

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE HAVE **BROKEN**

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Introduction

The Lord desires all of us to live as a family whether by birth or acquaintance. When we view ourselves and others as members of the same family, how we talk to each other and treat each other should matter. No one wants to be talked down to but spoken to as equals in life. No one wants to be treated as if they are in a class either social or economically below the person they are dealing with. When conversing or laboring with others, are tones and attitudes determine whether people feel good about being around us or don't want to talk to or be seen with us. The sad thing is we can offend someone without initially realizing that we hurt them in some manner.

When that happens and we are not aware that we hurt our brother or sister or are made aware of how they felt hurt or disappointed with our actions or perceived attitudes toward them, the enemy of time separation can creep in. Time separation is when two people don't interact or communicate at all because of a possible offense. Time separation without proper explanation can lead to exaggerated misunderstanding, justified or unjustified anger, and then to bitterness. When left unchecked a simple misunderstanding can become the subject of gossip and rumors which causes more strife.

What Is the Root Cause of Broken Relationships

Simply put, it is sin. One of sins byproducts is pride. We are warned from the book of Genesis to Revelation about the danger of pride. That braggadocio haughtiness that shows we think more highly of ourselves than we should and turns people off when they see or hear it in us. Pride is like an empty quest for power over other people. Pride tries to hide our weaknesses. It makes us appear to be in control when we are out of control. Pride does not want us to admit the fault was our own. Pride makes it hard to say, "I'm sorry". Pride deflects the problem to others

because it could not possibly be our own fault. If pride is left unchecked, it will ruin any relationship it creeps into.

Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you be accepted? If you do not do well, sin lies at the door, and its desire is for you, but you should rule over it. (NKJV)

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain talked with his brother Abel, and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. (NKJV)

Genesis 4:9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said “am I my brother’s keeper?”

Romans 12: 3 For I say through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (NKJV)

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. (NKJV)

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. (NKJV)

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life- is not of the Father but is of the world. (NKJV)

You Can Control Sin / Pride

The Book of Romans Chapter 6 declares that all of us who are saved by grace are free from the bondage of sin. This doctrine must be clearly understood by all born again believers. As we read and study this chapter, we are empowered by the truth it reveals. Jesus Christ died and was buried and was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father for us! If we died with Christ, we have received the gift of God which is eternal life. That means sin has no power over us unless we let it. If we feed our spirit with the Word of God, we can conquer sin every time it rises in us. As we walk in the spirit, we rebuke sin even before we do it. The old sin nature is still in us but we can make it lie dormant as much as possible. And anytime sin fools us into saying or doing something against God, we can overcome that sin according to 1 John 1:9. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* The quicker we confess that sin, the less grip it has in our heart and mind. As we practice the Word of God in our lives and walk in the Spirit, the more we develop a distaste for sin and a love for righteousness. The more we focus on righteousness, the more we live holy, the more we live holy, the more we dig into God’s Word for more empowerment to live this life in a way pleasing to God our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ by Holy Spirit who is in us.

2 Chronicles 19:6 And he said to the judges, take heed to do what you are doing, for you do not judge for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgement. (NKJV)

2 Chronicles 19:7 Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes. (NKJV)

2 Chronicles 19:9 And he commanded them, saying, “Thus you shall act in the fear of the Lord, faithfully and with a loyal heart. (NKJV)

Genesis 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brethren. (NKJV)

Proverbs 17:14 The begging of strife is like the releasing of water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts. (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (NKJV)

Psalms 34: 8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood like a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (NKJV)

1 Peter 4:8 Above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” (NKJV)

Steps You Can Take to Mend a Broken Relationship

Mending a broken relationship should be of the highest priority for all of us. In Matthew’s Gospel we *are* told in chapter 5:24 “to leave our gift at the altar and go and be reconciled to our brother.” 1 John 4:20 “If someone says, “I love God “and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen.” 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” Following the Bibles practical instructions on loving, praying for, treating people as we would like to be treated through the help of the Holy Spirit is what we are called to do. When we act like family and love like family all things are possible and someone we may have hurt or one of our associates, they hopefully believe our attempts at reconciliation are genuine and accept them. Here are some possible steps to take from Dr Cannings book, “The Climb,” page 45:

12 Rules for Successful Conflict Resolution

1. Examine yourself-admit your faults
2. Limit conflict to present- “DON’T USE YESTERDAYS PROBLEMS FOR TODAY’S AMMUNITION.”
3. Keep to one issue
4. Use I message.
5. Don’t use character generalizations.
6. Don’t counterattack.
7. Don’t mind read.
8. Deal with conflicts promptly.
9. Control your emotions
10. Don’t keep track of wins and losses. Remember, if one person wins in an argument, both people lose.
11. Set foul limits
12. Make some rules

***TIME SPENT FIGHTING IS TIME WASTED, AND ONCE SPENT, IT BRINGS NOTHING BUT MEMORIES.

Conclusion

Everybody wants and needs to be loved, to be heard, and to be understood. Sometimes over our day some comments we make or actions we’ve done can deeply hurt a person that is dear to us. Hebrews 10:24 *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”* I believe when we do this, we can function each day with our minds focused on God first, then on the daily things He has allowed to come our way, without the weight of unresolved conflict distracting us. Having peace with God because of our active obedience gives us unspeakable joy. Remember, we reap what we sow.