Module 02

Heart Conversion
Poll the audience

Go to menti.com and use the code 11 54 47
Sharing Christ drives a “virtuous cycle”
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- Experience Heart Conversion
- Experience Life Transformation
- Attract Spiritual Interest
- Study Together
Sharing Christ drives a “virtuous cycle”

Experience
Heart Conversion

Experience Life Transformation

Attract Spiritual Interest

Study Together

Win Souls
Sharing Christ drives a “virtuous cycle”

Experience → Heart Conversion → Experience Life Transformation → Attract Spiritual Interest → Study Together → Win Souls
It all starts with your heart conversion

John 3:5–8
You must be born again... of the Spirit.

It all starts with your heart conversion

John 3:5–8
It all starts with your heart conversion

The Spirit will make you a witness

Acts 1:8
It all starts with your heart conversion

If you’re heart converted, you will be a witness
It all starts with your heart conversion

If you’re not a witness, you’re not heart converted

Acts 1:8
It all starts with your heart conversion

Your witness is a barometer of your salvation

Acts 1:8
Heart conversion gives confidence
Heart conversion gives confidence

If you don’t have confidence, you’re not heart converted
Heart conversion provokes a sense of urgency
Heart conversion provokes a sense of urgency

You see people differently and wonder how you can show them God’s love
The Epic Split
An un-heart converted life...
An un-heart converted life…

God
An un-heart converted life…

God  World
Where are the “Epic Splits” in your life?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

God
Where are the “Epic Splits” in your life?

God

Fount of every blessing?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

God

Or cosmic killjoy?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

The Law
Where are the ”Epic Splits” in your life?

The Law

Transcript of God’s beautiful character?
Where are the ”Epic Splits” in your life?

The Law

Or cramping your style?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

The Sabbath
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

The Sabbath
Day of rest and fellowship with God?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

The Sabbath

Or nice to observe, if convenient?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Time, Talent, & Treasure
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Time, Talent, & Treasure

Gifts from God to glorify Him?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Time, Talent, & Treasure

Or all mine and God gets the leftovers (if there are any)?
Where are the “Epic Splits” in your life?

Church
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Church
Community and platform for spiritual growth and spreading the Gospel?
Where are the “Epic Splits” in your life?

Church

Or social club with potluck?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Media Consumption
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Media Consumption

"Set nothing wicked before my eyes" (and ears)?
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Media Consumption

Or “it’s not that big of a deal...”
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Health Message
Where are the "Epic Splits" in your life?

Health Message

Blessing from the Creator for an abundant life?
Where are the “Epic Splits” in your life?

Health Message

Or burden blocking you from enjoying the “finer things” in life?
“Epic Splits” result in Cognitive Dissonance

Leon Festinger
“Epic Splits” result in Cognitive Dissonance

“The excessive mental stress and discomfort experienced by an individual who holds two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas, and/or values at the same time.
“Epic Splits” result in Cognitive Dissonance

This stress and discomfort may also arise within an individual who holds a belief and performs a contradictory action or reaction.”

Leon Festinger
Responses to Cognitive Dissonance
Responses to Cognitive Dissonance

The existence of dissonance, being psychologically uncomfortable, will motivate the person to try to reduce the dissonance and achieve consonance.
Responses to Cognitive Dissonance

When dissonance is present, in addition to trying to reduce it, the person will actively avoid situations and information which would likely increase the dissonance.
Example
So you want to lose weight...
But you also want a doughnut!
Cognitive Dissonance: Biblical Views
Cognitive Dissonance: Biblical Views

Paul felt cognitive dissonance

Romans 7:14–25
Cognitive Dissonance: Four Coping Mechanisms
Cognitive Dissonance: Four Coping Mechanisms

Avoid God and the truth
Cognitive Dissonance: Four Coping Mechanisms

Change the conflicting cognition (be “balanced”)
Change the conflicting cognition (be “balanced”)
How much of the world do you want in you?

Cognitive Dissonance: Four Coping Mechanisms

James 2:10–11; Matthew 5:19–20, 21–22, 27–28
Add a new cognition (I’ll do good deeds to make up for my sin)
Cognitive Dissonance: Four Coping Mechanisms

Add a new cognition (I’ll do good deeds to make up for my sin)

We cannot work our way into heaven
Cognitive Dissonance: Four Coping Mechanisms

Fully give ourselves to God
Cognitive Dissonance: Four Coping Mechanisms

Fully give ourselves to God

Only this one leads to Eternal Life!!
Common Barriers
Common Barriers

I don’t know enough

Isaiah 1:18
Common Barriers

I don’t know enough
I’m a good person
Common Barriers

I don’t know enough
I’m a good person
Not enough evidence
Common Barriers

I don’t know enough
I’m a good person
Not enough evidence
Later

James 4:13–16; Matthew 12:31–32
I don’t know enough
I’m a good person
Not enough evidence
Later
Love of the world
An Un-heart Converted Life = Severe Cognitive Dissonance
An un-heart-converted life = severe cognitive dissonance

Cognitive dissonance brings your worst self to every part of your life
What does a heart-converted life look like?
What does a heart-converted life look like?

There are those who listen to the truth, and are convinced that they have been living in opposition to Christ. They are condemned, and they repent of their transgressions. Relying upon the merits of Christ, exercising true faith in Him, they receive pardon for sin.
What does a heart-converted life look like?

As they cease to do evil and learn to do well, they grow in grace and in the knowledge of God. They see that they must sacrifice in order to separate from the world; and, after counting the cost, they look upon all as loss if they may but win Christ.
What does a heart-converted life look like?

They have enlisted in Christ’s army. The warfare is before them, and they enter it bravely and cheerfully, fighting against their natural inclinations and selfish desires, bringing the will into subjection to the will of Christ. Daily they seek the Lord for grace to obey Him, and they are
What does a heart-converted life look like?

strengthened and helped. **This is true conversion.** In humble, grateful dependence he who has been given a new heart relies upon the help of Christ. He reveals in his life the fruit of righteousness.
What does a heart-converted life look like?

He once loved himself. Worldly pleasure was his delight. Now his idol is dethroned, and God reigns supreme. The sins he once loved he now hates. Firmly and resolutely he follows in the path of holiness.
Reflect
Do you believe that you are heart converted? Why or why not?
Reflect

If not, what stands in your way?
Reflect

What will it take for you to choose Christ fully?
Stay Engaged—NicodemusSociety.org

Witnessing to the Wealthy, Worldly, & Well-Educated