

3-3-2018, COTR Texarkana

Title: Relationship Bombs

Purpose: Explain how broken trust and broken promises can destroy relationships and provoke people to apply Biblical principles for restoration.

Spiritual Truth: Be careful! Broken promises and broken trust can destroy our relationships.

Text: Acts 15:36-41

Topic: Relationships, Family, Conflict, Restoration

Series Title: Building Relationships that Last

Series Purpose: Provoke people to build healthy relationships that can last a lifetime by embracing Biblical principles.

Relationship Bombs, pt-1

I. Introduction

A. New series: Building Relationships that Last. I want to help you build healthy relationships that can last a lifetime by embracing Biblical principles. Last week, we talked about the power of the words we say. Today we'll begin a 2-part message about why relationships fall apart. Why do yesterday's best friends hate each other today? How can we love someone today and hate them tomorrow? Pic a bomb falls on the relationship and destroys it because of broken promises and broken trust.

B. Title: Relationship Bombs, pt-1

C. Sp. truth: Be careful! Broken promises and broken trust can destroy our relationships.

II. Even Christians have conflict, but reconciliation is possible.

A. Acts 15:36-41 (NLT)...Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back...to see how the new believers are doing." 37 Barnabas...wanted to take along John Mark. 38 But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them... 39 Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. 40 Paul chose Silas...41 Then he traveled throughout Syria and Cilicia...]

B. Observations: (1) Sometimes Christians have conflict and won't resolve it, so they walk away. (2) Sometimes God uses division to realign His church, e.g., Martin Luther and Protestant Reformation. Cyprus still heard the gospel. There were 2 teams/ Silas. (3) What would have happened if Barnabas had submitted to Paul as his spiritual authority. After Cyprus, Scripture doesn't mention Barnabas's ministry again whereas Paul was responsible for taking Christianity through the Mediterranean world, Europe and one day America. (4) What if they would have sought godly counsel before splitting? (5) Good News is they later reconciled. [2 Tim. 4:11 (NLT) Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry.]

III. Relationship bomb #1: Broken promises can destroy relationships.

A. [Ge. 50:4-14 (NLT)...Joseph approached Pharaoh's advisers and said... 5...Tell him (Pharaoh) that my father made me swear an oath...Take my body back to the land of Canaan, and bury me in the tomb I prepared for myself...After his burial, I will return without delay." 6 Pharaoh agreed to Joseph's request... 14 After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt...] This is how healthy relationships work. We give our word/ make a promise and do it.

1. What would have happened if Joseph didn't return? Speculate: (1) Pharaoh could have said, 'it's no big deal' and forgotten about it. (2) Pharaoh could have gotten mad and sent the army to get Joseph, took his possessions and made him a slave. // If you tell your boss you'll do something and don't...you tell your wife you're doing something special on your anniversary and forget or go fishing instead...

2. Doing what we say and keeping our promises keeps a relationship strong. It makes people feel secure when they can believe us. However, if we don't keep our word and break our promise the opposite happens. E.g., young girl to dad after divorce.

- long with needs added
- B. It's been almost a decade since you left. The day is still vivid in my mind, how you left with promises of returning home every weekend. Slowly every weekend became once a month, and before I knew it, your absence became this gaping hole. I went into this spiral, acting up and dating guys who were no good. I kept trying to find you in every boy I dated. Every milestone I've had, I can't help but wonder how it would have been like if you were there to see me do well.³
 - C. What do we do if we broke a promise and damaged a relationship? (1) Tell them you were wrong, (2) Ask for forgiveness, (3) Do what you promised, if possible, e.g., promised son you'd be at his championship game...too late, take him to see Rangers
 - D. What do we do if the person broke their promise to us? (1) Talk to them when your emotions are under control; find out why; tell them how it made you feel. (2) Forgive them no matter what they say. It's for your benefit so you won't get bitter, withdraw...

IV. Relationship bomb #2: When trust is broken, relationships can be destroyed.

- Def. trust: to rely upon and be confident in the integrity and honesty of another person. If we're not trustworthy, people are skeptical, suspicious or, uncertain how we'll act. When you get the keys to the building or combo to the safe your boss trusts you that you won't steal from the company.
- B. Trust is the foundation of a healthy relationship, e.g. Moses selecting leaders. Ex. 18:21 (ESV)...look for able men...who fear God, who are trustworthy...and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands..Contrast:[Pr. 11:13 (NLT) A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.]
 1. Trust is the foundation of any healthy relationship. Parents trust babysitters to not molest their child; a wife trusts her husband not to fool around on a business trip; a turkey hunter trusts his buddy not to tell anyone where the turkeys are roosting.
 2. Trust is earned over time but can be erased in a moment. Picture Movie "The Firm". Tom Cruise is a young lawyer's firm that represented the mafia. He had an affair and confessed to his wife. He said, I promise it will never... she interrupted and said, no, I'll never trust your promises again... The Bible talks about the pain of broken trust [Psalm 41:9 (NLT) Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me.]
 - C. How do we build trust? (1) Keep your word; do what you promise; be honest; be consistent in your behavior, e.g., don't be one person on Sunday and another on Monday. Be where you said you'd be; don't have a secret life; share your passwords with your spouse, live as an open book, etc.
 - D. What do we do if we fail and trust is broken? (1) Be honest about your mistake; don't lie and cover it up. (2) Ask for forgiveness, (3) Prove yourself trustworthy over time by keeping your word and doing what we said we'd do.
 - E. What do you do if someone has broken trust with you? (1) Forgive them whether they're sorry or not; unforgiveness will become bitterness and hurt you. (2) If you're convinced they're repentant, give them another chance. (3) If they are lying and covering up, protect yourself until they prove themselves trustworthy.

V. Response

- A. Worship/ Prayer
- B. Souls

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Toussaint, S. D. (1985). Acts. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 396). Victor Books.

VII. Supplemental material

- A. II, Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus, Paul and Silas to Syria and Cilicia and ultimately Europe with. Probably both Paul and Barnabas were right in their assessments of Mark. It may have been too soon for Mark to venture out with such a pro-Gentile apostle as Paul, but Barnabas certainly and

correctly saw good raw material in his cousin Mark (cf. Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; Phile. 24; 1 Peter 5:13). Paul later spoke of Barnabas in positive terms (1 Cor. 9:6; Col. 4:10). The Apostle Paul owed much to Barnabas, and it appears they remained friends despite their contention over Mark.¹

- B. III, The Bible tells us how to keep this bomb from destroying our relationships. . . keep our promises. Psalm 15:5 (MSG) “Keep your word even when it costs you. . .” “You’ll never get blacklisted if you live like this.”
- C. III, The power of a broken promise; A Letter To My Father, The First Man Who Broke My Heart. It’s been almost a decade since you left. The day is still vivid in my mind, how you left with promises of returning home every weekend. Slowly every weekend became once a month, and before I knew it, your absence became this gaping hole. Your departure was the first time I was taught the extent to which the human heart can crave for another person. I was eleven. . . Your departure made me grow up so much faster. It’s been said that a daughter’s relationship with her father is the most important because it sets the foundation for how an acceptable relationship with males should be. I went into this spiral, acting up and dating guys who were no good. I kept trying to find you in every boy I dated, a futile pursuit it was. Funny, when I think that not too long ago, I was your shadow. All I ever wanted to do was to be exactly like you. As I grew older, my optimism about you soured. I saw you for the person you were, a man who left his family in pursuit of greener pastures. Your decision to abandon me haunts me to this day, as I constantly question whether the ones I cherish will leave me. Perhaps it’s the “daddy issues,” or the constant fear that I will be inadequate for anyone. I’ve broken down about this multiple times, thinking about how heartless what you did was. I keep my emotions warped shut tightly in the recesses of my mind, finding it hard to explain to someone this throbbing ache I have for a person who left my life prematurely. I downplay my emotions to cope with the fact that you will never be back in my life, let alone in the way I crave for you to be. Every milestone I’ve had, I can’t help but wonder how it would have been like if you were there to see me do well. The divorce has changed my outlook on love. From being an ardent optimist, I’ve become a realist. I have accepted the inevitable impermanence of relationships. You have forced me to embrace life’s transience, and for that I am thankful. I hope someday when it’s my turn to get married, that I’ll be able to do it right. Now that you have moved on with your life, I wish you all the best and I will always love you.³
- D. IV, 2 Kings 12:15 (NLT) No accounting of this money was required from the construction supervisors, because they were honest and trustworthy men.

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long with
needs
now + dad

can't change that - not in present