agreement with God's
Word.

Victor: CONFESSION



Definition

Homologeō (ὁμολογέω): to agree with God about one's sin – openly acknowledge guilt.



Quote

“Lord, I agree with Your Word – I have sinned.”



Actions

Humbly confesses sin to God and, when needed, to others.



Verses

1 John 1:9
James 5:16
Proverbs 28:13

Victim: REPENTANCE



Definition

Change is expected to come externally (others change first). Repentance is either misunderstood or delayed.



Quote

“Why should I change if nothing ever gets better?”



Actions

Stays stuck in patterns, may feel sorry but does not turn.



Verses

Hebrews 12:17
Matthew 7:26-27

Loving Support

The background of the image is a landscape of mountains at sunset. The sky is a mix of soft blues, oranges, and yellows. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a mountain peak is visible. On top of this peak, two human figures are silhouetted, standing side-by-side and holding hands. To their right is a large, simple cross symbol, also in silhouette. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Teach the fruit of repentance.
Encourage hope in Christ's
power to change hearts.

Victor: REPENTANCE



Definition

Metanoēō (μετανοέω): a change of mind that results in a change of direction and behavior.



Quote

“By God’s grace, I will turn from this sin.”



Actions

Turns away from sin and toward Christ daily, bearing fruit.



Verses

1 John 3:6
Acts 3:19
2 Corinthians 7:10
Luke 15:17-20

Victim: AUTHORITY



Definition

Views authority as a threat, something to be challenged, feared, or resented. Lacks trust in God's sovereign placement.



Quote

"People in charge always abuse their power."



Actions

Rebels, isolates, or passively resists godly counsel.



Verses

Romans 13:1-2
Jude 1:8

Loving Support

The image features a silhouette of two people standing on a mountain peak next to a large cross. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a range of mountains, with the sun low on the right side, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky transitions from a pale blue on the left to a bright yellow on the right. The mountains in the foreground are dark, while the ones in the distance are hazy and blue.

Reframe authority as God's provision. Share biblical examples of godly leadership.

Victor: AUTHORITY



Definition

Authority is God-ordained; human authorities are servants under God's ultimate kingship.



Quote

"God has placed authorities over me for my good."



Actions

Submits joyfully to godly leadership, exercises discernment.



Verses

1 John 4:6
Hebrews 13:17
Ephesians 6:1
Romans 13:1-4

Victim: SUBMISSION



Definition

Submission is seen as weakness, loss of control, or enabling abuse.



Quote

“If I submit, I’ll just get hurt again.”



Actions

Resists biblical teaching, seeks autonomy over trust.



Verses

Ephesians 5:21
1 Peter 2:13-19

Loving Support

The image features a silhouette of two people standing on a mountain peak next to a large cross. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a range of mountains, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a bright yellow near the sun. The mountains in the foreground are dark, while the ones in the distance are hazy and blue.

Present biblical submission as
rooted in Christ's example;
clarify healthy vs. abusive
dynamics.

Victor: SUBMISSION



Definition

Submission is trusting God's goodness through rightful authority and mutual yielding under Christ.



Quote

"I entrust myself to God by submitting as Christ did."



Actions

Yields in love, practices humility, obeys God above all.



Verses

1 John 3:16
1 Peter 2:21-23
Philippians 2:5-8
James 4:7

Victim: ACCOUNTABILITY



Definition

Church discipline is interpreted as rejection, control, or spiritual abuse.



Quote

“They’re just trying to shame me.”



Actions

Rejects correction, leaves the church, rallies others to affirm victim status.



Verses

Proverbs 12:1
2 Timothy 4:3-4

Loving Support

The image features a silhouette of two people standing on a mountain peak, holding hands and reaching towards a large cross. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a range of mountains, with a warm, golden glow. The text 'Loving Support' is written in a large, black, serif font in the upper left corner.

Explain the purpose of discipline as restoration. Emphasize grace, love, and humility in the process.

Victor: ACCOUNTABILITY



Definition

A loving, redemptive process intended to restore and protect the body of Christ.



Quote

“Discipline is God’s mercy leading me back to truth.”



Actions

Welcomes correction, seeks restoration, remains submitted to Scripture.



Verses

1 John 5:16
Matthew 18:15-17
Hebrews 12:10-11
Galatians 6:1

Victim: FELLOWSHIP



Definition

Community is unsafe, judgmental, or irrelevant. Church is optional, especially when feeling hurt or misunderstood.



Definition

Community has purpose in so far as it serves my needs as a victim. Church is an avenue to gain emotional, physical, and spiritual support, goods, or services.



Quote

"Christians have let me down. I'm better on my own."



Quote

"A Christian's purpose is to help victims."



Actions

Avoids church, resists accountability, isolates.



Actions

Overuses church community.



Verses

Hebrews
10:25
Proverbs
18:1
John 6:26–27

Loving Support

The background of the image shows a sunset over a mountain range. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a mountain peak is visible. On top of this peak, two people are standing, holding hands, next to a large, simple cross. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon to the right, creating a bright glow and lens flare.

Share the beauty of biblical community. Invite into loving, honest relationships in the church. Practice healthy, biblical church discipline.

Victor: FELLOWSHIP



Definition

The *koinōnia* (κοινωνία) of believers: Spirit-filled fellowship in unity and truth.



Quote

“God has placed me in the body for my growth and His glory.”



Actions

Seeks accountability, loves the church, contributes with humility.



Verses

1 John 1:7
Acts 2:42
Hebrews 10:24–25
1 Corinthians 12:12–27

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