

Be Kind to One Another

July 28, 2019

Ephesians 4:26-32 ESV

26 **Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,**

27 **and give no opportunity to the devil.**

Romans 12:17-21 ESV

17 *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.*

18 *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

19 *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

20 *To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."*

21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Ephesians 4:26-32 ESV

28 **Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.**

29 **Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.**

30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

31 **Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.**

32 **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

- **kind** (chrēstos) *goodness in action, useful, gracious, virtuous, good*
- **tenderhearted** (eusplagchnos) *having strong bowels, well compassioned, sympathetic, pitiful*

Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV

1 **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.**

2 **And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

The Scriptures reveal two very different responses to sin in the Church.

1. **Rejection of those who knowingly, deliberately, and habitually justify and pursue sinful behaviors.**
2. **The covering of forgiveness to those who are broken and contrite, mourning over their sin and sinfulness.**

The Rejection of Habitual Sin

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 ESV

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

2 Timothy 2:19-22 ESV

19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Ephesians 5:5-7 ESV

5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7 Therefore do not become partners with them.

The Covering of Forgiveness

1 Peter 4:8-9 ESV

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Matthew 5:3-4 ESV

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Psalms 51:16-17 ESV

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

1 John 5:16-18 ESV

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life--to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Luke 22:31-34 ESV

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,
32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

DYNAMICS OF CLOSE-KNIT RELATIONSHIPS:

- Why is there no rebuke from Jesus for Peter's sin, but only encouragement?
- Some times we can see in others what they can't see themselves.
- Many times we need to experience failure before we learn the lesson.
- Many times, in knowing the heart and life of a close brother or sister, we know that this sin or failure is not who they are, it's not who they want to be.
- Jesus knew Peter well enough to know that Peter was going to weep bitterly over his failure. He knew Peter would, "turn again." He knew what Peter needed at this moment was forgiveness and encouragement, not rebuke.

Hebrews 10:24-27 ESV

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Matthew 18:15 ESV

15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Luke 17:3-4 ESV

3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,

4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

John 4:5-30 ESV

5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';

18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."

26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"

28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,

29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"

30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.