

Announcements

Want to keep up on what's going on around here? Drop your info card in the offering plate and we'll add you to the e-newsletter list.

Foundations Class today!**Communities:**

This is where we gather to pray, study and encourage one another as part of the missional work of the Gospel. We would love to get to know you more, and this is one of the best ways to get planted as a part of Seaside.

Please consider joining a Community to strengthen the not only your family, but the larger community.

Contact
eric@seasidechurch.com
for info on where groups meet or to lead/host one.

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V.23 Therefore before presenting your offering... God desires devoted, purified and obedient hearts more than external offerings and signs (1 Sam. 15:22, 16:7, Is. 1:11-17; Jer. 7:9-10; Titus 2:11-14). This means that we not only turn from anger, but also look to the root of why we are angry and, “...reach the stage in which there shall be nothing wrong even in spirit between our brother and ourselves.” -Martyn Lloyd-Jones

V.24 First be reconciled to your brother... The concept of reconciliation is a difficult one, primarily because we are afraid of the loss of reputation before men or because we stubbornly refuse to admit our part in the broken relationship. We desperately seek to be vindicated. But if we have sinned against another brother, we must make it right (Rom. 12:17-18) so that our relationship before God is unbroken (Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:9; Is. 59:2; 1 Pt 3:12), *regardless of their reaction.*

If our concern is the Kingdom of Heaven, and we are about His work, then we have no rights or desires to hold dear, finding them wholly untrustworthy in regard to seeing Him glorified before and by all men (see Acts 7 – who would have picked that as a way to see the Gospel go forward??). *And in living in an un-reconciled life, we stand in the way of the fulfillment of righteousness in our own lives – for we were saved out of our deep wrong against Him (Eph 4:17-32).* Yet here we stand, opposed to the pervasive work of the Holy Spirit into the corners of our life.

So how do we move forward in His grace?

First, there are some key things we need to do – **pray, confess & repent**, and **trust in Him**. These follow the pattern of the psalmist in Ps. 139 – even though he thought that his ways were right, he still laid his heart before the throne of God, asking for not only conviction, but in turn, to be led in the everlasting way.

In this passage we are called to handle anger and issues between brothers through biblically-driven communication. In that light, and in His paths, Ephesians 4 gives us a great pattern to follow:

1) Be prepared to focus on the sin, not the sinner (4:1-10; 1 Tim. 1:15-16). We must be surgical in our precision – for we know that we too are not people who are good most of the time and bad only some of the time, but rather the other way around. We are all growing up into Him as we come to know and trust Him more (4:15-24).

2) We need to live within the community that Christ has brought us into (Eph.4:11-17). We are not, nor should we act like we are in this alone. We are in this together.

3) Be honest and speak - people cannot read our minds. We must speak the truth in love (4:15-16, 25). And then, in turn, be willing to listen (James 1:19; Prov. 18:13).

4) Stay current with relationships so we can act, not react (4:20-32). We must not allow what is bothering us to build up until we lose control and react through outbursts of anger or we withdraw from the situation altogether (or some other more subtle, but sinful, response). Dealing with and sharing what is bothering us before it gets to that point is important – we must be on guard not to give the devil an opportunity or foothold with anger or bitterness.