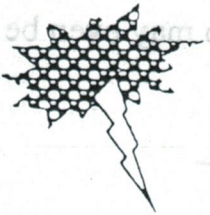


UNDERSTANDING HOW "STUFF" HAPPENS

Problem



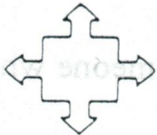
- Results of living in a fallen world (Eccl. 9:12)
- Frustrations of being with sinners and sinful natures
- Something is done or said
- Somebody is hurt and/or chooses to be offended
- Someone is sinned against
- Expectations or "demands" are not met
- Preferences /opinions are attacked or "minimized"



Thinking

- People "process" what's happened (Prov. 23:7)
- Pride /selfishness creates unbiblical reasoning (Prov. 28:25-26)
- People lean on their own understanding (Prov. 3:5-6)
- "Perceptions" become more distorted (Prov. 19:3)
- Interpretations lead to (wrong) conclusions (Prov. 14:7-9, 16, 33)
- Wisdom /truth is not applied giving-way to foolishness (Prov. 15:14)
- Feelings get in the way (Prov. 28:26)

Response



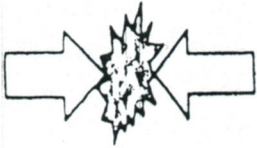
- Not seeking /choosing Biblical wisdom (Js. 1:5, 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- One chooses to be offended rather than to forgive (Eph. 4:31-32)
- The grace of God is resisted (Heb. 12:15)
- Holding a grudge > resentment > bitterness > anger
- Ignorance and /or disobedience to God's Word (Prov. 12:15-16)

Spiritual Consequences



- The sun goes down on the anger (Eph. 4:26-27)
- Satan is given "ground" (Eph. 4:26-27)
- The grace of God is further resisted (Heb. 12:15)
- A root of bitterness springs up (Heb. 12:15)
- People get angry at God (Prov. 19:3)
- The Holy Spirit is grieved (Eph. 4:29-30)
- The Holy Spirit is quenched (1Thess. 5:19)
- Pride now blinds /deceives one from even seeing the truth (Js. 1:22-25; Prov. 16:5, 18-19; 18:12; 21:24; 28:25)
- Further disobedience to God's Word hardens hearts (Heb. 3:7-8, 13, 15) becoming an "abomination" (Prov. 6:16-19; 16:5; 28:9)

Inter Personal Conflicts



- Tensions mount (Acts 15)
- Personalities get involved
- Relationships become polarized (Phil. 4:2-3)
- People are unreconciled (Matt. 5:23-24)
- Issues are unresolved (1 Cor. 6:1-8) problems go unresolved
- No one is restored (Gal. 6:1)
- Emotions have become so heated that any attempts to help may even be resisted - Things have not been “defused” (Prov. 15:1)

Sinful Behaviors Are Manifested



- Trouble escalates (Heb. 12:15)
- Communications break down (Prov. 26:17-28)
- Gossip, backbiting (Prov. 11:9, 11-13; 16:27-28; 17:9; 18:6-8; 20:19; Ps. 101:5)
- Slander, defamation of character (Prov. 26:20)
- Evil speaking, lying... Rumors spread (Prov. 10:18-21, 31-32)
- Unforgiveness demands that someone has to pay (Prov. 24:29)
- People seek revenge instead of following Rom. 12:14-21
- Works of the flesh rather than the fruit of the Spirit are seen (Gal. 5:16-26)
- Matters are not handled Biblically (Matt. 18:15-35; Prov. 22:10; Titus 3:10-11)

Complications Build Up



- Many people are defiled (Heb. 12:15) (contaminates)
- The facts are ignored (Prov. 18:13, 17)
- People take up a reproach – holding something against someone who’s never personally sinned against them (Rom. 15:3)
- Contention and friction breed disharmony (Prov. 15:1)
- People begin taking sides causing division (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
- Divisiveness and “attacks” result in disunity (Prov. 6:16-19)

Testimony & Witness of Love & Unity Are Destroyed



- Instead of glorifying God – Satan has now taken many people “captive” to do his will rather than God’s! (2Tim. 2:24-26)
- Jn. 13:35; 17:20-23