

3-3-2018, COTR Texarkana

Title: Relationship Bombs, pt-2

Purpose: Explain how unresolved offenses, unresolved conflict, and failure to make time for people can destroy relationships and provoke people to apply Biblical solutions.

Spiritual Truth: Be careful! Unresolved offenses, unresolved conflict, and failure to make time for people can destroy our relationships.

Text: Luke 1: 5-7

Topic: Relationships, Family, Conflict, Restoration, Offenses, Time

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-2

I. Introduction

A. New series: Building Relationships that Last. My intent is to help you build healthy relationships that can last a lifetime by embracing Biblical principles. Last week, we began a 2-part message about why relationships fall apart. Pic bomb B-17, WW2. The 2 relationship bombs we discussed were broken promises and broken trust.

B. Today we'll talk about how unresolved offenses, unresolved conflict, and failure to make time for people can destroy our relationships.

C. Title: Relationship Bombs, pt-2

DRA A

II. Relationship Bomb #3: Unresolved Offenses can destroy relationships.

A. Def. offense: To be hurt or angry at someone because of what they did. [Pr. 18:19 (NLT) **An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city.** Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.] You can be offended a long time. E.g., (1) Your friend is a loan officer at a bank, but they won't give you a loan. You change banks and move accounts because a new bank will give you a loan and now your friend is offended and won't talk to you. (2) Movie The Jesus Revolution/ Greg Laurie didn't have a dad, mom was an alcoholic and he got offended and ran away.

1. Offended people attack or withdraw and pull away from the relationship. When this happens, satan wins because the offended person swallows what John Bevere calls, the bait of satan, // fish swallowing the hook. Pic The offense controls you.

2. We can get offended at God for allowing something bad to happen and drift away from God.

B. ~~Biblical solution~~: (1) [Mt. 18:15 (NLT) "If another believer sins against you, **go privately and point out the offense**. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.] Often, people don't even know we're offended, e.g., me shaking hands at church. (2) Forgive them whether they repent or not. Forgiveness keeps bitterness out of us and keeps the door open for reconciliation. (3) Keep communicating, [Pr. 18:19 (NLT) **An offended friend** is harder to win back than a fortified city.] Let them know you still care; showing love can soften their heart.

III. ~~Relationship Bomb #4: Unresolved conflict can destroy relationships.~~

A. ~~Context~~: David and king Saul [1 Sam. 18:6–11 (NLT) When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women...came out to meet King Saul...7 This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!" 8 **This made Saul very angry**...9 So from that time on Saul kept a **jealous** eye on David. 10...he began to rave in his house like a madman...Saul had a **spear** in his hand, 11 and he suddenly **hurled it at David**...But David escaped...] Jealousy, anger, and violence were a recipe for conflict. Conflict, if not dealt with, can destroy a relationship.

B. ~~Wrong ways to deal with conflict~~: (1) ~~Withdraw and give~~ them the silent treatment. Refuse to communicate, refuse to deal with the issues and let the roots of conflict grow in our emotions. (2) Lash out in anger and violence. Fight on FB.

C. ~~Lessons from David on conflict~~: (1) He protected himself; he ~~ran~~ away because his life was threatened. (2) He didn't seek revenge or get even. Cave, [1 Sam. 24:11 (NCV) I cut off the corner of your robe, but I didn't kill you. (3) He had a direct, honest conversation with Saul, [Vs. 11 Now understand and know **I am not planning any evil against you**. I did nothing wrong to you, but you are hunting me to kill me.] (4) David did right when he was wronged and it opened a door for the HS to convict Saul. [1 Samuel 24:16–17 (ESV)...Saul said, "Is this your voice, **my son David**?" And **Saul lifted up his voice and wept**. 17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for **you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil**.] We can diffuse the bomb of conflict by treating the other person right after they treated us wrong. Hopefully restoration of the relationship is the result.

IV. Relationship Bomb #5: Failure to make time for people we love can destroy relationships

A. [John 11:54 (NLT)...Jesus...left Jerusalem. He went to...the village of Ephraim, and **stayed there with his disciples.**] Jesus spent time with the people. ~~He cared~~ about the most. If we stop investing time and giving attention to people who are important to us, we grow apart, and our relationship suffers. Pic neglect = weeds in garden.

B. 1974 Harry Chapin, Cat's in the ~~Cradle~~ song¹ Comment...My mom told me that when I was two till the age of five, my dad would go to work from seven to five, and from like seven till two o'clock in the morning he would play baseball or go drinking with his friends on the weekends. Until, one night he and my mother were driving home...and this song on the radio started to play. My mom remembers the car being in complete silence, until she heard sniffing, and turned to see my dad crying with tears streaming down his face. She said to him, "what's wrong?" He turned to her and said, "do you think this is the example I am setting for my son." My dad, stopped going out so much and spent much more time with my sisters and me, and I learned just how great a dad he really is.¹

1. The ~~greatest~~ gift we can give to people we care about is our time. If we want the relationship to work, we've got to invest the time. We're all busy but we need to make time for the people we love, e.g., Pic Mia outside/ swing. She left Thursday.

V. Conclusion

A. Summary: Broken promises, broken trust, unresolved offenses, unresolved conflict, and failure to make time for people destroy relationships. Don't let it happen. Don't open the bomb bay doors and let these relationship bombs destroy your relationships.

B. Prayer of commitment; prayer for relationships in trouble.

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

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUwjNBjqR-c> play 1:00-1:22, 2:44-3:11

VII. Supplemental Material

A. I, [Luke 1:5-7 (NLT)...there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah...and his wife, Elizabeth...⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were **righteous in God's eyes**, careful to **obey all of the Lord's commandments**...⁷ They had **no**

children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and **they were both very old.**] They were probably married 40 years +/- . What kept them together all these years while struggling with her barrenness? Their relationship with God.

- B. III, Ro. 12:14–21 (NLT) Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them...17 Never pay back evil with more evil...18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. 19 Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God...20 Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." 21 Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.