

## Seminar-#3 Faithfulness when my life isn't what I want it to be

# Broken Relationships

Sonia Crossley Thurs July 22/21

## **PART ONE:** WE ALL HAVE BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS SOMEWHERE

### Range....

1. Big sudden heated dramas
2. Small slow cold steps
3. Quiet
4. Hidden
5. One party is totally unaware!

### Variety of Triggers

1. Me / you
2. Intentional / accidental
3. Misunderstanding
4. Difference of opinion

God tells us to expect it!

## The particular experience of being wronged

**CASE STUDY: YOU** Identify a situation, past or current, big or small, where you were wronged by someone else

### It's all because of sin

*"Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."*

**2 Corinthians 5v15**

### Living for Self Makes Me...

- Selfish
- Self-preoccupied and proud
- Live lights out to God
- Dehumanise you

**This is the problem for them.....and YOU**

The issue is not THAT you have been wronged, but rather, HOW you respond?

## **PART TWO:** HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

**Paul Tripp *God's Wisdom, Your Relationships*. Desiring God June 1 2011**

*"I think there are many Christians living in Christless relationships. Without knowing what they have done, they have constructed law-based rather than grace-based relationships. And because of this they are asking the law to do what only grace can accomplish"*

**In the natural "living for self" mindset, we only have 3 bad options....**

- PEACE BREAKERS "You are wrong! I am right!" Conflict
- PEACE FAKERS "No mess here. Let's pretend" (Ken Sande- Peacemaker material)
- PEACE FORSAKERS "I give up"

**CASE STUDY: YOU** Take a moment to think about the broken relationship in your life that you identified earlier Consider your most recent interaction. What are the ways you feel wronged? How have you adopted a peace-breaking/faking/forsaking response?

**Sinners tend to respond to sin sinfully, BUT GOD OFFERS US A FORK IN THE ROAD**

## **PART 3:** THE PATH OF THE PEACEMAKER

**1)LOOK UP... at God.** The plan is reconciliation

- Here
- Triune
- His is a bigger, better story. Eph. 1.9-11
- He is not surprised. Prov. 16.4. Isa. 45.6-7
- His good purposes. Rom 12.21. 1 Pet 1.6-7. 2 Cor 1.4
- Vengeance is his. Rom 12.19
- Gospel is "unfair" Rom 5.8
- Grace proves his faithfulness. Psalm 25 16-21
- He makes peacemakers of us. 2 Cor 5.18

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**CASE STUDY: YOU** Which of these truths helps reorientate you back to God's beautiful but challenging agenda for reconciliation in this particular relationship? What aspect of the gospel of grace are you tending to forget?

## 2) LOOK IN... at yourself. The pattern is humility

- Go vertical first. James 4.4-6
- Pour out your heart. Psalm 143
- Let him search you Psalm 139.23-24
- Wrong goal?
- Who is the judge? James 4.12
- Entrust yourself to him 1 Peter 2.23
- Identify your desires. James 4.1-3
- Confess and receive. James 4. 6,10
- Hand it over.
- Ask for his help. 2 Cor 5.18

**CASE STUDY: YOU** Allow God to search your actions and motives. Can you begin to see the “desires that battle within you” that are potentially disrupting your relationship with God? Take time to confess these things. Humbly receive His forgiveness and help to change.

## 3) LOOK OUT... at them. The power is His

- See them God’s way (sinner, sufferer and saint).
- Pray for them. Luke 6.28
- Let them off your hook. Rom 12.19
- Address log before speck. Luke 6.41,42
- Move towards.
- Listen; don’t assume.
- Candid conversation. 1 John 1.6-10
- Let them respond....be vulnerable.
- Ask for and offer forgiveness.
- Be trustworthy with their vulnerability. Luke 6.27,28,35
- Accept limits of reconciliation. Rom 12.18
- Go forward, not back.

- Wisdom of boundaries (esp. abuse).
- Involve others.

**CASE STUDY: YOU** What difference will the fact you have been loved, forgiven and reconciled to your Heavenly Father through Christ's selfless work on the cross make as you begin to move towards this difficult relationship? At which point in this process have you tended to come unstuck in the past? Which things have you still to try and which have you never considered before?

PRAY

*"The peace makers that shine brightest are not those who merely mediate between conflicted parties, but those who, by their humble example of admitting sin and graciously forgiving others, demonstrate how peace is made"*

Jon Bloom, *How to Resolve Most Relational Conflicts*. Desiring God,  
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### Helpful resources

- Peacemaker Ministries.org
- Relationships: A Mess Worth Making Timothy S Lane and Paul David Tripp
- Forgiving Others: Joining wisdom and love Timothy Lane
- Healing Broken Relationships: What to do when you've been hurt Jane v Clark