

“When The Problem Is You – Part 2”

Nehemiah 5:9-19

How do we deal with the enemy of sin within us?

- A. R _____
- B. R _____
- C. R _____

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... You will find rest for your souls.” ~ Matt.11:28

What do Christians call this ‘relearning’? _____.

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self.” ~ Ephesians 4:22-24

To “Relearn”, What Three Things Do We Need To Be Yoked To?

I. We need to be yoked to _____. (vs.9)

- A. *Early in my Christian faith, one thing I must settle in my mind is the question: Is Christianity...
_____ or _____*

B. What happens a lot during Lent?

C. What else does God want from us?

“To obey is better than _____.” ~ 1 Samuel 15:22

“Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me... Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them... Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right!” ~ Isaiah 1:13-17

D. When I read the Bible, and pray and go to church, what is it? And what happens as a result?

II. We need to be yoked to a _____, _____ community of faith. (vss.12-13)

A. Are the people that are usually around me helping me to grow as a believer?

B. How are church leaders, teachers, etc. gifts to us?

C. If a church is healthy, what will it provide?

1. It will provide _____ (a way for a believer to be taught truths, doctrines and skills)

2. It will provide _____ (living examples of how the Christian life is lived.)

3. It will provide _____ (opportunities to use and develop my gifts for God.)

III. We need to be yoked to personal _____ from those a little further down the path than we are. (vss.14-19)

A. What did Nehemiah do that was noteworthy?

B. What do too many churches fail to do?

C. What does a young believer especially need?

D. In coming days at Grace we will provide:

1. Follow-up _____.

2. Follow-up _____.

3. Follow-up _____.

4. Follow-up _____.

“When The Problem Is You – Part 2”

Nehemiah 5:9-19

How do we deal with the enemy of sin within us?

A. Realization

B. Repentance

C. Relearning

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...You will find rest for your souls.” ~ Matt.11:28

What do Christians call this ‘relearning’? Discipleship.

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self.” ~ Ephesians 4:22-24

To “Relearn”, What Three Things Do We Need To Be Yoked To?

I. We need to be yoked to God Himself. (vs.9)

A. Early in my Christian faith, one thing I must settle in my mind is the question: Is Christianity...

Ritual or Relationship

B. What happens a lot during Lent?

Lent itself is a season of intensified ritual. Many people will forsake the eating of meat on Fridays, or giving something else up for God. Holy Week itself, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, then Easter, will come heavy with ritual. People will sing “Hosannas,” re-enact the Passover, walk the Via Dolorosa, Easter lilies will fill church halls. But for a majority of those people, their devotion ends with the ritual. Once I observe the ritual, whatever it is, I go on with my life, and God is not given a second thought.

C. What else does God want from us?

My heart, my devotion, my love, my obedience.

“To obey is better than sacrifice.” ~ 1 Samuel 15:22

“Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me...Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them...Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right!” ~ Isaiah 1:13-17

D. When I read the Bible, and pray and go to church, what is it? And what happens as a result?

When I read my Bible, it’s not a ritual. I’m reading a love-letter from God to me, and through its words God speaks. When I pray, it’s not a ritual. I’m talking with God, pouring my heart out to him, then taking time to listen, savor his presence, be quiet before him. When I go to church, this is not ritual. I don’t leave her and say, “Oh good, check that off my list. Glad that’s out of the way.” I want to be here. I need to be here. I experience more of God by being here with you.

II. We need to be yoked to a local, healthy community of faith. (vss.12-13)

A. Are the people that are usually around me helping me to grow as a believer?

B. How are church leaders, teachers, etc. gifts to us?

Paul wrote in Ephesians 4: Jesus “gave some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Paul’s talking here about different types of leaders in the church. A few verses earlier Paul describes these leaders as gifts that Jesus gives to us. Have you ever thought of the leaders in the church, your teachers, your youth leaders, your board members as “gifts” from God to you? That’s what they are. And why are such people gifts to us? Because they help us grow. They build us up Paul says.

C. If a church is healthy, what will it provide?

1. It will provide discipleship (a way for a believer to be taught truths, doctrines and skills)

2. It will provide **mentoring** (living examples of how the Christian life is lived.)

3. It will provide **apprenticeship** (opportunities to use and develop my gifts for God.)

III. We need to be yoked to personal **followsup** from those a little further down the path than we are. (vss.14-19)

A. What did Nehemiah do that was noteworthy?

Nehemiah's life was an open book to the people around him. He worked alongside the people. He invited them to eat with him. He opened up his home to them. They could see he was different than the other leaders they were used to. And through this personal follow-up Nehemiah offered the people, they began to change their behavior and treat each other differently.

B. What do too many churches fail to do?

It's the tried and true formula for teaching. First, you tell them what to do. Then you show them how to do it. Then you let them do it with you alongside of them. Then you turn them loose. But in most churches we just tell people what to do, and then stop there. "Spend time with Jesus by reading your Bible's daily." OK, cool. But how? a younger believer asks. The Bible's a big book. And difficult to understand sometimes. Unless they are given specific, personal instruction on how to have a quiet time, it's going to be frustrating skill to master.

C. What does a young believer especially need?

The way we do "follow-up" in most churches is what we could call the 'shot gun' approach. Expose yourself to as much teaching as you can, and sooner or later, you'll hear what you need. Hang out with enough Christians, and sooner or later you'll bump into someone who might help you work through a problem you're dealing with in your life. But new believers need to be taught certain skills and doctrines early on in their faith. And if a church doesn't create a pathway for that to happen, if we don't design ministry to provide that, that's like throwing baby on the kitchen floor, and saying, "Well, the food's in here. Knock yourself out.

Oh, and if you don't mind. It'd be a big help if you changed your own diapers too."

D. In coming days at Grace we will provide:

1. Follow-up **teaching**.

2. Follow-up **contact**.

3. Follow-up **prayer**.

4. Follow-up **goals**.