

REALationships - Part 3
"Getting Real about Ourselves..."
May 2nd, 2021

Intro:

- What we all HOPE we'll talk about: OTHERS!!!
 - What we need to talk about... OURSELVES!!!
 - Turn to your neighbor & say: "Put your seatbelt on!"
- John Maxwell: "The toughest person to lead is always yourself."
 - The toughest person to be in relationship with is YOU!
- So we've got to get down to Business & Get Real about Ourselves if we're going to hope to succeed at "getting better at being imperfect together!"
- Today:
 - 4 Things in US that Work Against our Relationships:**

PRAY

1. The Bricks on our Heart.

A. Anais Nin: "We don't see things as they are, we see them as WE are."

B. We all have Bricks around our Hearts from Undealt with Hurts & Wounds from our Past.

- ILL THIS...

- Danger: We paint our Reality on the inside of our Brick Wall & we believe it's Real!

Hebrews 12:15 "Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many."

C. When we get offended & allow a Root of Bitterness to enter our heart, the Bible promises that 3 things WILL happen:

1) It will Spring up. (You can't hide it forever)

- 2) It will Cause Trouble. (It's not gonna be pretty or good)
- 3) It will Defile Many. (A lot of people are going to get hurt)

D. MIP: What do we do?

- Get honest about the Bricks around our Heart.
- ? How do you know it is a Brick?
 - When you Over-react!!!
 - When your Reaction doesn't Match their Action, you know you have an undealt with Brick on your Heart!

2. Negative Self-Talk.

A. We all have a Soundtrack playing all of the time.

- It's almost all negative!!!
- It comes from all the Experiences we've had in our life up until now!
 - It was supposed to be Good, but sin, the world & the devil messed it up!

Proverbs 6:20-22 “My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you.”

B. Look how this verse says it will affect us:

- 1) Where & How we walk.
- 2) Sticks in our Head at night.
- 3) Drives our Motivations when we are awake.

- Jon Acuff stuff in Start book - self-talk - voices

C. 2 Voices to become Aware of:

- 1) Our Own Voices.
 - “*You’re so stupid.*” playing all of the time...
 - No wonder we don’t have empathy for others.

2) Voices from our Past.

- We *Pick Up* voices that become Soundtracks in our Head & we don't even realize it.
- We are trying to live according to some voice from our past that wasn't godly, wasn't healthy & didn't have our best interest in mind!!!
- We are trying to please someone who isn't even in our life anymore!
 - It's affecting our relationships.
- Examples:
 - "Make us proud, son."
 - "Good parents stay home..."
 - "You are only successful when you make \$XX money."
 -

3. Lack of Selflessness.

A. Jesus made it clear & modeled for us that relationships only function best when we are willing to enter another person's world.

- That's what He did for us!

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

1 John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

John 10:18 "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again."

B. The opposite of Selflessness is Selfishness.

- Show me a relationship where you're struggling & (most of the time) I will show you a relationship where one or both people are struggling to live selflessly.

C. We don't come by Selflessness Inherently, it's an act of Surrender & Daily Dying.

Luke 9:23 "Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

D. MIP: If we want to see our Relationships Improve, just start asking yourself DAILY: "Is this another opportunity to Die to Self right now???"

- I promise you, if the answer is Yes, which most of the time, it will be, then you've found another opportunity to Live & Look like Jesus!

- (Every once in a great while, you'll realize someone is just taking advantage of you! But that is Very Rare!)

- & when you see that, then you know you need to put up a boundary w/ them!

4. Lack of Repentance. (Pride)

A. Our inability to say we are sorry & own our Fault in a relationship is one of the greatest factors of relational erosion out there.

B. Plain & Simple: We want to be right. We like to be right. We think we are right. We KNOW we are right. We are stuck in our version of right.

- That's Called PRIDE!!!

- & it's killing our relationships.

- You can be right, or you can be Married (or in relationships).

Proverbs 11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom." (ESV)

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (ESV)

James 4:6 "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (ESV)

Proverbs 16:5 "Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished." (ESV)

Psalms 10:4 "In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God." (ESV)

- IOW, our Pride actually says, "I'm my own god, I don't need God."

Romans 12:16 "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight." (ESV)

Philippians 2:3 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves..." (NIV)

Proverbs 26:12 "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." (ESV)

Proverbs 21:4 "Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin." (ESV)

C. Is it any wonder our Relationships aren't working???

- Pride & a Lack of Humility is destroying our Relationships.
- & it's destroying our Country!
- ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE!!!
- If we don't learn to Lay down our Pride, we're going to destroy each other.

Galatians 5:15 "If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." (NIV)

D. The Antidote to Pride is ALWAYS Repentance.

- In fact, it is impossible to come to God without genuine Humility.
- *"I can't do this on my own..."*

E. MIP: Some of us need to go home & Repent.

- You are about 8 "I'm Sorry's" away from the Relationship of your Dreams!

- Don't justify / Don't Make Excuses / Own it!
- Say you're Sorry, then LISTEN!
 - *"How have I hurt you?"*
 - *"Tell me more..."*

Challenge:

MERGE MOMENT - Open up the Altars!