

## ***Celebrate Recovery VI: Evaluate all Relationships***

November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### ***Matthew 6:9-15***

*Luke 6:35-36 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."*

❖ Life in Christ brings a new way of handling all relationships!

#### **Eight Principles ...**

1. **R**ealize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. ...
2. **E**arnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
3. **C**onsciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
4. **O**penly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
5. **V**oluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
6. **E**valuate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.
7. **R**eserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words. <sup>1</sup>

**Principle Six:** **E**valuate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.

*Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."*

*Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."*

"We started doing repair work on the *personal* side of our lives earlier in our recovery by admitting our powerlessness, turning our lives and wills over to God's care, doing our moral inventory, sharing our sins or wrongs with another, and admitting our shortcomings and asking God to remove them. But now we begin to do some repair work on the *relational* side of our lives. Making your amends is the beginning of the end of your isolation from God and others."<sup>2</sup>

❖ Almighty God brings healing to all relationships beginning with our relationship to Him!

*Romans 5:1 "...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

♦ Healing between Jews and Gentiles!

*Ephesians 2:13-16 "... has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility ..."*

♦ Healing in all other relationships!

*Colossians 3:12-14 "...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ..."*

❖ All healing in relationships begins with forgiveness.

“In order to be completely free from your resentments, anger, fears, shame, and guilt, you need to give and accept *forgiveness* in all areas of your life. If you do not, your recovery will be stalled and thus incomplete.”<sup>2</sup>

*Jeremiah 6:14* “They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.

*Jeremiah 6:14* “You can’t heal a wound by saying it’s not there! ...” (TLB)

“Forgiveness is all about letting go.”<sup>2</sup>

“... forgiveness is a process. You need to be willing to be willing, but to be truly free, you must let go of the pain of the past harm and abuse caused by others.”<sup>2</sup>

**Step Eight:** We made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

*Luke 6:31* “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

Amend: “To correct; to supply a defect; to improve or make better, ...”<sup>3</sup>

“Make a list of all persons who have harmed us and become willing to seek God’s help in forgiving our perpetrators, as well as forgiving ourselves. Realize we’ve also harmed others and become willing to make amends to them.”<sup>2</sup>

*Matthew 5:23-24* “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

**Step Nine:** We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

## AMENDS

Admitt the hurt and the harm

“Your feelings have been bottled up far, far too long, and that has interfered with all your important relationships.”<sup>2</sup>

Make a list

“These are the people you have hurt or have hurt you.”<sup>2</sup>

Encourage on another

“It has been said that encouragement is oxygen to the soul.”<sup>2</sup>

*Hebrews 10:24* “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,”

Not for them

“You need to approach those to whom you are offering your forgiveness or amends humbly, honestly, sincerely, and willingly. Don’t offer excuses or attempt to justify your actions; focus only on your part. In five words, here’s the secret to making successful amends: *Do not expect anything back!*”<sup>2</sup>

“Principle 6 says that I am responsible to ‘make amends for the harm [or hurt] I’ve done to others.’”<sup>2</sup>

📖 Ezekiel 33:14-16

Do it at the right time

*Ecclesiastes 3:1* “...a time for every matter under heaven:”

♦ Pray for God’s guidance!

Start living the promises of recovery

“As we complete this principle, we will discover God’s gift of true freedom from our past.”<sup>2</sup>

*Joel 2:25-27 "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame."*

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Baker, John. "Eight Principles Based on the Beatitudes By Pastor Rick Warren." *Growing in Christ While Helping Others*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. 10. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Baker, John. *Celebrate Recovery: Leader's Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. Print.

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