

BEFRIEND ONE ANOTHER

08.08.10 Creekside Various Peace among us is His power through us 35 Min

Pastoral notes: Kayla is back; the youth back; Men gathered Friday; ppl signed up last wk

INTRODUCTION: (HTGR) THE FIRST "SILENT NIGHT"

IF CHRIST IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE... (ISAIAH 9:6) - not a girly phrase

...then shouldn't we be his people at peace. The Gospel is portrayed through peace; at one time we were at odds with God - the creation had turned on the creator. The miracle is that the very one that we were at odds with sent his son to reconcile with us. This is peace - laid his life down to reconcile and regain peace. We must do the same!

What is the Gospel?

PEACE IS HAPPENING HERE (WE)

Peace in this body is already doing well. But I've learned the thing that we often are doing well at is the very thing that Satan chooses to attack first. Satan is well aware that if he blows up our unity, then he will diminish our impact. - who wants to go to a church where ppl fight all the time?

PEACE AMONG US IS HIS POWER THROUGH US

Let's get into God's word to see what it has to say about Peace. None of us would really be surprised that the Bible addresses this - we think of this as an elementary lesson that we heard from mom about our siblings or in kindergarten from ms. Moji - and true that the "law" of God is called, our "tutor" or teacher but in Christ this is more than obligation.

We do it out of His love for us

Open up your Bibles to MARK 9:50 - "SALT IS GOOD; BUT IF THE SALT BECOMES UNSALTY, WITH WHAT WILL YOU MAKE IT SALTY AGAIN? HAVE SALT IN YOURSELVES, AND BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER."

- He uses peace as the first instruction from preserving or obtaining saltiness in us.
- Perhaps... he is alluding to the fact that we should "Have salt in ourselves" by being at peace with one another - why so important? Because peace portrayed the Gospel.

4 WAYS TO AVOID BEING OUTWITTED BY SATAN:

2 COR 2:11, "SO THAT WE WOULD NOT BE OUTWITTED BY SATAN; FOR WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DESIGNS."

metaphorically: Blow up the Body of Christ

- Satan's "design" are to destroy the mutual forgiveness, love, and unity that is to characterize God's people as those who have been reconciled to God through Christ. Satan aims to dishonor God's own glory revealed in Jesus as the Son of God.
- Eph 6:11-12, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." - this should send chills up your spine. Be read for battle.

1. DON'T LIE - Jewelry out of my pocket as a kid

COLOSSIANS 3:9-10, "[9] DO NOT LIE TO ONE ANOTHER, SEEING THAT YOU HAVE PUT OFF THE OLD SELF WITH ITS PRACTICES [10] AND HAVE PUT ON THE NEW SELF, WHICH IS BEING RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE AFTER THE IMAGE OF ITS CREATOR."

- Your old self was a lie - it was taking God's good creation in you and twisting it
 - Your new self is the image of your creator - we are to be like him in our dealings
- TITUS 1:2, "... GOD WHO NEVER LIES..." Just to be clear, God never lies so be like him

WHY WE LIE:

- TO SAVE FACE: We try to portray something we are not in hopes of not being pegged as something we don't want to be - cheater, liar, thief, etc. Little Rachel and her bro

- TO PRESERVE SOMETHING WE THINK WE ARE ENTITLED TO: We justify not telling the truth because we think it is owed to us - taxes, something at work, etc.
- TO PROTECT FRIEND AND HURT AND ENEMY: Lie in the name of love. We do tell the truth b/c we don't want the person we are lying for to get hurt.

APP: lying can't be a part of our life at Creekside. We have to be a body that is honest about our faults, truthful about our feelings and straightforward about our failures. forgive!

2. DON'T REPAY EVIL (slander, slashed tired, sorry looser - WWJD)

1 THESSALONIANS 5:15, "SEE THAT NO ONE REPAYS ANYONE EVIL FOR EVIL, BUT ALWAYS SEEK TO DO GOOD TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO EVERYONE."

- (Marks of a Christian) Romans 12:9, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good." Love that is genuine or pure gets rid of evil actions/attitude
- Gal 6:10, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Let us do well to those who cling to the same God and savior that we do. Yes, Christians will hurt you just like your family will hurt you - but don't repay the evil (intentional or not) with evil!

3. DON'T JUDGE (Ladies: Oh girl, did you see that. Men: biceps, cars, cash...)

JAMES 4:11, "DO NOT SPEAK EVIL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, BROTHERS. THE ONE WHO SPEAKS AGAINST A BROTHER OR JUDGES HIS BROTHER, SPEAKS EVIL AGAINST THE LAW AND JUDGES THE LAW. BUT IF YOU JUDGE THE LAW, YOU ARE NOT A DOER OF THE LAW BUT A JUDGE."

- The "law" likely refers to these OT laws against slander (Lev. 19:16/19:18), "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," which James calls "the royal law" (James 2:8).
- Those who inappropriately judge others break God's law & show contempt for God
- To judge someone - verbally or in your mind - is to criticize them. App: Have you do this even today? This is one sin that I think could easily plague us!

THREE ROOT CAUSES OF DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM:

- 1) JEALOUSY: you judge/criticize because you want something they have. Get over it and be glad for the. Who are you going to compliment today?
- 2) NEGATIVITY. All is not good for you b/c stress, circumstance, sin. Mr. Negativity
 - Who are you going to cheer on today tomorrow?
- 3) SARCASM (i.e. "Class Clown" for cheap laughs): Cutting down is the most deceiving of all types of criticism. Who are you going to speak the truth about?

W/ your spouse. Toward your spouse.

APP: Bottom Line - Our mission at Creekside is too important and our words too powerful to speak carelessly and risk damaging people.

(Mission: To experience & express the supremacy of Christ (in all things))

4. DON'T COMPLAIN

JAMES 5:9, "DO NOT GRUMBLE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, BROTHERS, SO THAT YOU MAY NOT BE JUDGED; BEHOLD, THE JUDGE IS STANDING AT THE DOOR." - Christ

- Philippians 2:14-15, "Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights..."

YOUR WORDS REVEAL THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART. (Rip apart a big heart)

- Matthew 12:34-35, "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil."
- From a negative heart overflows negative words. Negative words generally become negative actions. Negative actions result in a miserable life. So check

I want you to travel w/ me.

Satan is our loved enemy; Not at all likable.

SALT! SALT!

SALT! SALT!