

Main Idea: You cannot achieve a fulfilling spiritual connection with God without experiencing brokenness for your sin.

Introduction

In today's world guilt is a demon. No one should feel guilty about anything at any time. Some actually consider guilt harmful to the self-esteem in children. Because God does not immediately judge us when we sin, we cannot make the mistake of assuming that a loving God will always shield us from the consequences of our own illicit actions.

Juvenile Faith

1. **Retributive Theology** – Every sin brings judgment. Some mistakenly conclude that every sinful action brings about an equal or greater reaction of judgment from a holy God. This is not the case.
2. **Permissive Theology** – God is too loving to discipline His children when they sin. Some mistakenly conclude that lifestyle and personal, private, sinful choices mean little to a loving God, who is there to comfort and guide us.

Lamentations – Background

The greatest example of sin's consequence is undoubtedly Israel in the Old Testament. The pattern is repetitive, and the frequency is staggering. Israel's ongoing failure to value obedience to God cost them everything on many occasions. From captivity to desolation and famine, Israel reaped what she had sown.

The Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah gets its title from its content. It is the only book in the Bible that consists solely of laments or grievances. God's prophet tells of the misery of God's people and the trail of destruction that began with their own disobedience.

Not so Simple

Make no mistake. The misconception that a fulfilling spiritual connection can be achieved without experiencing brokenness for my sin affects us in ways we cannot imagine. If it were as simple as connecting the dot of disobedience to the dot of personal suffering, many more would be broken over their sin, but it's not that simple.

But that does not mean that our God of grace and mercy is a "permissive God." Like a loving parent who confronts us with our infraction, God warns us along the way that there will be consequences to our disobedience. You cannot achieve a fulfilling spiritual connection with God without experiencing brokenness for your sin.

Family Night Big idea – Read Lamentations 2:1-10

Parents, you want your children to develop a sensitivity to sin. Teach them how to deal with guilt and remorse. Teach them how to confess and turn away from their sin (see 1John 1:9).

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Why is Jeremiah so sad? Why is it hard to say, 'I'm sorry'? What does God do for us when we ask Him to forgive our sin?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "How would you define 'brokenness'? What are some things that we do to suppress or ignore our guilt? How do we strike the proper balance between the freedom we have in Christ and the guilt or brokenness that should come from our failure?"

Prayer

"Father, keep us sensitive to Your voice and help us as we try to overcome sin. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the church Wednesday, August 30th.

Gravity: Middle School Students meet today.

Today's Songs

The Lion and the Lamb.....Big Daddy Weave

Oceans.....Hillsong

Hosanna.....Hillsong

GCC 101 Membership Class

Our next GCC 101 is September 24th after the 11:00 service. If you are interested in becoming a member of GCC or just want to hear more about us, please sign up in the lobby to attend.

PlusONE

PlusONE is your opportunity for spiritual growth by strengthening your personal relationship with God. In addition to attending one of our Sunday services, we encourage our adult population to add something to your worship to grow your faithwalk. Add one thing to your church attendance. Ask us how!

Fantasy Football

Wayne Thaler leads a Fantasy Football group and anyone is welcome to join. The Draft starts September 3rd. If you are interested you can contact Wayne directly at 912-656-9161.