

1 Peter - Week 16

Restoring a Love Relationship

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. 11 He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

- This is where ENTITLEMENT gets us into conflict in marriage and in life.
- TRUTH must always trump FEELINGS.

Several questions about lost hope:

1. Am I chasing the right DREAM? Am I continually seeking Christ-likeness or is my heart fixed on SELF-GRATIFICATION?
2. Is what I am PURSUING consistent with God's Word and God's calling for my life?
3. Am I doing God's WILL God's way?
4. Am I operating out of a need to feel IMPORTANT and significant?
5. Am I willing to trust God even if my life is DIFFICULT? Maybe God needs to remove, by fire, the cheap IMPURITIES in my life.

Restoration

Hosea 3:1 The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a half of barley, (the price of a slave) 3 Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you."

- RESTORATION is always God's plan.
- REPENTANCE is always God's process.
- RETURNING to God will always bring Him glory, so He can be the hero of your story, not you.

How do you restore broken homes and lives?

1. Reinvest your LOVE in your partner.
2. Remember what DREW you to your partner in the first place.
3. Reinstate CHRIST as the head of your home.
Restoration and FORGIVENESS are the greatest Christ-like characteristics we can show.
4. Reject the LIES of the enemy.

Satan attacks this way:

- Mind = DECEPTION
- Body = Destruction
- Will = DISOBEDIENCE
- Heart = DESPAIR
- He will also use SLOTHFULNESS: when what is important is not worth the effort.

What do I do?

- RECOGNIZE the devil's attacks.
- Refuse to accept the lie.
- Reckon yourself dead to sin.
- REST in the God of restoration.

5. REKINDLE the romance.

6. RETURN to the Word.

7. Be ready to forgive and FORSAKE.

8. Be ready to REPENT.

9. Reinstate trust and LOYALTY.

Oneness with God and my mate happens when we both decide to COMMIT to that oneness.

10. Learn to REJOICE again for all God will and is doing.

11. Seek this principle: we have VALUE as believers.

- The problem is we begin to DEVALUE the marriage that is supposed to have great value.
- Devaluing leads to DISTRACTIONS.
- Distractions lead to DISTANCE from God and loved ones.
- Distance leads to DISENGAGING--two believers living under the same roof, totally disengaged.
- Disengaging leads to DEAD WORKS --just going through the motions, which in time leads to DEATH.
- My FAITH in God will always allow me to see God's hand in every circumstance of life.