

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

The Road To Reconciliation

God vs. Satan

Genesis 1:27, 3:15 – The dramatic change is because of Satan.

John 3:16 – God has went to great lengths reconcile you to Himself.

Matthew 4 – The temptation of Jesus shows Satan’s forcefulness and power (Job).

Good vs. Evil

Ephesians 6:12 – *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* (NKJV)

Psalms 34:14 (ESV) – *“Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.”*

Proverbs 17:13 (NIV) - *“If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house.”*

Open Heart vs. Closed Heart

Exodus 7:13, 8:15, 8:19, 8:32 (NKJV) – Pharaoh hardened his heart.

II Corinthians 6:11-13 (ESV) – *“We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³ In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.”*

Acts 16:14 – Young’s Literal Translation said Lydia had an *“open heart.”*

Verbal vs. Hidden

Matthew 18:15-17 – We have to take the initiative and verbalize our problems.

Romans 3:23 – We are all sinners (mistake prone, not perfect, etc.).

I Corinthians 4:5 (NKJV) – *“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.”*

Forgiveness vs. Grudge

Matthew 5:23-34 (Message) – *“If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then, and only then, come back and work things out with God.”*

Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV) – *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

Luke 11:4 – The model prayer reminds us to forgive as God forgives us.

Romans 12:18 (TEV) – *“Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.”*

Commitment vs. Wishes

Proverbs 15:1 (Message) – *“A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper fire.”*

Proverbs 16:21 (TEV) – *“A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.”*

James 2:15-16 (NKJV) – *“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?”*

Mark 15:15 (ASV) – Pilate “wishing” to content the multitude (hoping to avoid conflict)

Blessings vs. Resentment

Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT) – First we have to “*get rid of the log from*” our own eye.

Matthew 5:9 (NASB) – “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*” – We need more peacemakers that will focus on the positive things.

Ephesians 4:3 (ETRV) – “*You are joined together with peace through the Spirit. Do all you can to continue as you are, letting peace hold you together.*”

Ephesians 4:29 (TEV) – “*Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that will build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you.*”

*****Matthew 18:15** says you can “*gain your brother*” (ESV).

James 5:20, I Peter 4:8 – It is possible to “*cover a multitude of sins*” (NKJV).