Getting Right with Others

Selected Scriptures
3/28/10

Introduction: Ephesians 4:25-32

What is it that is holding back the blessing of God upon your life…your family…our church?

It's not that God can't bring revival, it's that He won't (until God's people get right with Him and with each other). ***Isaiah 59:1-2***
We should not pray "Lord bless us" but rather "Lord, make us blessable"

I. Why should I get things right with others?

A. Getting things right with others is a prerequisite to worship and service to God (Matthew 5:23-24)

B. Getting things right with others now is the secret to avoiding bigger problems later (v. 25-26)

II. How do I get things right with others?

A. Getting things right with others will involve God stirring your conscience and bringing you to repentance (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

B. Getting things right with others will require an honest look at yourself and your sin (Matthew 7:3-5)

C. Getting things right with others requires honesty, humility & justice

1. Are you willing to **admit** everything you did wrong?

2. Are you willing to **restore** anything owed?

Getting Right with Others

Selected Scriptures
3/28/10

Introduction:

Sins we need to repent of:

Ephesians 4:25-32

LYING (v. 25)

"Lying has become a way of life for millions. Children lie to their parents without conscience. Men in business tell bare-faced lies to avoid their creditors, to acquire something they want, or to make a sale. People make promises they have no intention of fulfilling" (John Phillips)

"A lie is a statement that is contrary to fact, spoken with the intention to deceive" (Wiersbe)

People are never more like the devil than when they lie (Jn. 8:44 - *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar,a nd the father of it."*)

Lying is so serious that the Lake of Fire will be filled with people whose chronic lying will prove their guilt of unbelief (this rejecting the one who was the truth) at the Great White Throne Judgement (Rev. 21:8)

SINFUL ANGER (v. 26)

"Orge" - a settled or abiding agitation (disturbance) of the mind that gradually builds (grows).

When you go to bed angry you become vulnerable to Satanic attacks to your subconscious mind.

All it takes is a "root of bitterness" to give Satan an open door (Heb.12:15). Most marriage problems occur because the door was left open for Satan to come into your home; Most Church problems & splits occur because the door was left open!

STEALING (v. 28)

"Stealing" **-**is a violation of the 8th commandment - *"Thou shalt not steal" (Exod. 20:15; cp. Lev. 19:11)*

It is a violation of the right to personal property. If it does not belong to us, we have no right to take it.

Examples of stealing:

1. Ripping off someone's wallet, purse, personal items (household property or vehicle)

2. Borrowing with no intention of returning (borrowing without asking)

3. Taking from the work place (extra long breaks, etc.)

4. Padding expense accounts, reporting more hours worked than we worked, deceiving the IRS

5. Fornication and adultery (I Thes. 4:6)

6. Finding something that you know belongs to someone else

7. Pocketing what a store clerk overpays in change

8. Not paying agreed upon, fair wages

Everything from stealing money off of your dad's dress to grand larceny or big business embezzlement is the same sin: stealing.

Stealing is stealing no matter the size of the amount.

Many justify stealing with the thought: "They are so wealthy, they won't miss it"; or "They can easily replace it. I need it more than they do."

Stealing is wrong because:

1. It is dishonest
   (We are to be truthful)

2. It is selfish
   (It stems from greed and lust and a desperate attempt to gratify self at the expense of someone else; it is not loving your neighbor as yourself)

ROTTEN SPEECH (v. 29)

"Corrupt" - rank, foul, putrid, stinking, rotten, worthless

"Communication" **-**word

No rotten word is to ever come out of our mouths!

"Corrupt" **-**the Greek word (sapros) referred to rotten vegetables or fruit

"Rotten speech" is not only vulgarity, but any words that will not build someone up!

EX:--foolish jesting--gossip
--harsh language--lies
--derogatory speech

V. 30
"Grieve" - to cause sorrow to

The fact that the Holy Spirit can be grieved demonstrates:
1. That He is a person, not a mere "force"
2. That He has emotion
3. That He cares about those He indwells
4. That corrupt speech (v. 29) or bad attitudes (v. 31) are a big deal to the Holy Spirit

Note: Since this admonition to not grieve the Holy Spirit is sandwiched between these verses, it indicates that our words and attitudes effect our fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We cannot be filled with the Spirit if we are grieving or quenching the Spirit (I Thes. 5:19)
This is why the most miserable person is not the unsaved man (devoid of the Spirit) who speaks evil and harbors wrong attitudes, but is the Christian, who is grieving the Spirit. He therefore is miserable, most miserable!

V. 31
"All" **-**None of the following are to be tolerated in our lives at all!

3 forms of anger:

1) Bitterness (to hold grudges, resentfulness in the heart) a bad taste comes to your mouth when you think of that person. A man who is bitter is often: Sharp; cynical; cold; harsh; unpleasant.

2) Wrath (bad temper, hot explosive outbursts; when we blow up)

3) Anger (deep-seated anger; when we bottle up)

Three manifestations (outworkings) of anger:

1) Clamor - outcries; shouting; it is the cry of strife

2) Evil speaking - blasphemy; slander

3) Malice - any form of badness

"Put away" **-**to pick up and carry away; to make a clean sweep

What is it that is holding back the blessing of God upon your life…your family…our church?

It's not that God can't bring revival, it's that He won't (until God's people get right with Him and with each other). Note: you can't get right with Him until you get right with others whom you sinned against.

We should not pray: "Lord bless us" but rather "Lord, make us blessable"

Isaiah 59:1-2
Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

Jer 5:25 Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.

Examine your relationships with your

- Friends
- Spouse
- Children
- Parents
- InLaws/Relatives
- Brothers & Sisters in Christ (including pastors & deacons)
- CoWorkers
- Neighbors

- Is there something you **did** that you need to make right?
- Is there something you **said** that you need to correct?
  For example: Is there something you lied about that you need to be honest about?
- Is there something you **stole** that you need to restore?

See: Matthew 5:23-26

"Therefore" - Jesus is now going to make a concluding application to what He has previously said.

Jesus in verses 23-26 is showing the importance of getting offended human relations reconciled so as to avoid the destructive build-up and effects of anger.

V. 23-24
Since anger builds when something comes between people, Jesus is teaching the importance of removing those things which come in between. Resolving problems (not ignoring them) is the key to appeasing anger.

NOTE: Verses 23-24 speak of solving differences with a "brother". V. 25-26 speak of solving differences with an "adversary"

I. Why should I Get things Right with Others?

A. Getting things right with others is a prerequisite to worship and service to God (Matthew 5:23-24)

"Gift to the altar" - refers to the sacrifice that would be brought to the altar at the Temple.

"Thy brother hath ought against thee" - NOTE: It does not say that you have something against your brother, but that He has something against you. This is an easy time to justify anger in your life. To say, "Well, he has the problem" I will not bother with him until he resolves it."

"First be reconciled" -

"First" - shows the priority of us being right with each other before we can worship God. You can't worship until your conscience is clear; and your conscience is not clear when you know that someone has a problem with you.

"Be reconciled" - shows God's desire that we be at peace with each other

The word "reconciled" (diallossomai) refers to a mutual hostility being replaced by a mutual concession (Lightfoot)

B. Getting things right with others now is the secret to avoiding bigger problems later (v. 25-26)

Verses 25-26 give an example of what retaliation is like and how important it is to resolve it.

"Agree with thine adversary quickly" - come to an agreeable settlement with your opponent without delay! Jesus is saying it is better to settle the difference on the way (road) to court privately, than in court publically.

It is better to settle a matter early than late, now rather than later.

Jesus is giving some wise advice: "Make friends quickly with the one who is angry with you and is taking you to court. The reason is simple: If you do not appease his wrath, he in anger will have you "tried and fried"!

V. 26

This passage has been misunderstood and misapplied by Roman Catholics, who in a desperate attempt to proved the existence of "Purgatory" use this passage to substantiate that people do come out of a temporary place of suffering when a sufficient payment has been made.

Jesus, however, in this example is not describing hell or a place of spiritual judgment, but is simply talking about a human "judge," a human "officer," and a earthly, literal, physical "prison" (v. 25).

II. How Do I Get things Right with Others?

A. Getting things right with others will involve <u>God stirring your conscience</u> and bringing you to <u>repentance</u> (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

2 Timothy 2:24-26
And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

B. Getting things right with others will require <u>an honest look at yourself</u> and your <u>sin</u> (Matthew 7:3-5)

Matthew 7:3-5
And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Jesus, having been a carpenter for 30 years while on earth, uses a most fitting illustration.

"Mote" - a wood chip, splinter, or a speck of saw dust.

"Beam" - a large heavy log or wooden plank

The interogatives "why" (v. 3) and "how" (v. 4) are employed by Jesus to quicken the <u>conscience</u>. Questions have a way of probing deeper than any statement ever could.

What Jesus is saying is this: "What you see in others would require a pair of tweezers to remove; whereas, what you fail to see in yourself requires a hydraulic fork-lift tractor!

It's so easy to detect a mouse living in someone else's home, but to forget a rat lives in your own.

It's so easy to sense pride in someone else's life and to forget that your head is so big it won't fit in the mirror.

It's so easy to criticize a brother/sister or a church for not caring enough about you, but to fail to see how little you have done to show your love for them.

Husbands, it's easy to see how your wife does not submit to your headship,b ut difficult to see how you don't love her as your should (you see insubordination on her part, but it never crosses your mind how loveless and apathetic you are at home).

Wives, it's easy to see how unloving he is and yet fail to recognize how rebellious you are.

Wives, it's hypocrisy to demand that your children respect you, if you don't respect the authority of your husband.

Husbands, it's hypocrisy to demand that your children obey you, if you don't obey Christ and love your wife!

If we spent half the time looking at our own faults that we spend looking at the faults of others (EX: our spouse, co-worker, classmate, brother, parent, etc.), we would be revolutionized, revitalized, and revived!

(v. 4)

Question: Why would anyone with a 2 x 4 beam in their eye even be concerned about the microscopic speck in someone else's eye?

Answer: To make themselves look good. To cover up the fact that they themselves have an "eye problem."

Before you judge others, CLEAN UP YOUR OWN ACT

While it is easy to "see" (v. 3) and "say" (v. 4), it is not so easy to do! (v. 5)

Rather than seeing what is wrong about others and talking about it, Jesus commands you to do something in your own life first!

"Hypocrite" - play actor; one who pretends to be a doctor when he himself is a critical patient; one who pretends to be qualified to give care, when he needs it the most!

"First. . . then" - Practicing righteous judgment is good and proper, so long as you prioritize your need for such "house cleaning" first.

As Christians, we should practice saw dust removal. But only after we have removed the studs in our lives.

"Then shalt thou see clearly" - Can you imagine what a mess someone would create who tried to do minor eye surgery on someone when he himself is blind?!

When we attempt to straighten someone else out when we ourselves are bent over with sin, not only are we unable, but such an attempt will be received with contempt!

EX: One reason why your children do not respect your advice is because they can see right through your hypocrisy.

EX: One reason why you are ineffective as a witness for Christ is because your life speaks so loud, they cannot hear what you are saying.

We can do more damage than a speck of sawdust can if we cannot see clearly and approach the problem with patience, sensitivity, genuine concern, and God's control.

One practical reason for dealing with our own hang ups is so that we can do a good job at helping others with theirs.

The blind cannot lead the blind (SEE: the same context in Luke 6:37 and 39-42).

C. Getting things right with others requires <u>honesty, humility & justice</u>

Three prerequisites to our getting things right with others:

1) Honesty
2) Humility
3) Justice

When God does a work in your life, you will have both honesty and humility. Why? Both involve truth; Truth about yourself.

Testimony: I had to get right with my dad before God could start blessing my life. (The stolen money; The "borrowed" car)

1. Are you willing to **<u>admit</u>** everything you did wrong?

2. Are you willing to **<u>restore</u>** anything owed?

Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

Conclusion: I end where I began:

Examine your relationships with your

- Friends
- Spouse
- Children
- Parents
- InLaws/Relatives
- Brothers & Sisters in Christ (including pastors & deacons)
- CoWorkers
- Neighbors

- Is there something you **<u>did</u>** that you need to make right?
- Is there something you **<u>said</u>** that you need to correct?
- Is there something you **<u>stole</u>** that you need to restore?