



INTRODUCTION TO CHRIST-CENTERED MANHOOD

From Adam to Christ

LEADER NOTES

The impact of knowing who we are in God's eyes can bring about the saving faith of a sinner – or it can make or break the sanctification process of a believer. Your young men must understand where they came from – heirs of the fall of man through Adam. This awareness of their sin-nature could be the catalyst for their repentant heart and a faith in Christ. And for those who are saved, an understanding of their identity “in Christ” is crucial.

If they can comprehend that we have “put on a new self” through Christ, no longer “under the law” of the old covenant, their identity in Christ can direct their heart, mind, and soul to the nature and character of Jesus Christ, the “life-giving spirit.” That’s where Christ-likeness comes from.

Theme Verse

1 Corinthians 15:49: *And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

STORY

Nigel sauntered to his spot in the back of the infield line between second and third base. He had just drilled a throw to first, making the second out of the inning. He looked over to the stands where his parents were sitting and saw Kristen standing up against the backstop fence smiling at him. A prideful sense of triumph took over his reflection of the play.

The next batter set himself in the batter's box. The first pitch whizzed toward the catcher's mitt. The opponent swung and connected. Nigel watched the ball go high and left as he judged its path to his aft right quadrant. He could hear Thomas, the left fielder yelling, “I got it, I got it!” But Nigel knew this would really look good if he made a leaping catch, closing out the last inning. Kristen was surely watching. So he launched himself in the direction of the ball, reaching back as he strained to keep his eye on the ball. Just as the ball hit his mitt, he tumbled back over Thomas' left shoulder. After a near full back flip, he hit the ground hard. But he immediately jumped up with his mitt in the air, revealing the ball to the umpire.

The crowd rose to their feet in cheer. Kristen was jumping and screaming with her arms outstretched above her head. Nigel stared only at her as he heard Thomas grunt, “Thanks a lot, jerk!” Then ... “What a selfish idiot!” he thought of himself. “How shallow could I be?”

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Discussion: *OPEN IN PRAYER*

What got into Nigel as he grabbed the fly ball that was best caught by the left fielder?

In 1 Corinthians 15:49, Adam is “the earthly man.” He committed the original sin and ... “When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for **everyone sinned.**” (Romans 5:12) **That sin-nature brought about a selfish attitude.**

How does a newborn baby exhibit his sinful nature?

He cries when he wants something. In fact, he screams and wails till he’s gasping for air.

How does a toddler reveal his sinful nature?

He says, “MINE” about everything he wants to play with ... even if it’s *not* his.

What about elementary school kids?

Boys will push and shove to win that coveted first spot in line.

Teenagers?

Rebelling against authorities (parents), being cliquish, playing the dating game.

Adults?

Always trying to get ahead in the professional world, even at the sacrifice of their families.

Christ is the “man from heaven.” **How shall we bear his likeness?**

Our spirit, once dead because of sin, is resurrected with Christ.

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness (Romans 8:10).

But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is (1 John 3:2).

Also, we follow Jesus’ examples. (WWJD)

So I say, live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:16).

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you (John 13:14-15).

CLOSE IN PRAYER