

CHURCH MESSED ME UP

NOVEMBER 18, 2018

I. TWO STEPS TOWARDS HEALING FOR THOSE HURT BY THE CHURCH

1. Acknowledge the Hurt

1 Corinthians 1:11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

A. Six Possible Sources of Church Hurt

1. Legalism

1 Corinthians 8:8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

- Legalism hurts because people sometimes require more than God does.

1 Corinthians 11:16 If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

2. Selfishness

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

1 Corinthians 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

- Selfishness hurts because one person's choices become a stumbling block to another.
- Does this decision or action encourage or discourage other people?

1 Corinthians 8:11-13 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

3. Hypocrisy

- Hypocrisy hurts because people do not practice what they preach.

4. Disunity

1 Corinthians 11:17-18 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

- Disunity hurts because divisions do more harm than good.

1 Corinthians 11:30-31 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

5. Abuse

- Abuse hurts because someone becomes a victim.

1 Corinthians 12:24-26 But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

6. Disorder

- Disorder hurts because it causes confusion and doubt.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

1 Corinthians 14:40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

2. Choose Healing

A. You can choose to hold a grudge.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Holding a grudge means you lose and Satan wins.

B. You can choose to stay away.

1 Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

We rob ourselves of hope when we stay away from church.

Be a thermostat and not a thermometer.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

We rob ourselves of life when we stay away from God.

C. You can choose to be healed.

II. I CHOOSE TO HEAL... NOW WHAT?

1. Learn From the Past

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

A. We can learn from disappointment, so we will be ready to receive blessing.

John 2:24-25 But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

Matthew 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

2. Think Forward

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

- A. You have to stop focusing on the past hurt and start thinking about present healing and future life.
- B. People often see life through the pain of their past and the filter of their fears.
- C. Scabs leave scars.

3. Take Responsibility for Yourself

- A. You are responsible for your own spiritual health.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

- B. Just because a church or a person failed you, that does not mean that God failed you.
- C. Church is a gathering of imperfect people serving a perfect Savior.
- D.

4. Go to the Healer

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

- A. It is not fair to judge a perfect Savior based on an imperfect church.
- B. It is all about Jesus.

John 5:1-6 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

John 5:7 “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

John 5:8-9 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

C. Jesus is your Healer.