

Be Reconciled

Matt 5:21-24

Matt 5:21-24 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Reconciled – means “to change thoroughly”

It involves actively restoring the relationship that was broken

Story – Knocking a side table over and breaking a favorite vase. “Don’t worry, I can fix it”

Used power grab and let it set up....it was restored as before

Thomas Kempis – “How rarely we weigh our neighbor in the same balance in which we weigh ourselves”

Illustration

Husband offends his wife.

She reacts to his offense with belittling statements and then cuts him off in her spirit.

She believes that she is totally justified in cutting him off because of what he has done.

The husband who offends his wife reacts to her attitudes and becomes angry at her.

He may also respond with belittling statements.

In his anger and frustration, he too cuts off his wife in his spirit.

Both must be reconciled by dealing with their pride, anger, and cutting off the other spouse.

Christ’s Example

1 Pet 2:21-24 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Christ of Calvary

Calvary was God's way of reconciling us back to Himself

2 Cor 5:17-21 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Jesus became sin for us so that we would no longer be alienated from God

Col 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

While we were rebelling against as sinners, God made a plan to reconcile us back to Himself

Rom 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

The CROSS of Calvary is God ultimate plan of FORGIVENESS

God gave his best to reconcile us back to Himself...Jesus gave His all to reconcile us to God

God overlooked our offenses and made a plan for us to come back to Him

When our hearts are changed, we can have completely new responses to those around us

1. BELITTLING REMARKS REVEAL PRIDE

Scripture teaches us that killing does not just come by a knife or gun

The words we speak can bring death also

Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Understanding murder is wrong, Jesus addresses verbal abuse

Matt 5:22and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Raca – Chaldean word that means “O, empty headed one”

It communicates worthlessness

Fool – Greek root is moros, we get the word moron

It means “dull or stupid”

Both words reveal a spirit of pride and arrogance in the one who speaks them

Prov 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

We abhor the great sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, and agree with God’s judgment.

But we are often guilty of the same root sin:

Ezek 16:49-50 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

2. PRIDE LEADS TO ANGER

Pride is putting ourselves above others

We react in anger to anyone who does not respond to our elevated position

This anger may be expressed in words or actions or communicated by an angry spirit

Only God has a right to be angry....we must deal with that emotion immediately

Eph 4:26-32 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Neither give place to the devil.

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Expressing anger is a form of vengeance, and God makes it clear:

Rom 12:19Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

3. ANGER CAUSES US TO CUT OFF OTHERS

The ultimate act of pride is to decide that we do not need the people whom God has placed in our lives.

If we belong to the Lord, we are members of one body – the body of Christ
It is a deception of Satan that we get along without one another

*1 Cor 12:21-23 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor
again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more
feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which
we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant
honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.*

Premeditated murder uses the same thought process as cutting one off in our spirit
“I do not need you anymore and I’m going to punish you”

No wonder scripture states:

1 John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:

CONCLUSION

God is more concerned about our reconciliation than our worship to Him

*Matt 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that
thy brother hath ought against thee;
Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled
to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

1. We try over-compensate for our disobedience by doing more service for God

*1 Sam 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and
sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better
than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

2. Attempting to worship God with a cut off spirit is hypocrisy

*1 Jn 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that
loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he
hath not seen?*

*And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love
his brother also.*

3. The vital aspect of true worship of God is being in harmony with others

Jesus was willing to die on the cross to get us right with God

It’s time we get right with God by getting right with our