

Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

Subject: Resentment: Exodus 20:17

A Parable from Nature – Sanctification

A person who is "sanctified in Christ" is like the water spider which is a very peculiar insect. We are peculiar, also, to the environment in which we live. The water spider lives at the bottom of muddy pools and has the distinctive power of ascending to the surface of the pool and there surrounding itself with a tiny globule of air. Thus enveloped it descends to the sludge and ooze at the bottom of the pool and remains there unsullied by its environment until the air is exhausted. Then it rises again to the surface and the process is repeated. So those "sanctified in Christ" find spiritual rejuvenation in daily Bible reading and Christian fellowship, unsullied and undirtied by the hostile environment around them.

Modesty-

Have you ever watched a dog when someone he knows, but hasn't seen for awhile, comes into the room? The tail wags a hundred miles per hour. Or, better yet, have you ever watched a dog chase his tail? That's weird, isn't it?

We can't fully understand dogs, because, as human beings, we're made differently. Even if a dog could somehow communicate with us why he does what he does, it would still fall short because we're different. We just could not fully grasp it.

The same is true for males and females. As a female, you cannot fully understand the problem that males have with lust because you are different. You think differently. You act differently. You're wired differently. You just don't get it. It's that simple. If you're female, right now, say these words out loud, "I don't get it. And I'll probably never fully get it." There. That's a good way to begin.

Most women, especially young, unmarried women, cannot even mildly comprehend how the male mind thinks when it comes to the corresponding gender. Even the majority of older, married women, who occasionally think they have begun to understand, are still usually a million miles from reality.

So why am I telling you this? Because the way you dress says something *totally* different to a man than it does to you.

If you could spend just ten minutes inside the mind of the average male, it would forever change the way you dress. Best-selling author Joshua Harris says it would only take one minute. Personally, if there was actually a way to do it, I'd rather you had the shock treatment: ten full minutes. I'll guarantee that just that short time inside the mind of the average male would forever change the way you dress.

And please understand that I am not talking about that guy you always thought was a little perverted anyway. I'm talking about that nice elderly gentleman who lives next door. I'm talking about your pastor. I'm talking about your husband. I'm talking about your father. Make no mistake about it, just ten minutes is all it would take.

You see, men in general are stimulated by sight. That's different from women in general. And it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out.

You see, God Himself apparently began the process. No, He didn't cause us to sin, but He did put within man a desire and fondness for the female form. Kept in proper context, that's part of God's plan. Men should desire their wives in a sexual manner. God created sex to be enjoyed in marriage. But when sin entered the picture, everything—including this act that God designed to be a good and pleasurable experience—was corrupted. Here's a thought you need to carefully ponder: I believe it is possible to be both fashionable and modest. However, if you ever need to choose one over the other, from an honest Christian perspective, it would be far better to choose modesty.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN RESENTMENT IS ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN OUR LIFE?

KEY BIBLE VERSE: Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else your neighbor owns.

(Exodus 20:17)

RESENTMENT CAN LEAD TO SINFUL ACTIONS.

To covet is to wish to have the possessions of others. It goes beyond simply admiring someone else's possessions or thinking, "I'd like to have one of those." Coveting includes envy-resenting the fact that others have what you don't. God knows, however, that possessions never make anyone happy for long. Since only God can supply all our needs, true contentment is found only in him. When you begin to covet, try to determine if a more basic need is leading you to envy. For example, you may covet someone's success not because you want to take it away from him, but because you would like to feel as appreciated by others as he is. If this is the case, pray that God will help you deal with your resentment and meet your basic needs.

BIBLE READING: Judges 8:1-3

KEY BIBLE VERSE: Then the people of Ephraim asked Gideon, "Why have you treated us this way? Why didn't you send for us when you first went out to fight the Midianites?" And they argued heatedly with Gideon. (Judges 8:1)

RESENTMENT CAN LEAD TO WRONGFUL ACCUSATIONS.

Ephraim's leaders felt left out because Gideon had not called them to join the battle, but had left them in place to "clean up" the escaping Midianites—so they angrily confronted him. Gideon assured the leaders of Ephraim that their accomplishment was even greater than his own clan's (Abiezer). His diplomatic explanation pointed out that this rear guard had managed to capture the enemy's generals, thus cutting off the leaders from their army. Not every necessary job is a highly visible leadership role. Much of the necessary labor of any effective enterprise is considered by many to be dirty work. But such work is vital to getting any big task done. Engineers and millionaires may design and finance an elegant building, but it is the bricklayers who get the work done. Pride causes us to want recognition. Are you content to be God's bricklayer, or do you resent the work God has given you?

BIBLE READING: James 1:1-27

KEY BIBLE VERSE: Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. (James 1:2-4)

RESENTMENT CAN PREVENT POSITIVE SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

We can't really know the depth of our character until we see how we react under pressure. It is

easy to be kind to others when everything is going well, but can we still be kind when others are treating us unfairly? God wants to make us mature and complete, not to keep us from all pain. Instead of resenting our difficulties, we should see them as opportunities for growth. Thank God for promising to be with you in rough times. Ask him to help you solve your problems or to give you the strength to endure them. Then be patient. God will not leave you alone with your problems; he will stay close and help you grow.

RESENTMENT, GOD'S WORD ON

Part envy, part spite, part bitterness, resentment is a slow-burning anger that consumes the soul. The experience of pain due to real or perceived injustices is common to all of us, but resentment is clinging to and feeding those hurts until they dominate our life. The Bible indicates that the cure for resentment is the confession of bitterness and a willingness, with God's help, to forgive the offender.

WHAT CAUSES FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT?

2 Samuel 6:16 . . . As the Ark of the Lord entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she was filled with contempt for him.

Disagreement over conduct can cause resentment.

Genesis 27:36 . . . Esau said bitterly, "No wonder his name is Jacob, for he has deceived me twice, first taking my birthright and now stealing my blessing. Oh, haven't you saved even one blessing for me?"

Being deceived can cause resentment.

Genesis 4:3-5, 8 . . . At harvest time Cain brought to the Lord a gift of his farm produce, while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The Lord accepted Abel's offering, but he did not accept Cain's. This made Cain very angry and dejected. . . Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were together there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.

Jealousy can cause resentment.

Luke 15:27-30 . . . "Your brother is back," he was told, "and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast. We are celebrating because of his safe return."

The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, "All these years I've worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have."

Feeling left out can cause resentment.

Genesis 37:2-4 . . . When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks with his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing. Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day he gave Joseph a special gift—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because of their father's partiality. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

Favoritism can cause resentment.

Titus 3:3-7 . . . He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.
When resentment is confessed as sin we receive the grace and kindness of the Holy Spirit.

WHAT IS THE DANGER OF RESENTMENT?

Job 5:2 . . . Surely resentment destroys the fool, and jealousy kills the simple.

Proverbs 27:3 . . . A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but the resentment caused by a fool is heavier than both.

1 John 3:15 . . . Anyone who hates another Christian is really a murderer at heart.

1 John 4:20-21 . . . If someone says, "I love God," but hates another Christian, that person is a liar. . . . And God himself has commanded that we must love not only [God] but our Christian brothers and sisters, too.

Resentment is both self-destructive and destructive for those we resent.

HOW DO I HANDLE MY FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT?

James 5:9 . . . Don't grumble about each other, my brothers and sisters, or God will judge you.
For look! The great Judge is coming. He is standing at the door!

1 Thessalonians 5:15 . . . See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to everyone else.

Mark 11:25 . . . When you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32 . . . "Don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil . . . Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Proverbs 10:12 . . . Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love covers all offenses.

If resentment has built up, build love and forgiveness until they overcome resentment.

HOW CAN I AVOID FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT IN THE FUTURE?

Leviticus 19:17-18 . . . Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront your neighbors directly so you will not be held guilty for their crimes. Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Matthew 5:43-47 . . . "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!"

Colossians 3:8-10 . . . Now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.

PROMISE FROM GOD:

Mark 11:25 . . . When you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.