



Snares

Part 3

June 25, 2023

The Apostle Paul's Letter to the Church at Galatians - Galatians 5:19-26,

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do ^{lel} such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we

live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” May the Lord as His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

Snare, hinderance, stumbling blocks: all three of these words definitive generate the same outcome. It stands in our way to obstruct our path in whatever manner possible. And none of us are exempt from the snares of life; we are all human and we are all flawed.

Our attitudes, our motives, our spirits can all be hindered or harmed due to our unwillingness to realize that snares are able to be broken off our lives! It is deception that motivates us to believe otherwise. A snare may cause us to stumble but it doesn't have to lead to our downfall!

But sometimes, the snare does break us; we fall and we shatter. And could it be that the snares of life create snares are set in place to ultimately bind us to our brokenness and thus our own snares become the work of our own devices... Therefore, I would like to speak about a few of these snares...

1. The Broken Places in our Lives can form the Snare of Emotions!

- a. Note the words used by the Apostle Paul found in Galatians 5:22-24, ²²“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against

such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

- b. Notice with me that self-control is the last fruit noted in the list; I find this to be quite interesting because the culmination of all the previous mentioned fruits lead to this ultimate end which is self-control!
- c. Church, when the broken places of our lives form the snares of uncontrollable emotions, we are on a path that leads only to an even deeper place of brokenness and despair. As glory to glory, so is despair to despair; one promotes ascension whereas the other propagates descension.
- d. Far too often our perception of a matter, when viewed through emotion, is rarely the truth. Perception and Reality are sadly far too often two opposing forces and this should not be the case.
- e. The biggest mistakes in life are often born from our lack of self-control; we say things that we should never say, we share things with others that we should never share, we react and respond to situation in ways that we should never do all because we are trapped by the snare of our emotions!

- f. Proverbs 29:11, “A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.” But far too often, we forfeit our responsibility to Scripture and go full bore on someone or something and then excuse our misdeed by demanding that we had a right to act in such a manner. Ultimately laying the blame of our actions at the feet of our own humanity. Foolishness and rubbish is this mentality.
- g. Friends, our emotional state should never be your excuse to mistreat others; especially as followers of Christ! The fact that someone is easily triggered or having a bad day does not demand of us to walk on egg shells around said person because of a lack of self-control on their part because their emotional state is out of control.
- h. Friends, all excuses aside for us all including myself, our positions or titles, our upbringing, our education, our personality type, our financial state, our situation in life or otherwise does not forfeit our responsibility to Christ and to His Church to conduct ourselves uprightly as well as to walk in the demonstration of the fruit of the Spirit!

- i. The Apostle Paul's Letter to Titus notes the following in Titus 2:11-13, ¹¹ "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ..."
- j. Church, our emotions should never have controlling interest in our lives as followers of Christ! Our emotions change but Jesus is unchanging! May we today choose to repent and be set free from the snare of our emotions and decide to cling to the Fruit of the Spirit therefore walking in self-control!
- k. Remember, the broken places in our lives can form the snare of emotions but we must never give our emotions controlling interest in our lives as followers of Christ! Point #2

2. The Broken Places in our Lives can fashion the Snare of Drama

- a. If we were to consider the world around us, it would seem that everything is tied to drama, conflict and divisions. We see this in political arenas, on television shows (the more dramatic and conflicting the better), and in Entertainment Journalism; of which, it always seems to focus on people who have had a multitude of spouses, love affairs, murders, death etc. and the "juicier" the story the better.

- b. It would seem that there is a programming error in the coding of our humanity when it comes to matters such as this but could it be the proverbial tell-tale heart of our internal being.
- c. If the fruit of the Spirit manifests from the inside out then could it be assumed or perhaps ascertained that the fruit of our flesh is also an inside out manifestation as well?
- d. When we consider the days of Noah, the God said in the Book of Genesis 6:5-6, **“⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.”**
- e. And friends if this is true of the sinful state of man in Genesis the same can be said to be true of man’s state of sinfulness today. This matter is nothing new even to matters of the Church; even the Apostle Paul had to address such matters himself to the Church at Rome.
- f. The Apostle Paul’s Letter to the Church at Rome - Romans 16:17-18, **“¹⁷I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. ¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”**

- g. Church, we should continually strive to guard ourselves from being the cause of division much less being drawn into matters of division; whether it be predicated upon our ignorance or otherwise.
- h. The Apostle John stated in 1 John 4:1 the following, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
- i. The contextual point that I believe that the Apostle John was trying to make was encouraging the Church to be sure to discern whether there was an agenda or Holy Spirit driven; the balance is simple.
- j. Is the person lead by the Spirit of Christ or the desires of their flesh; spirit lead or fleshly agenda. And the same must be asked of ourselves individually; are we spirit lead or agenda driven?
- k. The answer to this can only be found when we ask ourselves this honest question... “Am I lead by the Spirit of God or stirred up by drama of my own manufacturing?” Friends, I can’t plow a straight line in my own field while looking at another one... simply put, we’ve all got our own rows to plow so let’s focus on our own fields.
- l. Remember, the broken places in our lives can fashion the snare of drama but we should continually strive to guard ourselves from being the cause of division much less being drawn into matters of division. And lastly, point #3...

3. The Broken Places in our Lives can Shape the Snare of Shame

- a. During my time of serving as a Pastor, the two main baseline issues that I have seen and continue to see plaguing Christians is Shame and Regret. The shame and regret of a failed marriage, a lost relationship, a broken past, an addiction.
- b. Shame is debilitating; shame will keep us from repenting, shame will keep us from going to someone we've hurt or harmed to ask for forgiveness.
- c. Shame and Pride are siblings of the same progenitor but operate slightly different. Shame drives us to isolate and run due to our misdeeds; pride demands we fight to the death to defend our misdeeds. And both end in destruction.
- d. Like quick sand, Shame is a mud bog that you need help getting out of and Christ died to deliver us from what has us bogged down. Consider the words of the author of the Book of Hebrews!
- e. Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

- f. Friends, Jesus despised the Shame of the Cross to disarm the Sharm that is binding you. The sin that caused our shame can be discharged by our confession and repentance and if Christ endured the Shame of the Cross to die for our sins then we too can despise our shame and sin because of the Power of the Cross!
- g. To the hurting, you are loved! To the bound, you are loved! To the addicted, you are loved! To the shamed, you are loved! To the brokenhearted, you are loved! To the broken, you are loved! To the depressed, you are loved! To the hopeless, you are loved! To the sinner, you are loved! To the saint, you are loved! (altar time)