

**Dealing with People and their Problems**

**Bro. Kevin Craig**

Jude 22, “*And of some have compassion, making a difference:”*

1. People’s main problem is that they have a head full of information about God, but have no relationship with God. (Rules without relationship produce rebels.)
2. Ministering to people with problems is three-fold:
3. Our part – II Timothy 2:24-25a, “*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves...”*
4. God’s part – II Timothy 2:25b, “*…if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”*
5. Acknowledging the truth
   1. I was wrong
   2. I’m sorry
   3. Will you forgive me?
6. A person will not acknowledge the truth until God gives them a heart of repentance.
7. The person’s part – II Timothy 2:26, *“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”*
8. No one will recover themselves until they humble themselves before God and change the way they think. (True Repentance)
9. To recover, a person must uncover, not cover up.
10. Sometimes it’s best to not say anything at all and let God do His work in the person’s heart.
11. This is when we go to the Lord in prayer.
12. Pray that He will give them a heart of repentance.
13. God believes in restoration.
14. What is Biblical restoration?
15. Restoration is a return to a right relationship. (Abraham & Sarah regarding Abimilech) – Genesis 20:7, 14
16. Repayment of something owed (Leviticus 6:4-5 – thief had to repay.)
17. Resurrection from the dead to live again (II Kings 8:1)
18. Re-entrance to a place of service (Joseph’s butler – Genesis 40:13)
19. Rebuilding (walls and roads) of something that’s been destroyed. (Isaiah 58:12)
20. Restructuring that which is fractured/broken (restoration of health – Jeremiah 30:17)
21. Who needs to be restored? (Galatians 6:1, *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”)*

Note: When a person is unhealthy spiritually, it will affect them emotionally, mentally, etc…

(They’ll be unhealthy in these areas, too.)

* Brethren
* Those who are overtaken in a fault (pursued by an enemy and captured)
* This was a soldier of Jesus Christ who was engaged in spiritual battle
* This was someone that had been overtaken in a fault – unintentionally slipped – they were not expecting it.
* They ended up somewhere they didn’t belong.
  + A bar
  + A website
  + Etc…

1. Four pursuers that were attempting to overtake them:
2. False teachers/false doctrine – Galatians 2:11-13
3. Friends – Galatians 3:1
4. Entanglers – Galatians 5:1
5. Hinderers – Galatians 5:7
6. How can we restore people? (To restore others, you have to...)
7. Be a brethren
8. Be in the church
9. Be spiritual (fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23)
10. Be meek
11. Moses was meek.
12. When we’re meek, God will speak up for us and defend us.
13. Meekness is not weakness.
14. Meekness is the greatest strength of resistance. (Resistance is when you have a bow but refrain from shooting arrows.)
15. The root problem is different for everyone; therefore we must learn to deal with people differently for their different struggles. We cannot deal with everyone the same by just assuming that their problem is sin. Ministering to people is not a “one-shoe-fits-all.”
16. The problem could be sin. – Acts 2:38
17. The problem could be idolatry in the heart. – worshipping Jesus is the answer.
18. The problem could be condemnation – forgiveness is the answer.
    1. Some are ashamed because of what they did.
    2. Some are ashamed because of what others did to them.
19. The problem could be oppression. – Acts 10:38 – deliverance is the answer.
20. The problem could be slavery/bondage - the answer is freedom. (Jesus makes free)
21. People are enslaved; it controls them. – Romans 12:1-2
22. People give that power over to sin. – Luke 4:18
23. Truth makes free, not sets free.
24. The problem could be they believe lies – John 8:44 (in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve believed the lie that they could become gods.) – the answer is tell them the truth. – John 8:32
25. The problem could be brokenness – the answer is healing from the Great Physician Who can apply the Balm of Gilead. – (Body, soul, mind, and heart can be broken.) – Psalm 147:2
26. The problem could be defilement – the answer is your new identity in Christ. (Molested, etc…)
27. They feel dirty/unclean.
28. They feel like a victim. – Zechariah 3 (in Christ you get a new identity for free)
29. Three sources of identity
30. What you have done (pride)
31. What someone did to you
32. What Jesus did for you to make you clean
33. The problem could be folly – I Corinthians 3 – the answer is God’s wisdom.
34. Bad past
35. No path/no purpose/ no direction
36. There is a spiritual battle going on inside. – Galatians 5:17
    1. The battle inside is not to do the bad things.
    2. It’s a battle to make sure that a person doesn’t do the good things.
    3. When a person gets saved, God gives them new desires.
    4. We don’t need TO better you; we need a better you.
    5. The body and soul need outside pressure and the Spirit needs inside persuasion to get victory.
37. People’s problems, especially in the area of addictions, revolves around “Escape.” – Galatians 5:16-26
38. Immorality – adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (verse 19)
39. False spirituality – idolatry, witchcraft (verse 20a)
40. Relational – hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like (verse 20-21)
41. Forgiveness is the avenue to escape
42. Addiction can grip a person in two ways:
43. To give in to it
44. To do everything in their power to stay away from it and not give in to it
45. Either way, it’s controlling them because they are focused on it.
46. The focus should not be on stopping the addiction, but rather surrendering to the Holy Spirit’s control so that He can give the victory that God has promised to the believer.
47. Our focus must be on the spiritual need of the person, not the physical. – I Thessalonians 5:23
    1. The spiritual is what’s most important and must be emphasized.
    2. When we become consumed with meeting people’s physical needs, we enable their behavior.
    3. Sometimes we must turn them over to Satan for the destruction of the body/flesh. – I Corinthians 5:5 (They may need to be turned out, to be homeless.)
48. We must make sure that we meet all three parts with the spiritual part as priority.
    1. Dealing with the Soul
49. Why are you angry?
50. Why are you quitting?
51. Why are you bitter?
    1. Oftentimes, there has been a traumatic experience in their past.
52. Example – Naomi wanted to be called Marah (bitter)
    1. “The Almighty hath dealt bitterly with me”
    2. It became a spiritual problem.
    3. Ruth ­– sweet daughter-in-law
53. The bitter person must pause and look at the big picture that God has in store.
54. God will oftentimes use a person’s traumatic experience and their spiritual response to the situation to help others who face the same situation.
55. A Scripture that will help find and administer a Bible prescription – I Thessalonians 5:14
56. Warn the unruly (spirit problem)
    1. Refuse to be ruled or controlled – they are a **spiritual** rebel
    2. Warn them – you cannot comfort the unruly
    3. They need rebuke
    4. You cannot come along side them and try to assist them (this is what you do to the next group)
57. Comfort the feebleminded – soul problem (mind is too weak to carry the burdens they carry; because of the pressure on their mind, they are stressed out)
58. Support the weak (physically ill – body problem)
    1. Support is an economic word
    2. Perhaps you could treat them to a meal
59. All three must be treated differently.
60. Be patient (cheerful endurance) with all of them.
61. Sometimes the most therapeutic medicine is listening to what they have to say.
62. By doing so, we can properly diagnose the problem.
    1. Is it the spirit?
    2. Is it the soul?
    3. Is it the body?
63. Three questions trace their roots back to the problem they must face and fix. – Genesis 3:1-7
    1. Verse 8-9 – Where are you?
64. This is not a question of location, but of where they are in their relationship with the Lord.
65. They are hid from the presence of the Lord.
66. A natural response when we are afraid is to flee/run away.
67. The second response is to come against or hurt the person who is causing us to fear.
68. You don’t have to flee from your problems; you can have faith in God to help you overcome.
    1. Verse 11 – *Who told thee that thou wast naked*?
69. Who have you been talking to or listening to?
70. Music
71. Friends
72. Internet
73. Chat Room
74. Etc…
    1. Verse 11 – *Hast thou eaten*?
75. What have you been doing?
76. What have you done?
77. Where?
78. Who?
79. What? (Tell me what you have done)
80. These questions must be answered honestly and accurately.
81. The way to get out of trouble:
    1. We must get back to where we are supposed to be.
    2. Get our walk with God right.
    3. Start listening to God and His representatives.
    4. Accept full responsibility for our actions.
82. Adam and Eve played the blame game and it didn’t end up well with them.
83. God had to drive them out because they were stubborn and didn’t want to leave.
84. Are they willing to be sent or do they have to be driven?
85. Philosophy pointers in helping people with problems:
    1. They are not there so I can help them; they are there for God to help them.
    2. Point them to Jesus – what you teach them will go with them.
    3. Carnal Christians take a small problem and make it big; Spirit-filled Christians take a big problem and make it small.
    4. When people stop using drugs, they start using people.
86. When working with people, pull them into your schedule.
87. Don’t let them pull you into their schedule.
88. The best times to counsel and help people is before and after church, or a Friday RU class (God can help them better than you can.)
    1. If all they do is talk about their problems but do nothing about it, that’s insanity and it does no good; they’ll not get better.
    2. Philosophy – If you’re not going to do anything about your problem, then you shouldn’t be able to talk about them. (start with those who did challenges.)
    3. Praise in public, rebuke in private.
    4. Goal – Praise to God not praise to you.
    5. Don’t become co-dependent
89. First level – people need others
90. Second level – you need people to need you
    1. Give them something to do pertaining to the struggles they discussed. (a homework assignment)
    2. Break the ice with those who don’t want to talk by asking questions.
    3. We just need to catch the fish; let God clean the fish.
    4. Instead of focusing on one who’s blowing it, go pick up a baby – the one who wants what you have and wants your help and wants your attention – HELP THEM.
    5. Don’t read people who are blowing it the “right act”; keep the door open for them to come back.
    6. If you try to keep helping someone who doesn’t want your help, then eventually you will be the one who needs help.
    7. Turn the hearts of your students to the Pastor (recognize birthday, anniversary, etc...)
    8. “Those types of people” have lots of potential; that’s why Satan fights them so much.
    9. Jesus is the best beauty treatment (changes countenance).
    10. God made the world out of nothing; it’s not until we become nothing that God can make something out of us.

Parkside Baptist Church | Dr. Mike Wells, Pastor | 1729 Gross Rd., Mesquite, TX 75149 | parksidebaptist.org