

BIBLICAL RECONCILIATION PART II NOVEMBER 21-22, 2020

INTRODUCTION

- You are called a minister of reconciliation.
- Our diversity is one of our greatest assets.
- Yet it is also one of our greatest threats.
- We love uniqueness.
- Yet human conflict arises out of these diversities.

I. A FOUNDATION FOR BIBLICAL RECONCILIATION

- I Peter 2:9 - The priesthood of the believer.
- Hebrew priests stood in the gap between God and His people to bring reconciliation.
- II Corinthians 5:17-19, "...God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them..."
- Part of our journey as believers is to be healers, reconcilers.
- Steps of Reconciliation
 1. Confession - Stating the truth
 2. Repentance - Turning from unloving to loving.
 3. Reconciliation - Expressing and receiving forgiveness.
 4. Restitution - Restore that which has been damaged.
- We often think of forgiveness and reconciliation as private, but the Bible sees them as community events.

II. IDENTIFICATIONAL REPENTANCE

- Traveling the world as a white person, I found myself apologizing for things I didn't do or standing in the gap.
- Ezekiel 22:30, "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap..."

- Both Nehemiah and Ezra operated in identificational repentance - Nehemiah. 1:6-7, Ezra 9:6
- Jesus did this - Isaiah 53:12, "He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many..."

III. THE HEART OF RECONCILIATION IS FORGIVENESS

- Jesus in Matthew 18 gives very specific instructions how to handle aspects of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- If you opened your heart to Jesus' forgiveness and grace you will share it with those who hurt you.
- Forgiveness is an indicator of how real your walk with Jesus really is.
- When you are unforgiving, you are functioning way more like Satan than Jesus.
- Romans 3:23, "All have sinned..."
- Your life is a gift of grace.

IV. WHAT DOES FORGIVENESS LOOK LIKE

- Matthew 18:27, "The servant's master took pity on him..."
- Three things here:
 - 1st - Can you feel the pain of the person who wronged you?
 - To identify with them.
 - You have to allow the Holy Spirit to show you what you have in common with them.
 - When we don't want to forgive we accentuate our differences and make ourselves better.
 - 2nd - You must cancel the debt
 - He paid it himself, that is biblical forgiveness.
 - 3rd - "Let them go"

CLOSE - How do you do it?

- All reconciliation begins with soft hearts.