



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

October 17, 2010

WISDOM

(Competent In Life's Relationships)

desert breeze community church

“Repairing Relationships”

God invented forgiveness and reconciliation to keep the divine romance with the human race alive and well. When you forgive and are reconciled to someone you are dancing to the rhythm of the divine romance.

People who are becoming individually whole through Jesus Christ are people who can recognize the when, how and why of relationship repair.

WHEN DO YOU NEED RELATIONSHIP REPAIR?

1) When I have a closed heart.

Proverbs 10:18 *The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool*

Proverbs 14:17-18 *Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, ¹⁸lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.*

- Conceals hatred – you find happiness in their unhappiness (ill will).
- Lying lips – you pretend that everything is OK.
- Slander - whispering, defamation, evil or unfavorable report.

2) When they have a closed heart.

Proverbs 18:1, 19 *Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. ¹⁹A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.*

- Isolation – avoids closeness, contact and conversation.
- Resistance – argues against sound judgment (defensive).
- Hateful – open aggression (offensive).

HOW DO YOU DO RELATIONSHIP REPAIR?

1) Avoid Superiority.

Proverbs 11:12-13 *Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. ¹³Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.*

2) Absorb the Debt.

Proverbs 24:28-29 *Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips. ²⁹Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."*

Proverbs 17:9 *Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.*

3) Attack evil with Good.

Pro. 25:21-22 *If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, ²²for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.*

4) Approach the offender/offended in truth and love.

Proverbs 27:5-6 *Better is open rebuke than hidden love. ⁶Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy. (Matt. 5:21-26; 18:15-35)*

It takes only one to forgive (past), two to reconcile (present) and a person must show through his actions over time that he is trustworthy before you trust him again (future).

WHY SHOULD WE REPAIR RELATIONSHIPS?

Proverbs 24:17-18 *Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, ¹⁸lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.*

1) The essence of the Gospel is a man dying for His enemies.

2) You and I were the enemies He died for to reconcile us to the Father and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

3) Unforgiveness, bitterness, hatred, is evidence that I am not living in the reality of the fact that Jesus was crushed for my sins. (Isa. 53:3-5; Matt. 18:15-35)

“If you know God’s love and forgiveness then there is a limit to how deeply another person can hurt you. He or she can’t touch your real identity, wealth and significance. The more we rejoice in our own forgiveness, the quicker we will forgive others.” – Tim Keller



Growing

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- 1) Why do you think people who are becoming individually whole through Jesus Christ are people who can recognize the when, how and why of relationship repair? In general do you think most people are skilled in the when, how and why of relationship repair? Explain.
- 2) What are the two times you need relationship repair? Read Proverbs 10:18; 14:17-18. What are the signs that you have a closed heart? Read Proverbs 18:1, 19. What are the signs that a friend or family member has a closed heart?
- 3) In doing relationship repair why is it important to avoid superiority (Prov. 11:12-13)? Why is it that you cannot stay angry at someone unless you feel superior to them? A great example of what it means to absorb the debt is found in Prov. 17:9. To cover a sin means you stop repeating it to yourself, others and the offender. Why is this so hard to do?
- 4) What does it mean to attack evil with good (Pro. 25:21-22)? Whether you are the offender or the offended you are to seek reconciliation (Matt. 5:21-26; 18:15-35). It takes only one to forgive, two to reconcile and a person must show through his actions over time that he is trustworthy before you trust him again. Explain.
- 5) What should be the motive behind our repairing of our relationships? How is bitterness evidence that I am not living in the reality of the Gospel? Put Tim Keller's quote at the end of sermon notes into your own words and make it your prayer.