

know THAT YOU KNOW

Part 7 - How to Restore A Broken Relationship 1 John 3:11-16

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October 25, 2015

- I. GOD SHOWS US NOT TO CHOOSE THE WAY OF **CAIN**. (1 John 3:11-13)
- A. *Genesis 4:1-8* “Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.”
1. *1 John 3:15* “Anyone who hates his brother IS a **murderer**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.”
 2. *Matthew 5:21-22* “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to

*judgment.' ²² But I tell you that anyone who **hates** his brother will be subject to judgment."*

- B. *1 Corinthians 13:1-8 "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I **am** nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I **gain** nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails."* (NIV)

Only those, married or single, who reach a 1 Corinthians 13 kind of level of love will really gain one of the great goals God intended life to accomplish – a **mature** love.

- C. **Pride** always keeps the hurt and separation going in broken relationships.
- D. In a relationship, when we hang on to our **pride** unbroken and unchanged we have chosen "the way of Cain".

II. THERE IS A DIFFERENT WAY, THE WAY OF **CHRIST**. (1 John 3:16)

- A. *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 each other."*
- B. *Philippians 2:5-8 "Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!"* (NIV)

God's great goal in our life is to change us to become like **Jesus**.

- C. Let's apply Jesus' example to a broken relationship.
1. Jesus taught us to lay aside our authority and position and power and willingly **humble** ourselves to another person with whom we have a broken relationship.
 - a. *Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."* (NIV)
 - b. *Matthew 18:15 "If another believer sins against you, you go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses*

it, you have won that person back.” (NLT)

- c. Jesus’ example is for us to humble ourselves to others with the desire to **restore** the relationship and when we confront to do it lovingly with the willingness to listen and restore the relationship.
- 2. Jesus’s example teaches us to lay aside our **needs** to meet the needs of the other first.

Learning to put others **before** ourselves has to be one of the most difficult but **mature** things we will ever do.

- 3. God the Father used that moment to exalt His Son and He uses our willingness to respond well to broken relationships to **bless** us, as well.

CDs and DVDs of today’s sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water’s Edge Resource Center.

Notes:

A series of 26 horizontal lines for taking notes or writing.