

SHOES - PART 4
"Take a Hike"
Pastor Bill Bush
July 5, 2009

THE BIG IDEA:

The third step to conflict resolution is to gently restore

TAKE A HIKE OF RESTORATION

Step One: *Overlook Minor Offenses (Proverbs 19:11)*

Proverbs 12:16; 17:14; Luke 6:36, 1 Peter 4:8 Colossians 3:13

Proverbs 19:11 "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense."

How do you know when to overlook something?

Is this person's offense publicly dishonoring God?
Is this person's offense hurting your relationship?
Is this person's offense hurting other people?
Is this person's offense hurting that person (himself)?

* The major difference between overlooking and denial is forgiveness

Step Two: *Talk Privately to Resolve Personal Issues (Matthew 18:15)*

Matthew 5:23-24 Powerful Truth: Reconciliation must precede worship

Restoring means more than confronting (Matthew 18:12-14, 21-35)

As You go to restore ...

- Pray for humility and wisdom
- Plan your words carefully (think of how you would want to be confronted)
- Anticipate likely reactions and plan appropriate responses (rehearsals can be very helpful)
- Choose the right time and place (talk in person whenever possible)
- Assume the best about the other person until you have facts to prove otherwise (Proverbs 11:27)
- Listen carefully (Proverbs 18:13)
- Speak only to build others up (Ephesians 4:29)
- Ask for feedback from the other person
- Recognize your limits (only God can change people; see Romans 12:18; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)

Step Three: *Take One or Two Others Along (Matthew 18:16)*

The reconciler's primary role is to help you both to make the decision needed to restore peace.

What can reconcilers do?

- Encourage self-control and courtesy
- Ask questions, clarify facts
- Counsel and admonish by God's Word
- Expand resources...draw on their own knowledge and experience
- Observe conduct and report to churches
- Lastly, act as arbitrators (1 Corinthians 6:1-8)

Step Four: *Tell It to the Church (Accountability...Matthew 18:17)*

"...tell it to the church" should first involve telling only church leaders and requesting their assistance

Step Five: *Treat the Other Person as a Non-Believer (Matthew 18:17-20)*

1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 1 Timothy 5:20; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 1:10-11

What does this mean?

Do not ***pretend*** that things are all right or behave as though the person is in good standing with God and others.

Step Six: *Forgive and Restore the Repentant (Matthew 18:12-14)*

Conclusion

Always ask: "How can I help?"

Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."...2 Timothy 2:24-26

Your Job? To speak the truth in love as clearly as possible.

God's Job? To change people.

SHOES - PART 4
SHARPEN THE POINT
July 5, 2009

ENTRY POINT: When something is “restored,” it is repaired, regenerated, renewed, mended, fixed, doctored, reestablished, returned to its original condition, or given new life or energy. When we have new life in Christ, we are all of these things! The Bible gives us very specific instructions on how to restore our relationships and to deal with conflict within them. Begin your study by reviewing the Scripture in today’s sermon notes and reading Galatians 6:1-10.

How likely am I to *instinctively* overlook the offenses of others? Do I have an attitude of patience, tolerance and self-control?

When has remembering God’s grace and mercy toward me helped me to overlook an offense? How has this awareness increased my compassion for others?

When the time comes to address a personal issue with another, how do I prepare my own heart? How willing have I been to follow the example of Jesus in being persistent in generous love, even for those who may be rejecting and unloving toward me?

When have I sought the counsel and perspective of a third party (*reconciler*) in order to resolve a conflict, and what was the result?

What kind of situation would I feel compelled to take to the church leaders?

SHARPEN THE POINT - CONTINUED...

The Bible says we are to counsel one another, guided by the Holy Spirit and armed with the knowledge of God’s Word. How spiritually fit, and armed, am I to approach someone else regarding their transgressions? How spiritually fit and prepared am I to receive their reaction? Relate a time when this has happened.

Knowing that God will never ask me to forgive another more than He has already forgiven me, how willing am I to forgive and to commit to reconciliation?

*“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin,
you who are spiritual should restore him gently.
But watch yourself, for you also may be tempted.”*
Galatians 6:1 (NIV)