

Gospel Transformation & Relational Mess

October 29, 2023

Introduction:

Text: Romans 12:14-21

A Place to Begin:

- Have I gone to higher ground? (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- Have I gotten real with myself? (Matthew 7:1-5)
- Have I gently engaged others? (Galatians 6:1)
- Have we gotten together on lasting solutions? (Romans 12:18)

Big Idea:

Option A - Pursuing peace but failing to achieve it, does not guarantee defeat —BE AN OVERCOMER!

Option B - Spiritually maturing people learn how to navigate relational wreckage. IT'S TIME TO GROW UP & BE AN OVERCOMER!

1-To overcome, AUTHENTIC LOVE IS REQUIRED! (9-13)

Gospel transformed love...

- ...rejects sin but not the person (9)
- ...is rooted in relationship (10)
- ...labors energized by God's promises (11-12)
- ...combines feeling with action (13)

2-To overcome, TAKE CARE OF _____ (14-16)

- ...you must conquer _____ (14)
- ...you must learn to identify with the _____/_____ of another (15)
- You must defeat the evil in _____ (16)

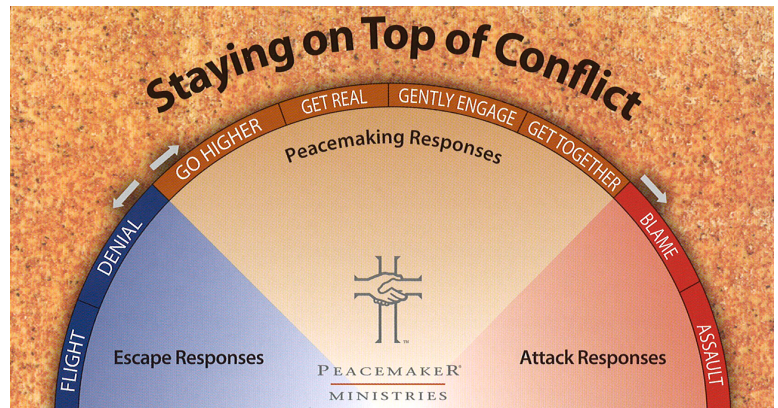
3-To overcome, TAKE CARE OF YOUR _____ (17-21)

- Overcoming requires that you make _____ exceptions to God's rules (17a, 19a)
- To overcome evil, _____ to help your enemy (17b,18,19b,20-21)
 - Plan _____ (17b)
 - Plan for _____ (18)
 - Plan to _____ God (19b)
 - Plan to do _____ (20-21)

Truth into Action:

#1- The Gospel makes it possible for the spiritually maturing disciple to navigate relational mess—**don't ATTACK and don't ESCAPE --PURSUE PEACE!**

2-A PEACE MAKERS RESPONSE is to work through UNMET DESIRES that lead to conflict. **TAKE THE NEXT STEP!**



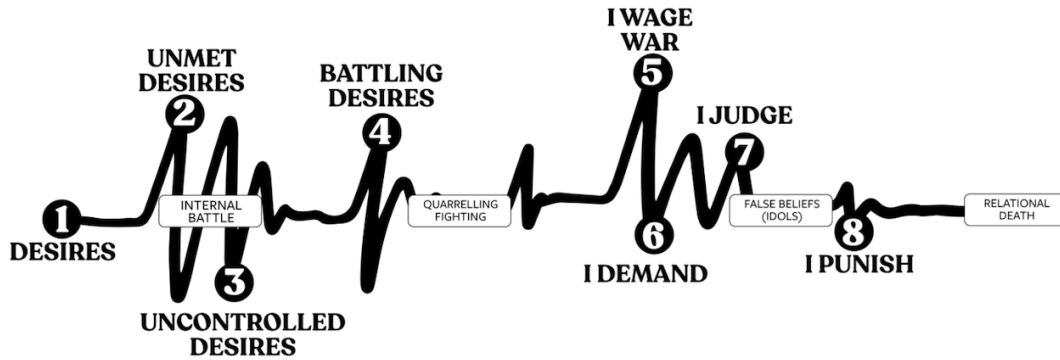
Life is too short for broken relationships- DON'T BE "THAT PERSON" WHO BECOMES COMFORTABLE WITH THEM.



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Held Captive by Unmet Desires

Why do we fight? The journey from personal desires to punishing others.



1 My Heart's Desires
What were my desires?

2 My Unmet Desires
What motivated me to want my desires so much?

3 My Uncontrolled Desires
What thoughts and feelings drove my desires?

4 Battle For My Desires
What am I willing to say or do to get what I want?

5 I Wage War
How have I declared war with my words or my actions?

6 I Demand
How have I demanded my desires?

7 I Judge
How have I judged others in this war?

8 I Punish
How have I punished others?

Table Talk

Warm Up: What's the difference between literally spilled milk on the table and a fractured relationship?

- How are we to respond to those who persecute us (Romans 12:14)?
- When is it ok to pay back evil for evil? Verse 17 tells us to do what is right in the eyes of others. Why do we need to do this? Aren't we supposed to do what is right in God's sight?
- What does Paul say regarding making peace between you and everyone else (Romans 12:18)?
- List a few attitudes or thoughts we should have toward our desires to take our own revenge (from Romans 12:19-21).
- Think about the exhortation to godly living that you have most difficulty with as listed in Romans 12:9-16. What are you actually doing or not doing which puts you in the wrong? What is keeping you from doing what is right?
- Many people live bitterly hoping for a chance to take revenge. Using the verses in this section, what could we say to them to urge and encourage them to get rid of bitterness? Do you think they would listen to you? Why or why not?

CLOSING PRAYER: Jesus, you came into our world to make a way for peace. I love you and I want to grow in my ability to become a peace maker. Help me to apply the truth I learned from this sermon. For the glory of God and my own good. Amen!

Works consulted:

Romans for You, Tim Keller

Romans – Galatians, Yarbrough

Romans, Kent

Romans, RC Sproul

Peace Maker Material (<https://www.peacemakerministries.org>)

<https://www.peacemakerministries.org/peacemaker-app>