

Outline – November 8, 2020
Galatians 5:13-15; James 4:1-12

We Are Good At Being Bad To One Another

I. How a conflict begins

- A. We have an inward problem
 - 1. Ego/pride
 - 2. Selfishness/greed
 - 3. Conquer/control
- B. Problem is expressed outward
 - 1. I am not getting what I want
 - 2. Trying to force something to happen, it was not designed to do

II. What fuels the conflict

- A. Passions/emotions
- B. Coveting
- C. Being in conflict with God
- D. Questioning the motives
 - 1. Only God knows the heart
- E. Speculations
 - 1. Knowing part of the story
 - 2. Writing the rest of the story
- F. Exaggeration
 - 1. Add to the story
 - 2. Not telling the truth
- G. Gossip
 - 1. Talk about rather than talk to
(No one wins, everyone loses, Satan dances, Jesus sighs)

III. Common (unhealthy) solutions

- A. We retreat from others
- B. We refuse to get involved
- C. We resign from all connection
(Very lonely existence)

IV. The counsel from God's Word

- A. Be governed by the Spirit, more than your emotions
- B. Let God's grace be activated in your life
 - 1. We all want it
 - 2. Few ever give it

- C. Let humility be a reality
 - 1. Pride destroys, divides, disables
 - 2. I am better, I am right, I will win
 - 3. Humility sees our sin as much as it sees your sin
 - 4. Submit to Godly authority
 - 5. Submit to God
 - a) Will this glorify?
 - b) Will this embarrass?
 - 6. Resist the devil
 - a) Don't embrace the script he gives you
 - b) Defensive, stubborn, self-righteous, our own authority
 - c) He will flee
 - d) Satan is the enemy, sin is the activity
 - 7. Draw near to God
 - a) Prayer
 - b) Worship
 - c) Counsel

V. The power of the "pause button"

- A. How do I get back to where God wants me?
 - 1. Clean your hands
 - 2. Own your wrong
 - 3. Show patience
 - 4. Recognize that being the judge, jury and punisher may not be your job
- B. As Jesus enters into your life and situation
 - 1. Both sides are guilty
 - 2. Both sides deserve judgment
 - 3. He takes the judgment
 - 4. He reminds us, life is not about winning, but about glorifying God
 - 5. It's about grace and truth
 - 6. "But where's the justice?" At The Cross

**For The Word Of God,
The Life We Are Given Is About Love
His Love For Us, Our Love For One Another**

**Otherwise We Will Bite, Devour,
And Be Consumed By One Another**

