

For Better or Worse - The Downs- Galatians 5:13-26

MARRIAGE IS HARD BUT SO WORTH IT!!

LAST WEEK: We kicked off our series on marriage, For Better or Worse. As I mentioned earlier my name is Frank Valenzano & I serve as one of the pastors. This is more than a marriage series!! We will be looking at the ups and downs and the in between moments in marriage. These up, down, and in between moments also transfer to our relationship with God. We will see how God in his Word uses marriage as a picture of Jesus & the church. Last week, we looked into the Book of Ephesians. We put up this graphic:

$$\frac{\text{LOVE + RESPECT}}{\text{JESUS}} = \text{MUTUAL SUBMISSION}$$

- Jesus is our authority and he has given us roles to play in marriage.
- Jesus is our authority and he has given us roles to play in this world.

THIS WEEK: We will look into the Book of Galatians 5 and see how we can respond to the authority of Jesus in our marriages and in our lives. We will see a life/marriage led by the Spirit can bring great joys but a life led by the flesh can bring significant sorrows and lows.

CONTEXT: GALATIANS

PAUL WRITING TO BELIEVERS OF JESUS IN THE CHURCH IN GALATIA.

- legalists (law) vs. libertines (free)
- In this letter, Paul provides a road of freedom to keep people out of the ditches of these extremes.
- Freedom to do what we want vs. Freedom that comes from Christ

READ GALATIANS 5:13-26

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

THIS PASSAGE IS NOT A TYPICAL MARRIAGE PASSAGE BUT IT HAS MUCH TO SPEAK INTO OUR LIVES TODAY.

IF YOU ARE TAKING NOTES THIS MORNING YOU NEED TO WRITE DOWN THREE WORDS THAT BEGIN WITH **F**: FREEDOM, FLESH, FRUIT

TRANSITION: THE FIRST POINT TODAY IS:

1) GOSPEL FREEDOM LEADS TO MARITAL / SPIRITUAL FRUIT.

- GOSPEL FREEDOM

- **READ VERSE 13**

- freedom not to indulge in the flesh but to serve and love

- there is a God and I am not him - Jesus lived & died & made a way for us

LET ME DEFINE THIS FREEDOM MORE:

QUOTE by Richard J. Foster

“It is common in our day to define *freedom* as the complete absence of restraint. Once we think about it —even for a moment— we realize how utterly ludicrous this idea really is. Absolute *freedom* is absolute nonsense! We gain *freedom* in anything through commitment, discipline, and fixed habit.”

THERE IS A FREEDOM THAT COMES FROM PUTTING OURSELVES UNDER/SUBMITTING TO AUTHORITY.

****THERE IS ALWAYS AN AUTHORITY ABOVE US & FREEDOM COMES FROM NOT HAVING TO BE THE GOD OF OUR OWN LIVES OR MARRIAGES.**

ILLUSTRATION: RUNNING THE BATH WATER (STOPPING POINT)

- AS ADULTS WE KNOW HOW TO STOP & WE KNOW THE VALUE

- OUR KIDS ON THE OTHER HAND DO NOT

- OUT OF THIS TYPE OF FREEDOM I AM CALLED TO LOVE GOD & LOVE MY NEIGHBOR
 - MY WIFE IS MY FIRST NEIGHBOR (WHEN I WAKE UP SHE IS THERE)

TRANSITION: IN CONTRAST TO THIS FREEDOM THAT BRINGS JOY & LOVE, WE SEE THE SECOND SECTION OF THIS PASSAGE IS ABOUT THE FLESH. THE SECOND POINT IS:

2) GRATIFYING THE FLESH LEADS TO MARITAL / SPIRITUAL DESTRUCTION.

READ VERSES 15-21

- THIS PASSAGE IS UNREAL BUT ALSO THE REALITY WE SEE AROUND US
- ME BEFORE WE
 - DESIRES AREN'T BAD FLESHLY DESIRES ARE BAD
 - UNHEALTHY DESIRE BRINGS DESTRUCTION
 - THE LIST IN VERSES 19-21 DEPICT A LIFE GIVEN OVER TO A ME FIRST ATTITUDE

TRANSITION: IN CONTRAST WE SEE VERSES 22-25 & OUR THIRD POINT IS:

3) WALK WITH SPIRIT & IN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

- THIS IS A COMMAND - VERSE 25
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT AN IT BUT A PERSON WHO DWELLS INSIDE OF US
- WE MUST WALK IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT
- A PERSON WHO WALKS IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT EXUDES THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- SINGULAR FRUIT WITH NINE ATTRIBUTES
- WE HAVE AN ALL ACCESS PASS TO THE SPIRIT AND THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
- PATIENCE/SELF CONTROL LIVES INSIDE OF YOU!!!

READ VERSE 24 - WOW

- WE DON'T HAVE TO ACCOMPLISH IT
- IT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED FOR US ON THE CROSS THROUGH JESUS!!

VERSE 25-26 REMIND US THE NEED TO BE VIGILANT & ACTIVE IN TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP CLOSE WITH GOD & IN TURN WITH ONE ANOTHER!!

- conceited, provoking, envying

HOW CAN I BE THESE THINGS IF I DIDN'T DO THE WORK TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK?

ARE YOU WALKING BY THE FLESH OR BY THE SPIRIT?

IF YOU HAD SOMEONE FOLLOW YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE (YOU AND ANY OTHER RELATIONSHIP FOR THAT MATTER) THIS WEEK, WHAT LIST WOULD THEY PUT YOU UNDER?

ARE YOU LEANING ON JESUS FINISHED WORK IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

PRAY