

Game Changers - Part 9
The Law of Reconciliation
July 4, 2021

- Game Changers
- Jesus - The Law of Reconciliation

Romans 5:10 (NIV) For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

2 Cor. 5:20 (NIV) 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.

The Need of Reconciliation:

1st) **CURSES**

Gen. 9:1 (ESV) And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

Gen. 9:20-21 (ESV) Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. 21 He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

Gen. 9:22 (ESV) And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside.

Gen. 9:24 (ESV) When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."

2nd) **GENERATIONS**

Sidon

Judges 10:6 (ESV) The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him.

Judges 10:12 (ESV) The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to me, and I saved you out of their hand.

- It starts with a father cursing a son
- The wounds fester to such a degree that a few generations later, the son's nation is oppressing the father's nation
- Wounds always linger
- And spread to others

Heb. 12:15 (CEB) Make sure that no one misses out on God's grace. Make sure that no root of bitterness grows up that might cause trouble and pollute many people.

3rd) **ISSUES**

- The issues come as the roots of bitterness grow deeper
- If a wound isn't dealt with it will eventually cause issues in more than the person who was initially wounded

1 Kings 11:4-5 (ESV) For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians,

Jezebel

1 Kings 16:30-31(ESV) And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him.

- The Sidonians are the bad guys in the storyline
- We're the ones God loves
- The Sidonians are the ones God hates

Mark 7:24 (ESV) And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. 25 But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." 30 And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

How to Reconcile:

1st) Risk being a **FRIEND** of sinners.

Mark 7:24 (ESV) And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

Matt. 9:11 (NIV) When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Luke 5:32 (NIV) I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

- Religion focuses on what I have to do to make things right between God and me

- Christianity focuses on what Jesus has done to make things right between God and me
- Religion is about keeping a moral code
- Christianity is about a God who rescues people who struggle and fail to keep the moral code

Matt. 15:24 (NIV) He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

- Jesus the Messiah came for the Jews first but not only them, for the Gentiles also

2nd) Keep the ATTENTION off yourself.

Mark 7:24b (ESV) And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.

- We must learn to be indifferent to what Jesus is indifferent to
- Not everything is equally valuable
- You should invest your life in things that matter and not care about what doesn't matter.
- Jesus was indifferent to popularity

John 5:41 (TLB) "Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me."

- Jesus was indifferent to personal danger

John 8:59 (WEB) Therefore they took up stones to throw at him, but Jesus was hidden, and went out of the temple, having gone through the midst of them, and so passed by.

- "I'm in God's hands."
- He was indifferent to the opinions of other people.
- He was indifferent to "Likes"
- He was indifferent to religious traditions.
- Jesus valued relationships more than rules.
- He valued people more than principles
- Jesus was indifferent to human timetables

3rd) Care about what Jesus CARES about.

Mark 7:25 (ESV) But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet.

Ephesians 5:2 (TLB) "Be full of love, following the example of Christ, who loved you and he gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins."

- He cares about the world

John 3:16 (ESV) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- Sympathy is when you see somebody hurting and you say, "I'm sorry you hurt," and you send them a card
- Empathy is saying, "I hurt with you. I enter into your hurt."
- Compassion is saying, "I'll do anything I can to stop your hurt, even if it means dying on the cross."

Matthew 9:36 (ESV) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- That is His church

Eph. 5:25 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Matthew 16:18b (ESV) "I will build my church."

4th) Intentionally become an **AMBASSADOR**.

2 Cor. 5:20 (NIV) 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.

2 Cor. 5:18 (ESV) All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

- Your happiness meter will rise
- You live for yourself, you're miserable.
- You give your life away, you're happy.
- Jesus way to P-E-A-C-E
- Promote reconciliation
- God builds a bridge to you through Christ then you build that bridge to other people
- Equipped leaders
- Assisted the poor
- Jesus cared for the sick.
- One third of his ministry was preaching – that's sharing the good news
- One third of his ministry was teaching – that's education, he was a teacher
- One third of his ministry was health care – he was a healer
- Educated the young