



Sunday, April 29, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — “to obey is better than sacrifice” (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. Introduction—Our Commitment to Biblical Unity

DISUNITY is not the *PRODUCT* of *CONFLICTS* but the *LACK* of *DILIGENCE* in **RESOLVING** those *CONFLICTS* **BIBLICALLY**

“Our Walk in Harmony” (Part 4)

II. The MARKS of Biblical Unity

- A. Our VILLAIN of Unity—LUST (James 4:1-10)
- B. Our VISION of Unity—LOWLINESS (Ephesians 4:1-6)
- C. Our VISIBLE Unity—LOVE (1 Peter 3:8-9)

Our *VISIBLE* unity is **what our unity should look like**. This *visible* unity is a blessing to others and brings glory to God. In 1 Peter 3:8-12 we see that we are to be a blessing in our *conduct*, our *conversation*, and our *character*.

III. The _____ of Biblical Unity (Matthew 5:23-34/ 18:15-17)

Our unity is so important to God; therefore, it should be important to us (Psalm 133:1).

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Therefore if any man *be* in **Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. **18** And all things *are* of **God**, who hath reconciled us to **Himself** by **Jesus Christ**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

James 5:16 ...The effectual fervent [*lit. energized / Spirit-filled*] prayer of a righteous man availeth much [*effective*].

A. What do you do when you sin against a brother? (Mat. 5:23-24)

1. Who initiates contact: the _____
 2. Action to take: Humble _____ (v. 23b-24)
 - i. Pray for this **person**
 - ii. Pray for **yourself**—for a heart of humility
 - iii. Pray for **God to bring reconciliation** uniting each other in fellowship.
 3. Consideration to remember: _____ (v. 23a & 24c)
 4. Goal to pursue: _____ (v. 24b)
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B. What do you do when a brother sins against you? (Mat. 18:15-17)

1. Who initiates contact: the _____ (v. 15a)
 2. Action to take: Gracious _____ (v. 23b-24)
 - i. Step 1: Pray
 - ii. Step 2: Personal (v. 15)
 - iii. Step 3: Witnesses (v. 16)
 - iv. Step 4: Church (v. 17a)
 - v. Step 5: Separation (v. 17b)
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He is then to be treated as an **unbeliever** not an enemy (2 Thessalonians 3:15). His hard-heartedness in repentance is characteristic of one who is unsaved.

3. **Goal to pursue:** _____ (v. 24b)

4. **Considerations to remember:**

The goal of Biblical confrontation is **never** to...

- i. Put the other person in their place
- ii. Demand your own rights
- iii. To get something off your chest

5. **Attitude to maintain:** _____ (Galatians 6:1)

Be _____ when you are confronting and
_____ when confronted.

Question: Do I always need to confront something that bothers me?

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Yet, *when your fellowship with your brother is hindered, you must take the initiative and seek **reconciliation** immediately.*

Point of examination: Our walk in harmony is vital to our effectiveness in pursuing our mission, both individually and corporately.

Consider your own relationships within your family and church. Are there relationships that are strained and your fellowship hindered due to...

- † Your own ungracious spirit toward them? PRAY & then GO to them. ***Humbly confess*** your faults to them and be reconciled.
- † Someone offending you? PRAY & then GO to them. ***Graciously confront*** them in order to be reconciled.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: *Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!*