

Relational Renewal

Sermon Notes

August 27, 2017

Review:

- God's standard for relationships are covenantal.
 - He means what he says.
 - His covenants are for the benefit of others.
- We have become a relationally broken society.
 - We conditionally commit as long as it benefits us.
 - Our words are dismissible.
 - Relational brokenness has become a leading factor in depression, anger, and hopelessness.

Relational brokenness hinders worship. **Matthew 5:21-24**

- Anger is like a disease that unsuspectingly permeates the entire body. It can distort reality and can change your character if left unchecked. (22)
- This is particularly so with fellow believers (*adelphos*).
- "THEREFORE" we are told to make things right lest it hinder our worship. (23-24)

Steps to renewal.

1. Forgive.
 - The Lord's Prayer in Luke, as a means of structure and repetition, says *"forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us."* **Luke 11:4**
 - How far should we go with forgiving someone? **A LONG WAYS!!! Matthew 18:21-35**
2. Forget.
 - The Bible never says "forgive and forget", but it does say to forgive and give up our right to be angry or to "pay back".
 - **Micah 7:18** "not holding grudges"
 - The memory is entrenched, but it will no longer warrant repayment.
 - God forgives us and does not hold our sins against, although he can recall them. **Hebrews 8:12** *"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."* Yet, he says this after acknowledging the failure of the people to fulfill the first covenant.
 - This does not mean that we forgo the wisdom of knowing the past. Charles Stanley said "Forgiveness is different from trust." He references Jesus' words in **Matthew 10:16** *"...be as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves."*
3. Love.
 - We are called in relationships to live a life of love. **Ephesians 5:1**
 - Love keeps no record of wrongs. **1 Corinthians 13:5**
 - Love protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. **1 Corinthians 13:6**
 - This can only be accomplished by the love of God in us. **1 John 4:11-12** *"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."*