

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
CONNECTION
PART 1: STABILITY

Before Jesus went to the cross – the night before, He shared some important things with His disciples about the importance of connection. In the last few years, our society has spurned physical connection in favor of media connection. The pandemic strengthened what was already in motion. We have bought into a lie that says that media connection can be a healthy replacement for physical connection. Now, we are beginning to see the negative effects of the lie. Let's explore Jesus' words regarding connection.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.” // John 14:1

We live in a day of troubled hearts. Anxiety, worry, stress, hopelessness, fear – are all rampant even among the young. Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

Troubled: *taráσσō* – properly, put in *motion* (to agitate back-and-forth, shake to-and-fro); (figuratively) to set in motion what *needs to remain still* (at ease); to "trouble" ("agitate"), causing inner perplexity (emotional agitation) from getting *too stirred up inside* ("upset").

A troubled heart creates a person with a general lack of stability. God is the god of establishment. He is called, “the Rock”. He is the God who holds everything together (Col. 1:17). Jesus told His disciples that the remedy for a troubled heart was trust in Him. Unfortunately, there are many who have not put their trust in Jesus. Sadly, there are many Christians who although saved, live with troubled hearts. You see, salvation is the beginning of our sanctification. While many are saved, their emotions are not healed. How many of you have seen the movie, Jesus Revolution? John Savell was a part of that revolution. While it was a great move of salvation, it had one weakness:

A lack of spiritual fathers and mothers.

We are living in the beginning of another revolution. To see this work through to maturity, requires fathers and mothers in the faith who are willing to not look at the outside of those being saved but focus on what God is doing on the inside and be willing to be a source of emotional healing to those who have been saved. Revival through relationship. That means connection. Many in this society will be saved but will have a hard time relating to others due to the wounds of the past.

If wounds remain unhealed, they often create sin against one another and instability within. We cannot repeat the failures of the past.

Jeremiah 8:11 (NIV)

We must be the conduit of healing for those coming. A move of God is messy. Great joy mixed with the confusion caused by the wounds of the past. Jesus is looking for “healers” willing to guide instead of change people. Willing to love and create trust where it does not exist.

The root definition of a troubled heart is agitation. Something that is agitated is not stable and will ultimately collapse.

The world’s way of solving problems is to bring an absence of conflict. This approach damages not just unbelievers but believers as well when it continues to operate in the church.

The church’s goal is not an absence of conflict but peace.

“Pastor, I thought peace was an absence of conflict.” In this world, we will encounter conflict. In the church, we will encounter conflict as we grow and heal. Conflict is not our enemy if we trust in God.

John 14:27 (NIV)

***eirēnē* (from *eirō*, "to join, tie together into a whole") – properly, *wholeness*, i.e. when all essential parts are joined together; *peace* (God's gift of *wholeness*).**

The Jesus Revolution did not produce an absence of conflict. Neither will this move. We are not looking for an absence of conflict but stability. Stability is a product of trust in God, obedience to His Word, and the pursuit of peace. Jesus left peace with us through the Holy Spirit. Wholeness (healing) will occur as we are willing to open ourselves to God and others. So, connection is vital to healing. Healing is vital to stability and peace.

Today’s Scriptures:

- John 14:1
- Jeremiah 8:11 (NIV)
- John 14:27 (NIV)