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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

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"WHAT TO PUT AWAY"

By the late C. D. Cole



"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:31,32).

This message is to help to show what we are to do with our hurt feelings and resentments. While we are in the flesh we are going to offend others and others will offend us. We will not always be treated by others just like we would like to be treated. And if we do not react properly to ill treatment we will hurt ourselves, cause others misery and dishonor our Saviour.

The Scriptures warn us against harboring malice and ill-will in our hearts. "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth" (Col. 3:8).

Remember that at the basis of most resentments and ill-will is a touchy, unsundered self. When we are surrendered to the will of God, we throw off resentments and hurt feelings just as a healthy skin throws off disease germs. Unless there is an inner disease, or an abrasion of the skin, disease germs can get no foothold in the body. So, when malice and ill-will get a footing in the heart, it shows there is a raw, sensitive self underneath that has become soil for rooting and growth of resentments. Our hurt feelings are in reality only wounded pride. An oversensitive person is a problem to others and a threat to himself. Remember when you go around with a chip on your shoulder, the chip is probably from the block above--a head that holds an oversensitive mind.

George Washington Carver was one of the greatest men the South ever produced. He was a Negro with a black skin, but with a white heart and a great mind. He was a scientist and a saint. He was a great blessing to both races by his chemical discoveries and service to the farmers of the South. A certain university once accepted him as a student, but on discovering he was a Negro, refused him admittance. When asked what university it was, Dr. Carver consistently refused to tell, passing the incident off as nothing of importance. He not only had the peace of mind that passeth all understanding, but also all misunderstanding.

We would like to call attention to the disruptive effects of anger and malice. Doctors tell us that anger may cause arthritis; that stomach ulcers are often the results of anger and malice. A mother-in-law did not like her son-in-law whom she visited once a year. Every time she went to visit him, she developed arthritis; and every time she came home, she was well.

A pastor had his heart on becoming pastor of a certain church. Because he did not get it, his wife became embittered and ill and died in a short time, and he himself became so upset that he quit the ministry. Resentment killed the body of one and the soul of the other. Authorities tell us that probably 60 percent of all diseases root in the mind.

Our big problem is that of handling our hurt feelings and keeping out malice and ill-will. We want to tell you that:

NEGATIVELY

1. We must not suppress them. This will only drive them down into the sub-conscious mind, for there they will work underground and make pouters of us.

2. We must not explode them. When our feelings are hurt it will give temporary relief by giving the other person a piece of our mind. One woman said that when she gets mad she goes to the piano and bangs out her resentments through Mozart's Sonatas with apologies to Mozart.

3. We must not nurse our hurt feelings. There is nothing that responds to nursing and petting like hurt feelings. You can brood over ill treatment until you can do nothing but brood over them. This is not the way to handle hurt feelings.

4. And there is no use in running away from circumstances that give rise to resentments. Many a preacher does this very thing when he leaves one church to go to another. And many other pastors would like to do the same thing. Their feelings are continually being hurt by opposition and lack of appreciation of their work--and they think it would be better for them to be elsewhere.

5. Do not parade your resentments before others not even your best friends. I know a man who thinks he has been terribly mistreated. And he is probably right in his thoughts. But he has hurt himself by brooding over it and parading it before others. You can hardly talk to him five minutes that he does not trot out his resentments. He parades them as something to be proud of.

POSITIVELY

1. We must love our enemies and forgive them. This is not easy, but grace will help. If we only love those who love us and do good to those who do us good, we are no different from lost people. We must love and forgive for Christ's sake. It is what He commands, and we must seek to please him. It was for Christ's sake that God forgave us, and we must forgive others for the same reason. If you do not have a forgiving spirit and really want it, ask Christ for it.

2. We must think of others and not always insist on our own way. A man and his wife were constantly quarreling. The quarrel usually began over the radio--she wanted music and he wanted news. Then one day God came into his life and he was a changed man. When he returned home he walked to the radio and turned on the music. His wife looked at him in surprise and said, "But this is the news hour." "I know it," he replied, "but I thought you would like the music." She could hardly trust her ears, but responded by getting up and turning on the news. They learned how to solve their problem by thinking of the other person first.

3. Practice the golden rule. Do unto others like you would have others do unto you. Too many do unto others like others do unto them--they reciprocate. And too many do others before others can do them--they beat them to it. The golden

rule is preached by everybody and practiced by nobody.

A woman told a certain man how badly her neighbor had treated her. The man asked if she had a garden. She did have. He then asked if her neighbor had a garden. She didn't have. Then he told her to go pick the nicest basket of beans she could find and take them to her neighbor. She was to tell her kindly that she had mistreated her, but as a token of her forgiving Spirit, she had picked and brought these beans. And when she had done this, she was to come and tell him what happened. At first she told him she could not do it. He urged it upon her as the proper thing for a Christian to do. She finally agreed to do it, and when it was done she told him it worked like a charm. Her neighbor confessed her sin and fell at her feet begging forgiveness. The whole affair ended with the two women in each other's arms and confessing their faults to each other. A Japanese student and a Chinese student were in the same university and the Japanese disliked the Chinese intensely. But when the Japanese student was ill, the Chinese student brought food to him every day. This kind attention broke down the enmity and they became fast friends. I once heard a brother say, "Let's kill them with kindness."

4. When it is necessary to speak of the faults of a person, don't say, "I don't like him." It is better to say, "I don't like certain things in that person and they are these." And after stating his faults, then say, "But here are some things about him that I like." And tell what they are. Every Christian man will show up to a better advantage if you will do this.

When we talk about not liking somebody or hating somebody, our words are born of prejudice and we are in open rebellion against Him who said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."



Not more free is the eagle which mounts to his rocky nest, and afterwards outsoars the clouds, than the soul which Christ hath delivered.

SOWING THE SEED

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground.

And should sleep, and rise night and day, and seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear; after that, the full corn in the ear.

But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come" (Mark 4:26-29).

The commission to the church Jesus built is a mission of sowing the seed or preaching the gospel to every creature and teaching them all things that Jesus commanded. This parable tells us a great truth about sowing the seed. "The seed should spring up, he knoweth not how" is a verse Baptist need to ponder. The seed sown is the Word of God. The Word of God like any other seed is dependent upon God to give it life. A farmer puts a grain of corn in the ground and depends upon God to give it life. I think Baptist need to learn this simple lesson. Jesus said in John 6:63 that "It is the spirit that quickeneth: the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

I have heard people say that you must win people to yourself in order that you might win them to the Lord. I believe if we will sow the seed in the manner God tells us in Psalms 126:6, God will take care of the giving of life to the hearts in which the seed falls. "He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

THE SEED

Mark 4:26 - Cast seed in the ground.

In Mark 4:16, the Word of God is declared to be the seed. As we have already said in John 6:63, the seed is life. In Hebrews 4:12, the Word of God is said to be quick or living. The Word of God is living. It is like Jesus Christ who lives, who is raised from the grave. Anytime you proclaim the Word of God you are sowing good seed which is capable of giving life to the hardest heart. Every Word of God is pure and living.

IS POWERFUL

Hebrews 4:12 says the Word of God is powerful. It was by the Word of God that God spoke this world into existence. Psalms 33:6 says, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." There is no energy crisis when we preach the Word of God. Paul says in Romans 1:16 that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. God used the Word to cause a person to be born again. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Peter 1:23). The Word of God liveth. The Word of God must be preached before any man can be born again. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (I Cor. 1:21).

Some feel that when the Word does not bring forth immediate results, the sower has failed. But remember that the Word of God is living. Also, that it is incorruptible and that it abideth forever. If the Word of God does not give life to the hearer, it will one day face that same man in the day of judgment. "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). So it is the responsibility of the sower to sow the seed. God will either give life to the hearer or if a man rejects the Word, he must give an account to God. Man is responsible to hear the Word of God. We are responsible to preach the gospel to every creature. Men are responsible to hear. And above all that, God is taking out a people for Himself according to the good pleasure of His own will.

WORD IS EFFECTUAL

When we preach the Word, it will always be effectual. Baptist need to ponder Isaiah 55:11 carefully. God's Word "shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." It will not return unto Him void.

LIFE A MYSTERY

Just as life from any seed is a mystery, even so the new birth is a mystery. The only answer to both is God. God gives it life. God is sovereign and gives life to those that are His sheep. We must sow the seed. We lie down and sleep, but the Word of God is working in the hearts of the hearers, convicting them. Many times we witness to a person and we rest in peace, but the hearer cannot sleep as God does His work by the living Word. When God begins a good work with the Word, He will finish it. (Phil. 1:6).

CONCLUSION

Our responsibility is to sow the seed. God will use it either to the saving of souls or the judgment of the lost. Either way, we have assumed our responsibility and the blood of men is off of our hands.

May God help pastors to encourage all of our church members to sow the seed. Not just from the pulpit but from every child of God. The reason for the energy shortage in Baptist churches is that many wells of living waters (every child of God is a well of living water) have been capped and churches are using only the pulpit. Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

Al Gormley

"If someone were to offer you a thousand dollars for every person you reached for Christ, would you make more of an effort than you do now when the reward is an eternal crown?

—C. H. Spurgeon