

THIS IS US

Godly Wisdom for Relational Complexities

Making Reconciliation Your Mission

Pastor Doug Heisel – April 28, 2019

I Corinthians 5:16-21 — So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

One of the most powerful relational decisions is choosing to fight to RECONCILE, rather than fight for your RIGHTS or fight over who is RIGHT.

John 8:3-11 — As Jesus was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" They were trying to trap Him into saying something they could use against Him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with His finger.

They kept demanding an answer, so He stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then He stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.

Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Understanding Biblical Reconciliation:

- 1. Reconciliation is a new MINISTRY and a new MINDSET that flows from a deep appreciation of God's GRACE towards you.**

... All this is from God, **who reconciled us** to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

...God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

... So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

2. **Without a mindset of reconciliation, a spirit of ACCUSATION and CONDEMNATION will move in and CLOUD your vision and your decision making.**

"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" They were trying to trap Him into saying something they could use against Him.

Matthew 7:5 — First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

3. **The ministry of reconciliation is about VALUING the other person, not RESOLVING every problem.**

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.

4. **A spirit of condemnation fixates on past or present PROBLEMS, while a ministry of reconciliation focuses on present and future POTENTIAL.**

"Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Romans 8:1-2 — Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

5. **My MOUTH reveals the depth of my commitment to reconciliation, and impacts how EFFECTIVE I am in it.**

Luke 6:45 ... for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

Ephesians 4:29 — Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen.

Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Take a few minutes and catch up with each other. Share some “wins” (things you can thank God for) from the past week or so.

DIGGING IN: This week we kicked off a new relationship series. The key word was RECONCILIATION. Read I Corinthians 5:16-21.

1. Review point number one from Sunday’s message. Share something you value about how God has treated you.
2. Read John 8:3-11, and review points 2-4 and how they show up in John’s story. Which one of those three statements stands out most to you, and why?
3. Read Luke 6:45, and review point number 5. What ways can our mouth damage reconciliation. What ways can it help?

BRINGING IT HOME: Read Ephesians 4:29. Who needs to hear something from you this week, that could help strength or reconcile a relationship?

Think also about how this message applies to our church. Too often Christians have been known for what behaviors they are against, rather than known for reconciliation. Let’s continue to be people who make it easy for others to get close to Jesus, and easy for others to learn about growing in grace towards others.