

Leadership Tip!

Helping people deal with their problems is one of the toughest things a leader ever will do, but it is also one of the most rewarding!

WALKING DEAD
“Problems-Promises”

STARTER QUESTION:

In your opinion; what is the most important part of a problem, knowing its cause or its solution?

MAIN IDEA:

This week Pastor Hank helped us understand how important it is to lean on God’s promises when we are faced with problems. When we do, these promises become engrained in our character. When we don’t, the problems do.

Roman 8:20-22 (NLT)

“²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

If you were you to read this passage and not know the cause of God’s curse (Genesis 3:17-18); what would you think?

Unfortunately, many people believe that God is unjust because they only focus on the “curse” and not the cause of the problem.

This mindset is nothing new;

Genesis 3:8-12 (NLT)

⁸ When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”¹⁰ He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”¹¹ “Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”¹² The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

From the very beginning man has tried to deflect or deny their part in the problems of this world.

Why is it important to acknowledge the “human factor” in problems?

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

No doubt the forgiveness of sin is paramount, but we should not forget about the second part, “*to cleanse us from all wickedness*”, because that’s what impacts the rest of creation. Forgiveness motivates people to clean out those things in their lives that lead to wickedness.

What do you think Wickedness means?

Wickedness is not one of those words you see a lot of anymore, and for some its meaning is probably not very clear, becoming more subjective. However, it’s meaning really has not changed since the time of 1 John,

Wickedness: “The quality of being evil, specifically evil committed consciously, of one’s own free will.”

Wickedness does not occur unless a person makes a decision to do so. Regardless how a person commits an evil act, wickedness starts with a thought.

By accepting God promise of salvation, the Holy Spirit is unchained in our lives to guide our free will toward good and not evil.

Think about this for a minute; what do you think this town would look like with less wickedness in it?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

There is not a problem in this world that God’s Promise does not cover. Some problems require something of us in order to see the promises at work, such as accepting our part in the problem. If we never get to this point, all we will ever see is the problem.

Proverbs 19:3 (NIV)

³ A person’s own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the LORD.

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PROBLEMS:

- God's Creation groans...

"Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

Romans 8:20-22 (NLT)

The 3 Eons of Creation:

1. It began as a good creation.
2. It became a fallen creation.

"To Adam God said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat of it," cursed is the ground because of you. Through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.'"

Genesis 3:17-18 (NIV)

3. One day it will become a glorious creation.

"With eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom."

Romans 8:20-21 (NLT)

Romans

- God's Children groan...

"And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering."

Romans 8:23 (NLT)

- God's Spirit groans...

"The Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will."

Romans 8:26-27 (NLT)

PROMISES:

- Our present sufferings are not worth comparing to our future glory.

“What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.”
Romans 8:18 (NLT)

- The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses

“The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us.” Romans 8:26 (NLT)

- Everything works for our good and His glory.

“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28 (NLT)