

Things That Are Hard To Do #4
“Heal From Church Hurts”
Colossians 3:5-17
September 9, 2018

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:5-17

Series Setup & Introductory Remarks

Prayer

Introduction

Church wounds are among the deepest wounds a human can experience.

I. Hurt By God’s People

1. Salvation is into a family | Colossians 3:11, 15
 - a. The gospel is both horizontal and vertical
2. None of the family members are perfect | Colossians 3:5-10
 - a. Key words: *being renewed*
3. Hurt will happen | Colossians 3:12-13
 - a. Key words: *bearing with one another*
 - b. C.S. Lewis — There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.

*Walking away from “the **C**hurch” is not an option

II. Making Sense of the Issue

1. Different dynamics
 - a. Personal hurt: between individuals
 - b. Corporate hurt: leadership decisions
 - c. Second-hand hurt: a friend is hurt
 - d. Perceived (false) hurt: you misunderstanding
 - e. Abuse: power dynamics
2. Different relationships
 - a. Member hurts member
 - b. Member hurts leader

- c. Leader hurts leader - church splits
- d. Leader hurts member - longest lasting pain
- 3. Different degrees: legitimate, perceived, false
 - a. 1st degree: somebody in your group didn't bring you a meal
 - b. 2nd degree: leadership team made some bad decisions that rocked the church
 - i. Not necessarily personal
 - c. 3rd degree: sexually abused, personally lied to

III. Fundamental Choices

1. Basic attitude: victim, bitter, despair, or hopeful?
2. Primary focus: the wounder or the healer?
3. Relationship to the past: reflect/grieve or get stuck?

IV. Forgiveness is Not Optional

Colossians 3:13 — ¹³ ...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- Shane Patrick — God has always forgiven you of more than he's asking you to forgive in somebody else.

V. Steps Toward Healing

1. Grief and lament: journaling, crying, praying, singing
2. Ongoing focus keep looking at your Healer
3. The people of God: group, counselor, pastor, friend
4. Activity and movement "physical therapy" for the heart

VI. Conclusion

No matter what has happened in your life, healing is possible in Jesus Christ

Psalm 30:2-5 — ² O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. ³ O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. ⁴ Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Benediction Romans 15:5-6 — ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.