

## SERMON NOTES - A Spiritual Oil Filter Pt 1

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

There are 3 filters in your car engine to stop impurities from damaging the engine:

Fuel - power. Air - fragrance. Oil - efficiency & effectiveness - smooth running.

I want to put 2 truths together to show you something that is very important for Churches and Christians everywhere.

Luk 17:1 NKJV - "1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offences should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!"

Eph 4:2-3 NIV - "2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

How can these 2 truths go together?

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### THE BLESSINGS & IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

Amo 3:3 NKJV — "3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

Gen 11:6 NIV — "6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

Mat 18:19 NKJV - "19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."

Mar 3:25 NKJV — "25 "And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

Jhn 17:21-22 NKJV — "21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:"

2Co 2:10-11 NIV - " Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven--if there was anything to forgive--I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

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### WAYS WE CAN OVERCOME OFFENSES AND KEEP UNITY - the 6 part "Oil filter"

1. Love, look for sins & judgement calls you can overlook - Being tougher, more resilient, more tolerant, more loving and more committed to unity.

Don't just "run away" & don't be a "consumer Christian".

Col 3:12-15 NKJV - "12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

1Co 13:7 NIV - "7 [Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Trust and submit to leaders and others over "preferences", opinions, judgement calls that aren't sin. Don't think you can know/judge people's motives. 1 Cor 4:5-6

2. Leaders. Mat 26:31 NKJV - "31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

Tit 3:1-2 NKJV - "1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."

3. Sins. God's process - Mat 18:15 NKJV - "15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."  
1Ti 5:19 NKJV - "19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses."  
It must be a "sin"  
It must be a "sin against YOU"  
You must go to them alone (NOT talk to anyone else about it) - you may have got the wrong end of the stick and you may cause division unnecessarily.
4. Second hand offences - Heb 12:15 NIV - "15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."
5. Get help - be yoked - Phl 4:2-3 ESV - "2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion (*loyal yokefellow*), help these women, who have laboured side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."  
Mat 11:29-30 NIV - "29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.""
6. Leave well if necessary -
- Don't stay with wrong attitude "I'm here to change things", "I'm a "Whistle-blower", "I know better", "I'm here to keep them honest / check or watch over them"
  - Don't spread offence or speak to others. Protect unity, don't "throw hand grenades" as you leave. Don't be divisive.
  - David and Saul - David left but refused to dishonour or attack the previous leader, rather trying to maintain unity and honour. 1 Sam 19:10, 1 Sam 24:6, 1 Sam 26:9-11,

#### CONCLUSION:

1Co 1:10 NKJV - "10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement (*decision / opinion / purpose*)."

Phl 2:2 CSB — "2 make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

# Small group discussion guidelines

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.