

FREEDOM

(For FREEDOM Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, November 28/29, 2015

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“Gospel Relationships1” Galatians 5:26-6:5

Relationships are only as healthy as the individuals that make up those relationships. Therefore, individual wholeness is the key to healthy relationships. Relationships don't put you in conflict with others as much as they put you in conflict with your own sinful nature.

RELATIONAL CONFLICT

THE CAUSE: Honor Hunger (conceited) v26

“Conceit” = Gr. “kenodoxoi”—vain-glory or empty of honor.

- It is a deep insecurity committed to proving our worth & value to ourselves & others.
- It is consumed with comparing ourselves with others causing us to either be inflated (tower) or deflated (cower). vv3-4; 2Cor10:12
- This describes the condition of our heart without the Gospel. Phil2:1-5

THE CONSEQUENCES: Provoking & Envy v26

“Provoking” = Gr. “prokaleomai”—to call forth, to challenge, to irritate.

“Envy” = Gr. “phthoneo”—to be jealous of. It is a discontentment & resentment stirred-up by & in combination with a desire for what someone else has.

- “Provoking” is an attitude of towering and “Envy” is an attitude of cowering.
- Both are self-absorbed (pride) and focused on how the other person makes you look and feel instead of how you make the other person look and feel.
- Both are a form of works-righteousness trying to gain worth & value through performance & competition at the expense of others.

Do you have a tendency to provoke or envy in relationships?

- ✓ Do I have a tendency to “blow up” or to “clam up”?
- ✓ Do I tend to pick arguments or avoid them?
- ✓ Do I tend to get down on certain people/groups or tend to get embarrassed and intimidated around certain people/groups?
- ✓ When criticized, do I get angry & judgmental—attack back or do I get very discouraged & defensive—make lots of excuses, or give right in?
- ✓ Do I often think: I would never, ever do what this person had done or do I often look at and say: I could never, ever accomplish what this person does?

Galatians 5:6, 14-15

THE CURE: The Gospel!

- It gives me a whole new identity not based on comparisons with others making me either superior or inferior to others, but humble and confident. vv3-4
- It humbles us by reminding us that we are sinner's saved by grace and at the same time it gives us confidence by reminding us that we are loved by the only one in the Universe that matters. Jn3:16; Rom5:8
- I am a unique, one of a kind, original masterpiece, created for good works which God prepared beforehand that I should walk in them. Eph2:10; 1Cor4:7; Gal6:2, 5
- To the degree I am working for my identity is to the degree I will either feel superior (confident but not humble) when I'm winning or inferior (humble but not confident) when I'm losing. Gal 5:6; John 5:44
- You must preach the Gospel to yourself:
When feeling inferior you must say, “Jesus Christ's approval of me, not anyone else's, is my identity, worth, value and righteousness.”
When feeling superior you must say, “What I think of me is not the important thing. I am just as much a sinner and undeserving of Christ's love for me, as others.”

Growing Notes

- 1) Why do you think individual wholeness is the key to healthy relationships? What difference should the Gospel make in our relationships (Gal5:6, 14-15)? Relationships don't put you in conflict with others as much as they put you in conflict with your own sinful nature. Explain.
- 2) Read Galatians 5:26-6:5. What do you think is the big idea of these verses? What stands out to you from these verses? What is the cause of our relational conflict (v26)? What is “conceit”? What is conceit consumed with (Gal6:3-4; 2Cor10:12)? How does “conceit” describe a heart without the Gospel (Phil2:1-5)?
- 3) What are the two effects of conceit on relationships (v26)? What is the difference between “provoking” & “envying”? What does it mean that both come from pride and works-righteousness? Review the five question inventory from the sermon notes. Do you have a tendency to provoke or envy in relationships?
- 4) What is the cure to relational conflict? How does the Gospel give you a whole new identity? Why do you think we disdain and demean our Creator and ourselves as His masterpiece when we compare ourselves with others and feel superior or inferior to others (Eph2:10; 1Cor4:7; Gal6:2, 5)? What happens when I work for my identity? How should I preach the Gospel to myself when I am feeling superior or inferior? Pray.