

Family Series (Richardson Baptist: Message 4 of 7)

"Leave, Cleave and Conceive"

Our mouths feed on what our heart seeks. Whatever our hearts seek, our mouths will eat... some feed on knowledge and some feed foolishness! Our appetites are the current reality of our hungry hearts. This is how God describes it... "The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feeds on foolishness." (Proverbs 15:14)

A surrendered mouth
speaks on behalf of a
believing heart. Romans
10:9

Confession is made toward
the salvation of the heart.
Yes, the mouth points others
in the direction of
righteousness following the
lead of a converted heart.
Romans 10:10

Faith repentance is the
result of a mind and heart
that has been overtaken,
and now occupied, by the
light of truth, that changes
how we see.

Faith sees and agrees with what God sees. [It] doesn't see ALL that He sees, but ENOUGH of what He sees, to make an extraordinary difference—in how WE see the natural, through the eyes of God, and agree with Him how He revealed it to us. Simply... faith takes God at His word. Faith then is seeing what we need to see... to be in agreement and fellowship with God.

Faith CLEARS the mind of distractions... and COMPELS the heart to rest in what it sees through the revelation of God.

Faith... therefore, will fight

for what it sees.

But a heart occupied by darkness and overtaken by deception can't see what God sees, therefore, [it] cannot reconsider how a person sees life.

We have a very clear example given to us in Revelation 9.

"The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not [reconsider] or repent of the works of their hands, that they would not worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of bronze, and of stone, and of wood; which can neither see, nor hear,

nor walk. They did not repent (reconsider) their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts." (Revelation 9:20-21)

Repentance is the finished product of godly sorrow. Repentance actually means "to think differently afterwards." When godly sorrow has worked genuine repentance, there will be three areas in a believer's life that have been radically altered: First, their hearts are altered from being a conformer to the agenda of

this world to being a transformer. Why have they been transformed? Their hearts have been changed to be in agreement with the Lord and are approved for His kingdom work. When believers repent, their hearts are altered and they are truly different people.

Repentance alters what they truly are. Second, their attitudes and aptitudes are altered from being self-centered to being single-minded in their personal pursuit of King Jesus. When believers repent of sin, their thoughts and what they treasure encounters a supernatural alteration. Repentance alters what

they think. Third, their actions are altered from walking by sight to walking by faith. When believers repent of sin, they place their trust in the promises of God and not in what they physically see and know naturally. Repentance alters how they live.

God desires that our hearts be in agreement with His. He is, therefore, longsuffering, and His kindness and goodness are what lead us to repentance: "Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God

leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:4). It's when God brings into view His useful goodness in Christ and how He longs to supply His righteousness in our lives and also take away our iniquities that we are led to repentance.

It is through His grace He reveals our complete failure to appropriate and apply His mercy over our personal sins that lead us to repentance. It is through His forbearance that He takes the precious time to unveil to us that our transgressions have been laid upon Jesus at Calvary. This effectual work of grace produces in us a gift of

godly sorrow that leads to an altered way of thinking about Jesus, sin, ourselves, and our lives. This altered way of thinking is repentance. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

SEVEN STEPS OF GODLY SORROW

When God shines His light upon our iniquities and we see from His perspective how disgusted He is with our rebellion toward His grace, we are moved toward repentance and motivated by godly sorrow. Godly

sorrow works a seven-step process in the lives of all who have experienced grace-granted repentance. The seven steps are as follows:

Step One (SIN'S SERVANT)

By God's grace, godly sorrow allows the sinner to see and know they're a slave to sin (lost man) or a particular sin in their life (backslider). They thought they were in control of this pleasure until godly sorrow began to reveal to them sin never serves man but man always serves sin: "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever

committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34). "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

Step Two (SIN'S STRENGTH)

By God's grace, godly sorrow allows the sinner to see and know the strength of sin is the law. "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law" (1 Corinthians 15:56). What does "sin's strength is the

law" mean? The law condemns every soul that sins to die. "Behold, all souls are Mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is Mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). The law of God demands all sins be paid for in full.

Step Three (SIN'S SENSE)

By God's grace, godly sorrow allows the sinner to know and recognize the presence of their sin. It allows them to see the

ugliness of their sinful heart and the reality of the consequences of their rebellion toward God.

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). “And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin” (1 John 3:5).

Step Four (SIN'S SORROW)

By God's grace, godly sorrow allows the sinner to know and experience the shame and grief they have caused God by allowing sin in their life. “Now we know that what things soever the

law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:19-20). "Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful" (Romans 7:13). God uses His law when godly sorrow is at work in a sinner's life to produce guilt

and shame so their conscience will condemn them.

Step Five (SIN'S SACRIFICE)

By God's grace, godly sorrow reveals to us the purpose of Christ's death on the cross and the desire of God to forgive sins through Christ's shed blood: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after

this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall he appear the second time without sin unto

salvation" (Hebrews 9:27-28). "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14). "And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15). Through godly sorrow, we know our sins are paid in

full.

Step Six (SIN SURRENDERED)

By God's grace, godly sorrow compels the sinner to surrender sin, its guilt, and the shame it causes over to Jesus: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). With godly sorrow, God always reveals the truth about ourselves and our sins, causing us to realize that Jesus has already personally paid the wages of our sin. Godly sorrow brings us to the place where

we can agree with God about sin and also agree with Him that Jesus must take our sin for us. Thus, we surrender our transgressions and iniquities to our Mediator.

Step Seven (SIN SEVERED)

By God's grace, godly sorrow has brought us to a place where we can walk away from sin with no condemnation of a guilty conscience. Why? We have been severed from that which once held us captive in thought and deed. Godly sorrow has led us to an altered way of thinking called repentance. "How

much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14).

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1) "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

LET GODLY SORROW WORK IN YOU

Godly sorrow is sure to work through these seven steps in

a most divine and precise way when God graces His people with repentance.

Repentance is always the product of God invading sinners with His grace to produce in their lifestyle godly sorrow.

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it (godly sorrow) wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what

zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Take time to dig deep in this passage and study the effects of godly sorrow which produces genuine repentance. It will produce an altered way of thinking, treasuring, and trusting the deliverance in Christ that we will never regret. This is the heart of God and what Christ came to declare.

"I acknowledged my sin to

You, and my iniquity [yes, the twisted intent of my wicked heart] I have not hidden. I said [to myself], "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord [and be at His mercy]," and You [my gracious God and Redeemer] forgave [me, and You lifted the heavy weight of shame and the burden of guilt that] the iniquity of my sin [had caused me]. Selah" (Psalms 32:5) THANK YOU JESUS!

Notice God's revelation in Jeremiah 3:11-15

1. Return to Me. (Trust and come to Me with yourself,

your sin, your past and your future.)

2. Acknowledge your sin.
(Confess... come and agree with Me that your sin is yours --- and it is just as I have described it to you. Come to Me and you will see your sin as I see it. You have knowingly trespassed against Me because of the wickedness in your heart... acknowledge it and I will heal you!)

3. Turn from these offensive things, for Me... give Me your heart and all that you are.

4. Welcome my love and

forgiveness with open arms, you are Mine and I want to lavish you with My unfailing love.

5. I will give you shepherds and teachers that have a heart for Me and they will have a heart to feed you with knowledge and understanding of Me and My ways.

6. I will make My presence known in and through your life.

7. I will be your hope, your joy, your peace, your confidence, your strength, your praise... your life.

He promised... and He always keeps His promises.

Glory... our mess ups don't have to keep messing us up... nor do the mess ups of others.

When we trust the Lord in repentance, what we do is glorify Him and His ways. Repentance is an act of faith obedience that trust the Lord that involves turning to Him and His ways and turning from the self centered reliance and actions that lead us to miss the mark with Him. And because grace repentance is part of the perfect will of God, we glorify Him through

repenting. When we do not repent of a known transgression, and attempt to cover it up ourselves, we add sin to sin instead of glorifying Him and His delight to forgive, cleanse and pardon our iniquity.

Think about King David.

I'm always amazed of the twist and turns, ups and downs, and the raw glimpse in the life of David found in 1 Samuel. From him playing the madman before Achish, in chapter 21, to being one of his "allies" in chapter 27. And his tenderness with Abigail --- to his ruthless raids and slaughter of the

original occupants of the land of Canaan. A talented musician, a master of hiding, a skilled warrior, a clever strategist, a ruthless killer, an ugly adulterer and a very wise leader who knew how to sin big, but even more so --- he knew HOW and WHEN to repent. A man who put his full confidence upon the mercy of God... and not in his ability to do what was right. Though he was gifted and wise and meek --- none of those qualities that he possessed was sufficient, in and of themselves, to warrant God's attention, and he knew this. As the Psalmist says on two occasions... "The Lord takes

pleasure in, and places His eye upon, those who fear Him." And each time he mentions this thought, he qualifies what he means by fearing him with this phrase, "on those who hope in His mercy." (Psalm 33:18 & 147:11). To fear God is to hope in His mercy... to hope in His mercy one must trust that God is merciful. To trust God, and to trust that He is merciful, one must personally know God. And to personally know God one can't help but know He is quick to forgive our sin and abundant in mercy. David's hope was in this God and not in himself... and if his God left him to himself, he

would be nothing and without mercy in a hopeless world full of darkness, death and gloom. Therefore, he rested his life upon his merciful God and glorified His great name every single time he repented of distorting and fragmenting His image. Most of us, like King Saul, know HOW to repent but not WHEN to repent. The beauty and blessing of David was the fact he acted on them together... he knew HOW and WHEN --- yes, a man after God's own heart.

The righteous shall live by the Word of God as the Scriptures teach... "The just

shall live by faith."

I love this insight from Jeremiah... listen how he explains us all.

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"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his own steps..." (Jeremiah 10:23)

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Say it with me? EVERYONE, yes, EVERYONE is INFLUENCED by someone or something... NONE OF US are as independent in our thinking as we thought. NO ONE is an INDEPENDENT thinker that walks to the beat of his own drum. Someone or

something is influencing you... and their influence didn't start today. You've learned and cultivated what they showed you to fit into your own life. And it's in your (our) best interest to know who or what it is. Jeremiah realized he had been misled and he's now confessing and asking the Lord to direct his steps away and out of the wrong influence.

- BUT with God there's always hope, even when our past has been grossly tainted with the wrong kind of love. Paul reminds the church that God takes it personal when it comes to

teaching His own children how to love. And He's the best TEACHER and EXAMPLE and INFLUENCER I know. Think about it?

- His love isn't a quitter...
His love can't fail...
His love doesn't make excuses...

C'mon... say it with me?

- Jacked up love is a quitter...
Jacked up love will fail...
Jacked up love makes excuses...

- Parents are usually the ones who teach their kids how to love... that's why we have so

many jacked up people loving each other with a tainted and jacked up kind of love. Not all love is the same... nor is ALL love equal! And to think it is... is proof how out of whack our ideas can be. A jacked up love is a love twisted by the fall and tainted with man's experiences and ideas of love.



There are some messed up and seriously jacked up ideas about love. Just look around you... somebody shaped the love of the people you're around every day. Why do you think they do what they do, think they way they think and treat

people the way they treat people. They jacked up... they're not by themselves, though! Your love, my love, everybody's love has been learned from someone, and it can be blurry, very blurry, on the highways of life.

We haven't been created to find happiness in the creation... without knowing what the Creator created us and the creation for. Jesus didn't die to make us happy... but He did lay His life down and shed His blood to make His people holy.

And seeing we're living and living on "Borrowed Bread"

we need to give what we have to Jesus. Yes do like the disciples did with their borrowed bread and put it in the hands of Jesus.

We're all living off of "Borrowed Bread" and like the five loaves and two fish, we don't need much to make a big difference... you'll just need Jesus to make it happen.

It just needs to be:

- Edible
- Bless•able
- Breakable
- Shareable

You don't need MUCH to

make a BIG difference in someone's day. Especially, when the little you do have... is now in Jesus' hands. Little is much when God is in it... even when what you have is borrowed bread (Matthew 14 ; John 6).

Never underestimate what Jesus can do with something, even something, as little as a sack lunch, that might be enough to feed you and a neighbor, but NEVER a multitude. Like this treat one of my brethren shared with honey and I. This meal is probably larger than the lunch that Jesus used to feed over 5,000 people one day.

WE need to remember:

– He's enough...

– I'm enough in Him...

– What I have is enough for Him to use.

– We are enough to complete His compassion for the people.

And if He can multiply a little bread and a few fish, what can He do with a whole life that's been placed in His hands? It may not be much to work with... and it doesn't need to be for Him to make a big deal out of what you gave Him. You see, when He receives it, then blesses it, so He can share it, He has a way of multiplying the little

you gave Him, to "feed" way more than you could, if it was still in your hands.
Glory!!!

"Leave, Cleave and Conceive"

("A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife and the two shall be one flesh... and be fruitful and multiply."
Genesis 2:24 ; 1:28)

When God said... "Be fruitful and multiply..." Genesis 1:28

The context:
Marriage

The command:

Reproduce

The conditions:

Man needs a wombed woman and a wombed woman needs a man, which God provided, along with His blessings, that they may fulfill the command within the context He provided.

The causality:

Man and his wombed woman are deceived and fall into sin. Their offspring are now tainted in every way with their sin, rebellion and death.

The consequence:

Man begins to fulfill the command to be fruitful and multiply but his seed, which by design can only come through a wombed woman, starts diminishing, demoralizing, distorting, minimizing, or just plain neglecting God's context, God's command and God's conditions, that He established from the beginning.

The Consolation:
God had already answered and prepared His solution to this tragic movement toward man doing life the way they seemed best. He chose to show them grace... and more specifically redeeming

grace through a promise that He would provide, redeem, rescue and restore fallen men and woman through the very context and command He provided for which we have diminished and demoralized.

How?

I want to reiterate to you, as Moses reiterated to the people in his day, when he said, "A MAN shall leave his FATHER and MOTHER and be joined to his WIFE, and the two shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

Why is this significant and fundamental to God and

those who know and follow Him?

Because it takes us back to the original context, command and conditions found in the garden that day. And because this picture of man and woman within God's context of marriage is directly related to the gospel. Marriage, within the context, condition and command of God is the earthy illustration of the saving grace of Jesus. He (Jesus) leaving His Father came to sacrificially lay His life down for His bride (those washed in His blood) that He and His bride (the church) may become one

flesh and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth. And when humanity takes matters in their own hands with the issues of marriage they distort and diminish this glory of the Lord... before the eyes of their children and future generations (Micah 2:8).

We, His bride, also believe that His redeeming grace and forgiveness transforms our lives NOT to be a group of flawless people but to be a bride that is free to trust and follow and be fruitful for Christ. And it's His truth, that consistently and diligently frees us from the lies we once believed to be

true. His grace teaches us to deny ourselves and ungodliness and worldly lust and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age, as we look for our blessed hope and His glorious appearing. He redeems and washes us from every kind of lawless deed and purifies us for Himself and for a good work. So, I take this issue of redeeming grace serious... it's agenda has always been and always will be to teach us to say no to ourselves and say yes to Jesus. It instructs us on how to love and live in the light of His promised return.

So the design of marriage is not an issue of personal preference but one of purpose, principle and prophetic that has its roots in the power and pleasure of Christ and the gospel of His redeeming grace.

The choice:

Let society redefine its take on life, marriage and the gospel or trust that God knows what's best, always has and always will, for this generation and every generation to come.