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Morning Service

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Teaching Elder

Don't Let Pride Separate Your Relationships

Pride has been around along time. One could even argue it was the 'mother' of all sins for it was pride that sparked the fall from heaven. We as fallen creatures are not immune to pride and must be vigilant to combat it in our lives as it seeks to manifest itself in every Christian. We see in Matthew 18 the disciples asking our Saviour which one of them would be greatest in heaven. The answer was both a rebuke and instruction.

We are to become as a child, a young learner, one who has no other motive than seeking the Truth. We must be in constant submission to the Scriptures, the only place we will ever find Truth thus allowing the Holy Spirit to conform us into a soul that is teachable.

Jesus further instructs that we are to promote this humble conformity among us all. He also warns that any attribute causing a learner to stumble, such as pride, should be actively avoided and eliminated. This is the heart of maintaining a proper Christian relationship. This is how the Church is held together, by lovingly instructing all with scripture. Scripture brings loving wisdom and council, pride brings schism and rebuke. Are you looking for prideful behavior in your life?

Notes

Matthew 18 address sin in ourselves relating to sin in others. We can and do affect others with our sin. Jesus warns of dire consequences of the effect of our sins on other, but also gives clear instruction on how to eliminate it.

- Pride of man cause of many sins
- The negative impact of these sins
- Reconciliation needed because of sin
- How to scripturally address sin in others (how to win a brother)
- The restorative power of forgiveness.

Wisdom

- Submits to scripture.
- Cultivates relationships
- Promotes humility
- Is uplifting to the fallen

Pride

- Hates wisdom.
- Destroys relationships.
- Has no shame or humility
- Leads to a fall.

Scripture References

Matthew 18:1-35 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (2) And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, (3) and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. (4) "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5) "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; (6) but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (7) "Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! (8) "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. (9) "If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell. (10) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. (11) ["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.] (12) "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? (13) "If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. (14) "So it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish. (15) "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. (16) "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** (17) "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (18) "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. (19) "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. (20) "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (21) Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (22) Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (23) "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. (24) "When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. (25) "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. (26) "So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' (27) "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. (28) "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' (29) "So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' (30) "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. (31) "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. (32) "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. (33) 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' (34) "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. (35) "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Proverbs 8:12-14 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge *and* discretion. (13) "The

fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.
(14) "Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine.

Proverbs 13:10 Through insolence comes nothing but strife, But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.

Proverbs 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for *his* back, But the lips of the wise will protect them.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

Proverbs 21:24 "Proud," "Haughty," "Scoffer," are his names, Who acts with insolent pride.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

Mark 7:21-23 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, (22) deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. (23) "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

Acts 7:39 "Our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him, but repudiated him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt,

Matthew 10:40-42 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. (41) "He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (42) "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

Luke 10:1-16 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. (2) And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (3) "Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. (4) "Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way. (5) "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace *be* to this house.' (6) "If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. (7) "Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. (8) "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; (9) and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' (10) "But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, (11) 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off *in protest* against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' (12) "I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city. (13) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. (14) "But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you. (15) "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades! (16) "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.