Commonly Misunderstood Scripture

I.   Biblical Resistance: Matthew 5:39-41, Luke 6:29

    A. "Turn the other cheek"

    B. "Let them take your coat also"

    C. "Go the extra mile"

II.   Love Covers a Multitude of Sins: 1 Peter 4:8

    A. OT Teaching: Psalm 32

        a. Conclusion: Psalm 32:1-2

        b. Process: Psalm 32:3-5

    B. NT Teaching: 1 Peter 4

        a. Process: 1 Peter 4:1-6

        b. Conclusion: 1 Peter 4:8

God's Forgiveness: A commitment by the one true God to pardon graciously those who repent and believe so that they are reconciled to him, although this commitment does not eliminate all consequences.[1]

III.   Forgive and Forget

    A. Forgiveness is a one-person event

        a. "to send away": Leviticus 16:7-10, 20-22

    B. The one sinned against pays the price for sin

        a. Jesus' example: 1 Peter 2:23

        b. God's instruction: Romans 12:17-21

    C. Forgiveness does not equal Reconciliation

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[1] Chris Braun, Unpacking Forgiveness: Biblical Answers for Complex Questions and Deep Wounds, p. 51

> Reconciliation is a transaction. It requires the cooperation of two individuals: the one who sinned and the one who was sinned against.

IV.   Forgiveness and Trust

    A. Forgiveness desires what is best for the other person

        a. Jesus' example: John 3:16-21

        b. Pauls' admonition: Ephesians 5:6-14

> True forgiveness gives me courage to create consequences that reveal sin. Exposure of sin is evidence of God's love because the goal is a relationship with God through repentance.

    B. Love is the motivation

        a. God's love to us in Christ: John 3:16-17

        b. God's love through us in Christ: Ephesians 5:1-2

    C. I love God more therefore:

        a. Everything I have is a gift from God and I desire to be a good steward.

        b. You have proven to be a poor, disobedient steward, therefore I will prayerfully, carefully, with counsel trust you as you prove/demonstrate change/repentance

> The goal of an abusive marriage is not restoration but redemption.

V.   Judge Not

     A.   Passage used for conflict: Matthew 7:1-5

     B.   But wait! There's more:

         a.   Matthew 7:6 Warning!

         b.   Matthew 7:15-23 Instruction re: warning

         c.   Matthew7:21-23 God's example re: warning

         d.   Matthew 7:24-27 Evidence of warning

VI.   Anger

     A.   God is angry every day: Psalm 7:11

     B.   The purpose of anger

     C.   The difference between God's anger (righteous) and our anger (sinful)

VII.   Love and Marriage

     A.   What is love?

         a.   1 John 4:10 "**Love consists of this:** not that we loved God, but that he loved us and **sent his Son** to be the **atoning sacrifice** for our sins."

         b.   Romans 5:8 But God **proves** his own **love** for us in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died** for us.

         c.   John 3:16 "For God **loved** the world **in this way**: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

         d.   Love does NOT mean: You serve me and I get what I want.

         e.   Love in marriage: Ephesians 5:25, 28

> An abusive husband not only perverts the image of Christ as the sacrificial bridegroom, He crushes the image of God in His wife. Satan is all about protecting and promoting that view of Christ and His Church.

    B. What constitutes marriage?

      i. Man and woman

      ii. Willing commitment to one another/Covenant

"I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded wife. To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness or in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part. And hereto I pledge you my faithfulness/love."

Recognized by civil authority

    C. Biblical marriages are characterized by

      i. Mutual affection (1 Corinthians 7:3)

      ii. Exclusive intimacy (1 Corinthians 7:4)

Questions you must answer for yourself:

At what point is a marriage vow broken?

How do you define "abandonment" or "desertion?"

If God's goal for a marriage is peace (1 Corinthians 7:15), what is the church's role in protecting and promoting marriage that truly represents Christ and the Church?

Topics for another day:
Grief-- a common element of abuse, often misunderstood as guilt or bitterness
Guilt
Shame