

## SIN OF RELATIONSHIPS

### I. People You Have Hurt or Offend In Some Way

Matthew 5:23-24

Don't attempt to approach God until you first get right with those you have offended.

This is not *easy* but it is *absolutely necessary*

Many Christians lack power because they have ignored this foundational command

Consider those you may have offended

When God reveals people you have hurt or slighted resolve to go to them and ask their forgiveness

Do not go and try to defend yourself, go in humility and love

If they refuse to forgive, do not consider this a failure

Your responsibility is to do your part in a humble and loving manner

How they respond is their responsibility

Powerful church wide revivals have often hinged on one or two church members getting right

Little rifts between Christians can quench God's Spirit for the entire church

### II. People Who Have Offended You

Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:35

Many a prayer gets no higher than the ceiling because a person is holding inner resentment and bitterness against another person

It is common for people to say that they have forgiven someone when in their heart they really haven't

We must stand for the truth but refuse to harbor hatred for those who attack us

It is possible to hold secret bitterness against God

Some people resent the fact that God has allowed a personal tragedy or did not answer an urgent prayer

Some resent God because He blesses others in ways that He has not blessed them

Many have cooled of in their service and worship because they are hurt or disappointed or just mad at God

## FORGIVENESS IS A CHOICE NOT A FEELING

### III. Improper Relationships

Anything from adultery and fornication to being inappropriately close to someone

Too involved with someone of an inappropriate age

Too involved with someone of the opposite sex not your spouse

Sharing things with someone that you are suppose to share with your mate

Too involved with your friends that you leave little time for your spouse

Too involved in the lives of your married children

Don't try to rationalize or defend an improper relationship

This opens the door to Satan and leads to deeper bondage

Improper relationships involve things beside physical immorality

Ask God to reveal any relationship that is out of balance

Relationships in which you are unequally yoked

#### **IV. The Neglect of Regular Fellowship and Meaningful Service Through Your Church**

Hebrews 10:25 1 Corinthians 12-14

It is a major sin to neglect regular fellowship and worship with the body of Christ

Many join large churches so they can get lost in the crowd. They go to receive a blessing, but they go home without any real fellowship with other believers

Such a pattern is totally unbiblical and inherently selfish

Many look for a church like they look for a health club. They want one with the most benefits with the least cost

It is a major sin not to be involved in consistent giving and service through a local body of believers

This involves investing our lives into a local body of believers

#### **V. Family Relationships Consistent with God's Word**

##### **A. God's special words to husbands and fathers**

Ephesians 5:23

God calls the husband to be the spiritual head of the home

He is responsible to give spiritual guidance and nurture

Every husband and father has a special responsibility to God and to his family

Ephesians 5:25

The husband is commanded to love his wife with a powerful sacrificial love

He is to literally sacrifice himself to meet the needs of his wife

He is to give himself to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of his wife

In every way, he is to place the needs and welfare of his wife ahead of his own

1 Peter 3:7

He is commanded to be very caring and sensitive to his wife's needs

A godly husband will literally study the unique needs and desires of his wife

Ephesians 6:4

The father is commanded to relate to his children in loving spiritual guidance, not anger or wrath

Discipline must be done with consistency and love

##### **B. God's special words to wives**

Ephesians 5:24, 33

The submission of a wife does not mean the husband can be a harsh master or boss over her

They are equal partners in the grace of God

Her submission is the loving and willing submission seen with Christ and His Church

A Godly wife exhibits a beautiful spirit of humility, love, and honor toward her husband

A wife is to treat her husband with honor and respect

A wife must not ignore her husband's needs or desires

The key here is attitude

##### **C. God's special words to parents**

Matthew 18:6

Children pick up more from what parents do than what they say

Parents are modeling values and habits that will affect their children's development

Training a child in the way they should go is more about a daily example