

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
“When the Church Harms- God’s People”
Chapters 8-11
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CHAPTER 8—REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

I. Understanding Real Repentance

2 Corinthians 7:8-9 (NASB) *For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.*

- A. True repentance must first be intense **sorrow** for your sin expressed towards **God**.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NASB) *For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

- B. Godly sorrow means you are sorry for **WHAT** you have done and how you have **failed** God, not just sorry you got **caught**.

2 Corinthians 7:11 (NASB) *For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.*

2 Corinthians 7:11 (MSG) *And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.*

- C. True repentance brings a life **transformation** that is demonstrated over time after the offense.

True repentance brings about a change. If there is no change then there was no repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:12-13 (NASB) *So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.*

D. True repentance does not **reverse** the damage done, and does not **vindicate** the one who did the damage.

1 John 1:9 (KJV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

E. True repentance is a **declaration** of our faith and sincerity towards the God of our salvation.

Four (4) indications you have **NOT** experienced Godly repentance:

1. You only restrain from the sin so other people don't see it or see you doing it. (Hidden secret sin habits)
2. You only grieve what you lose as consequence. What you **grieve** reveals what **owns** your **heart**.
3. You find fault with how/when others handle of your wrong worse than what you actually did. The consequences are the problem/burden not what you did.
4. You are more bothered by having to **pay** the penalty than having **perpetrated** the wrong. (your own inconvenience and personal discomfort)

“Charles Spurgeon says that one who is truly repentant dreads the sin as a burnt child dreads fire.” (p.103)

II. Finding the **Free-ness** of Forgiveness

A. Forgiveness is the **acknowledgement** that a wrong has occurred and the **action** to release the offender from a debt caused by their actions.

Matthew 6:12-15 (KJV) *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

B. Jesus has given us both the **example** and **expectation** of who and how we should forgive.

Matthew 18:21-22 (KJV) *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

Matthew 18:35 (KJV) *So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

C. Forgiveness comes in **two** varieties.

- 1) **Worldly** forgiveness is limited, constrained by severity, and it is temporary.
- 2) **Godly** forgiveness is unlimited, given unilaterally, and is lasting.

Antonyms (opposites) of forgiveness: **Mercilessness** and **punishment**.

Psalm 103:8-13 (KJV) *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

D. Our primary purpose is to bring glory to God and therefore we respond to sin by trusting in the name of Jesus and the power of God rather than our own.

Forgiveness is hard, and the worse the offense the harder it is.

God is not letting the offender, the abuser off the hook when we forgive them.

Psalm 34:15-22 (NASB) *The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.*

E. Forgiveness **frees** you from the offender and has **faith** that God will handle the heavy-lifting from here on out.

III. Are They Ready for **Restoration**

- A) Those involved in restoration should live lives of repentance themselves.
- B) Restoration is to be done with true humility.
- C) Restoration should be accompanied by watchfulness.

CHAPTER 9—A MESSAGE TO VICTIMS

I believe this entire book is a message to victims of abuse and church hurt.

The church is supposed to be a safe haven for the sheep, not a feeding ground for the wolves. You do have a voice and a right to be heard and protected.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (KJV) *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

“You are not who your abusers and silencers said you are.” (p. 118)

You are precious and beautiful in God’s sight and he will restore you by His power.

CHAPTER 10—A MESSAGE TO SHEPHERDS

I. The Call to **Limitation** – Jesus himself came down from glory and took on the form of a man in order to experience and demonstrate what it is he wants us to do and that it can be accomplished through him. (p. 122)

II. The Call to the **Internal**—Jesus was never impressed or obsessed with crowd sizes or any of the things that the outside world viewed as important. (p. 125)

III. The Call to **Crucifixion**—Jesus died once and for all, so shepherds are not saviors, We are not called to be undertakers for the dying, but rather caretakers for those who will live eternally in Jesus. (p. 128)

IV. The Call to **Humility**—Jesus stopped to wash the feet of His disciples the same night he knew he would be betrayed. Shepherds too must humble themselves to service even when feeling unappreciated or underappreciated. (p. 130)

CHAPTER 11—A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

Follow the model of Christ and not the way of man.

I. **Speak up** like Jesus against injustice wherever you find it.

II. **Love** completely like Jesus to all **unconditionally**.

III. **Connect** with the body of Christ and don’t allow an individual to isolate you.

IV. **Examine ourselves** regularly in the light of Jesus Christ, not the standards of culture.