

SERMON NOTES

Growing Up 3 - Righteous Behaviour

1. Recap intro and Heb 5

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NKJV) - 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

God wants you to mature. Stagnation is not healthy and could be deadly. In normal life we have milestones for the growth of a child.

Good doctrine always leads to good actions...Righteousness.

2. This week - Righteousness and carnality -

Children must be forced to behave while maturity means you control yourself to behave properly. Prison is for adults who continue to behave as children.

"Self Control" is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) which means we start to do right from within ourselves, not just because God. or others are forcing us to be good.

1 John 3:4-7, 9 (NKJV) - 4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ...

9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

1 John 1:8, 10 (NKJV) - 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ...

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

A list of Sins that, if they continue, indicate that I am not going to inherit eternal life:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Gal 5:19-21, Eph 5:5, Rev 21:8

HOW TO BE RIGHTEOUS - THE THREE CATEGORIES OF HUMAN BEING –

The Natural man, Carnal man, spiritual man

NATURAL MAN - (not saved)

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) - 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

SPIRITUAL MAN- (Saved And Led By Spirit)

1 Corinthians (2:15-16) NKJV - 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

CARNAL CHRISTIAN (cf Rom 7)

1 Corinthians 3:1 (NKJV) - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

2- I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

3- for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

4- For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF CARNAL vs SPIRITUAL:

Read the whole of Romans 7 to see the honesty of Paul in his description of a carnal Christian - A Christian trying to obey external rules and laws in his own strength. The laws provoke even more sin, and this makes you miserable as you try again and again to be good and fail so often.

Romans 8:1-6 (NKJV) - 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.