

SUMMER OF LOVE

Week 12

FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

We have been given grace; relationships will be restored when we offer that grace to others as well.

DISCUSSION

Define the word "repentance".

EXPLANATION

Read Acts 2:38-39

Why is repentance a natural step in salvation?

Why is repentance a necessary step in resolving marital strife?

Why is it important in resolving ANY strife in ANY relationship?

APPLICATION

When was the last time you were convinced you were right and someone else was wrong?

What happened?

When was the last time you were convinced you were right and someone else was wrong...but it was YOU who was really wrong?

How do you handle being wrong?

In what ways do you consciously or subconsciously try to manipulate others?

If you can't think of one - ask your friends and remember *Proverbs 27:6*

"Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."

MISSION

Read 1 Peter 3:18

How can our relationships with those around us be better by understanding that Jesus is our sacrifice?

As honestly as possible, answer this question: How often do you make those around you suffer to appease you when you feel they have sinned against you?

Do you want other people to make you suffer when you sin against them?

What is the best way to offer grace?



SUMMER OF LOVE

FIGHTING &

Week 12 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES

RESTORATION PART 3 (6:1-10)

James 4:6

1 John 1:9

John 10:3

SOS 5:2-3,9,16

SOS 6:1-10

Roman 5:8

1 Cor 7:5

Eph 5:25

1 Peter 3:18



FIGHTING & RESTORATION PART 3 (6:1-10)

James 4:6 *“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble”*

The course of true love seldom runs smoothly for long. For every moment of ecstasy, there are moments of hurt and pain...but the openness that lovers experience with each other makes possible both extremes. Not even love can guarantee perfect performance in personal relationships.

Four ways people are selfish.

1. Deny your spouse
2. You don't initiate
3. Do as little as possible
4. Sabotage

Other causes that make people deny their spouse:

- Abuse - Like bones need to be reset so do our souls. If you have been abused, addicted, you should be in a gospel community where others of God's people can walk beside you and help reset the brokenness.
- Selfishness (covenant abuse)
- Fatigue
- Control/manipulation
- Thinking there is something wrong with your spouse - *1 Corinthians 7:5* *“Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again.”*
- Guilt because of past - A duplicitous life does not lead to oneness.

The bride in Song of Solomon sees Solomon not just as Israel's Shepherd, but her shepherd.

There are 2 characteristics of a shepherd that MEN need to understand:

- **Protector** - Protection comes from LOVE not ownership and control.

An eastern shepherd dedicated his LIFE to the flock even to the point of losing his life. A good husband lays down his life DAILY for his wife (*Ephesians 5:25* *“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”*). Physically, spiritually and emotionally as well.

• **Leader** - An eastern shepherd leads the flock, usually going before them. The deep concern and care a shepherd has for his flock is one of the reasons they listen to and follow him. He has proven trustworthy in the past and continues to prove himself so.

When Solomon's bride thinks of him, she thinks and remembers he is a good protector and leader so she acknowledges her own mistakes and leaves Solomon's response in God's hands.

Why are we to forgive and reconcile with others and especially our spouses? Because our God forgave us AND HE WAS WITHOUT SIN. He never hurt, abused, or called us names...yet we have sinned against Him and HE reconciles with us.

In the New Testament, repentance and faith are the two sides of one coin (Acts 20:21). They are a response to grace. Jesus preached the need for the Jews to repent (Matt 4:17) and required his apostles/disciples to preach repentance to Jews and Gentiles (Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; 17:30). Repentance is a profound change of mind involving the changing of the direction of life. The positive side of repentance is conversion, the actual turning to God or Christ for grace.

Understand 3 things:

1. **You sin.** You will be sinned against and you will sin against other people.
2. **Sin requires a sacrifice.** Atonement, propitiation, a penalty must be paid.
3. **That sacrifice will either be Jesus or the person in your marriage.**

Jesus is God, He died to pay the penalty for sin, He was the atoning sacrifice for sin AND BECAUSE HE DIED...You no longer need to berate and try to kill your spouse (metaphorically speaking).

The purpose of repentance is to repeatedly tap into the joy of our union with Christ in order to weaken our need to do anything contrary to God's heart. Repenting of our sin is never despairing of our sin; it is always done in hope.

JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE, for SIN, once for all...*1 Peter 3:18* *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”*

We have been given grace, and relationships will be restored when we offer that grace to others as well.