

Restoring Broken Relationships

Lesson 21

Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ Romans 12:18 – If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- ✓ I Thessalonians 5:14 – We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Because all men are sinners, conflict will occur and people will get offended. The sinful selfish reactions of bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice (Eph. 4:31) all promote divisions, grudges, vindictiveness, and harmful actions toward others. Many times an offense will create a breach between people that will last for years.

- ◆ Finish the following from Proverbs 18:19, “A brother offended is _____

_____.”

- ◆ Finish the following from Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the _____

_____.”

- ◆ In a single word, what is the ministry given to every Christian (II Corinthians 5:18)?

I. How to Minimize Offenses

- A. According to James 3:1-12, nothing gets us into more trouble than the _____. Therefore, a growing stewardship of our speech will be a key to minimizing offenses. What does it mean to be “slow to Speak?” (James 1:19)

- B.** Record the 3 attitudes stated in Ephesians 4:32 that will help you to keep from being offensive.

- C.** What attitude of Christ expressed in Philippians 2:8 will protect you from being easily offended?

(What un-Christlike attitude causes people to be easily offended?

_____ Hint: opposite of above).

II. Christ's Counsel to All

- A.** In Matthew 5:24, what is the 3-fold command given to the one who remembers an offense against him?

- B.** Sometimes people do not respond in the right manner to your attempt at reconciliation. In your own words, what does Romans 12:18 tell you to do?

- C.** According to Matthew 18:15-18, is the matter finished when Christians refuse to forgive and be reconciled? Circle One: Yes No

- D.** From Matthew 18:6, describe how Jesus illustrated the seriousness of offending a child in the faith.

III. Restoring Those Struggling With Sin

There is to be loyalty in the Christian ranks. When you are aware of someone entangled in sin, avoid the attitude of superiority. Christ's compassion always moved him to help the sinner recover from his sin. The love of Christ should move us to do the same.

- A.** Read Proverbs 16:18 along with I Corinthians 10:12. In your own words, write a warning to yourself and all who encounter a brother entangled in sin.

- B.** Read John 8:1-11 and answer the following:

- What were the Scribes and Pharisees willing to do to the woman?

- What did Jesus' question in verse 7 reveal about the woman's accusers?

- What was Jesus' counsel to the woman?

- C.** Read Galatians 6:1-5.

- From verse 1, in what spirit will an obedient brother restore a struggling sinner?

- There is a caution in verse 1, what is it?

- What are you fulfilling when you help restore a brother?

- Write a paraphrase of verse 3 _____

“People carry a variety of burdens through life and Christians should be noted for helping one another with whatever burden the other believer may be compelled to carry. The tense of the imperative is present, which conveys a meaning like ‘keep carrying’; Paul is not counseling believers to perform an occasional helpful act, but to live their lives as helpful people, always ready to lift the burden from other people’s shoulders.”

– Leon Morris

- D.** According to I Thessalonians 5:14 some people need to be admonished because they are unruly, some need encouragement because they are fainthearted, others need help because they are _____, and with everyone we are to be _____.