

# Week 3 - Rebellion and Repentance

## I. Introduction - Rebellion against God - Genesis 3:1-24

### 1. The Devil's Tactics

- a. The devil tempts them to doubt God's word. - "Did God really say...?" v1
- b. The devil tempts them to doubt God's goodness. - "... you must not eat from any tree in the garden?" v1
- c. The devil tempts them to doubt God's truthfulness "you will not certainly die" v4
- d. The devil tempts them to doubt God's otherness. "you will be like God" v.5

### 2. The effects of disobedience

- a. Shame (Hiding) "so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves." (v7)
- b. Fear "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid" (v10)
- c. Blame "The woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it" (v12) "The serpent deceived me and I ate it" (v13)
- d. Judgement "Cursed are you...." (v14...)

### 3. Summary

The devil wants us to rebel and disobey God.

"For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

1 Samuel 15:23

## II. Jesus came to set us free

### 1. He came to destroy the works of the devil

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

1 John 3:8

### 2. Jesus took the curse for us

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written:

"Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

Galatians 3:13-14

"No longer will there be any curse."

Revelation 22:3

### 3. We enter this freedom through repentance and faith

"After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:14-15

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:13-14

### 4. We continue to follow Jesus through repentance and faith

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

### III. Repentance and Faith - `The 5 R's

The 5 Rs are 5 simple biblical steps which equip us to bring enemy influence in our lives back under God's rule and blessing and rid us of enemy activity in our lives. When a believer repents of sin, that is when the enemy's hold is broken, his jurisdiction is ended and he has to take his hands off. When the believer rebukes Satan he must flee for Christ in us is greater and more powerful than the enemy. Standing in God's truth and walking in obedience is the key to completing victory.

#### 1. RECOGNISE

In order to reclaim territory, we need to recognise where we've given the enemy access – what lies have we believed?

Where have we been disobedient or rebelled?

Where have we given the devil a foothold?

"and do not give the devil a foothold"

Ephesians 4:27

"Search me, O God and know my heart ...See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalms 139:23-24

"Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." John 3:20 - 21

##### a. How does God convict us of sin?

###### a) Personal sensitivity to sin through conscience and revelation

"When [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment."

John 16:8

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

Hebrews 10:22

###### b) Correction from another person

Paul and Peter

"When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned."

Galatians 2:11

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."

Galatians 6:1

Questions to ask...

If someone speaks to you of your sin (anger/selfishness...) how do you tend to react?

Who has permission to tell you anything?

How do you feel about a less mature Christian correcting you?

What if the person does it clumsily or with a judgemental attitude?

Do you have a 'show me whatever I need to see' attitude?

Do you have a 'let me test this and see if even 1% of it is true' attitude?

c) The role of the prophetic

David convicted by Nathan concerning Bathsheba;

"Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

2 Samuel 12:7

Jesus convicting the Samaritan woman;

"He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

John 4:16-18

**b. The principle of a sin reaction**

When somebody sins against us or causes us offence, our temptation is to react sinfully and then to justify ourselves (e.g. I felt so rejected I couldn't pray...) For example, contrast the reaction of Jesus and Peter to the soldiers in Gethsemane – Jesus stays walking in grace and peace whilst Peter picks up the sword to fight.

Our sin reaction to someone else's sin against us is never justified.

**c. We accept full responsibility for our own sin**

We cannot blame our past/ parents/ the society/ the devil...

The route to maturity does not come through blame, but taking full responsibility for our sin and then receiving forgiveness.

**d. Learn to call your sin by its true name**

Do not water it down!

E.g. Anger, not 'frustration'

Fear, not 'a little bit worried'

Unbelief, not 'not being sure'

**e. Why do we resist the revelation of our sin?**

**Pride:** because we like to believe we are better than we actually are (self righteousness).

**Fear:** because we fear exposure, rejection and punishment from God and from man.

**Unbelief:** because we do not trust God to deal with us according to his mercy and to set us free.

**Control:** we want to stay in control and handle it ourselves (rebellion).

## **f. Key Attitudes**

### **Humility**

"The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honour."

Proverbs 15:33

### **Courage**

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13

### **The Pursuit of God's Glory**

"...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:11

## **2. REPENT**

"After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:14-15

### **a. Repentance is changing your mind**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:1-2

### **b. We must reclaim "repentance" as a wonderful gift from God**

"Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?"

Romans 2:4

### **c. Repentance is 'turning back to God and aligning yourself to the truth'**

"Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. "

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

### **d. Repentance breaks the enemy's hold on us**

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Colossians 2:13-15

### **e. The Power of the blood of Jesus**

“...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. ”

Romans 3:23-25a

**f. Repentance includes forgiving the injustices against us**

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Matthew 18:35

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Colossians 3:13

### 3. RECEIVE

**a. Receive the forgiveness of God.**

“If we confess our sins, [GOD] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

Beware of ‘condemnation’ turning correction and repentance into a depressing and exhausting experience. We never earn forgiveness of God’s love through repentance!

“For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”

Ezekiel 18:32

**b. Receive a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit**

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit” (and go on being filled)

Ephesians 5:18

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 11:13

### 4. REBUKE

The New Testament clearly takes the realm of the demonic with absolute seriousness and this is essential for true and lasting change. You can simply exercise authority and remove them, you can command the enemy to leave your life, based on the authority we have, because we’re ‘in Christ’

“Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you”

James 4:7

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

1 Peter 5:8-9

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Ephesians 6:10-13

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

Luke 10:19

## **5. REPLACE (REALIGN)**

True repentance means turning from sin to pursue righteousness.

"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Colossians 3:9-10

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Colossians 3:12

"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, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:22-32

### **Why does repentance seem ineffective at times?**

Repentance can seem fleeting and short lived when the vacuum principle is in effect. We take something out of our lives, but don't replace it with the truth or obedience which God requires us to live in.

Illustration; if you took your car to be mended and they removed a vital, but faulty part and didn't replace it with a working one there would be no value in taking the car for repair.

## **IV. Conclusion**

Each of the 5 foundational principles is key to Christ-centred transformation in your life. These are not a religious formula, but these are principles which when employed by one who has the humble heart condition of seeking God's will and character for their life, can help lead the person into restoration and freedom.

## **Groupwork**

- Share with one another how you've got on since last week's session –
  - Are there any key truths from the birth right card which have been significant to you?
  - Have you found yourself asking 'what else is going on' this week?
- Go through the 5 R's and ensure you understand what each one is about. (References are above, unless written out below).
  - Recognise
    - Read Psalm 139 v 23-24 - What does the verse reveal?
  - Repentance
    - What negative connotations does 'repentance' have for you?
    - Read Romans 2:4 - How is repentance an expression of God's kindness to us?
    - Do you now see repentance as a good gift?
  - Receive.
    - Read 1 John 1:9 - Do you understand what it means to be truly forgiven?
    - Read Luke 11:13 – How often should we ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
  - Rebuke
    - On what basis do we have authority to rebuke the evil one and the spirits that oppose us? See James 4:7 and Ephesians 2:6 (And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus)
  - Replace –
    - Why is replacing and walking in obedience so important?  
Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matthew 7:24-27)
    - Why is truth so vital?  
To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

## Homework

Are there any areas in your own life where you see habitual patterns of sin?

What lies have you believed?

Where have you been disobedient?

Write out a prayer that expresses the 5 Rs in your own words