

Prelude

Today I want to get into the topic of Soul Ties. Now this is a PG13 topic so for today if you have your young ones with you, it would probably be best if they had a little time in the nursery or the Sunday School room.

Before I get into Soul Ties this morning, there are two thoughts this morning that I want to cover.

- 1) We are coming into the summer season. This is a time when we can all celebrate family. Most of us go on vacation or camp. In short, we spend time building Godly relationships and caring for our families. This is something that we need to value and celebrate.

The Church is on going through the summer and we are doing activities and community projects to show the Love of Christ over the summer months. If you can be involved... Praise God! If you are away and can't attend, then don't let the enemy condemn you, your family is very important.

Because the church is not a money-making organization, the only resources that we have to continue the programs in the summer and to maintain our church and the work that we do, comes from you. It is very easy at this time to focus on the family and the good times, so I humbly ask that as you go forth and celebrate with your family, please remember to support the church with your tithes and offerings in your absence.

- 2) How many people here today, know that I am committed to making this church holistically healthy? This just means healthy in every way. So I would like to express to you how we experience Church growth...

First of all, as much as we would like to, we don't grow God's church, he does. We learn the skills to love people and teach them the Word of God and bring them into fellowship, but it is really the job of the Holy Spirit to draw people in. So with that said, many pastors will never tell you what the vision or the plan is in detail, we say things like we are flowing with the Spirit or God will have his way. Both statements of course are true but the bible tells us that without a progressive vision or a goal to shoot for the people dwell aimlessly. This means that if we don't know where we want to get to, we hang around and don't accomplish much for years at a time. Very briefly this morning, I want to give you a peek into my high level spiritual strategic plan to enable you the church to grow, develop and ultimately win souls for Christ.

Change is never easy but here are the key principles that I have been working on:

- a) From the Pastor and in our leadership team there must be a willingness to develop and empower individuals and key ministry team leaders. This means that authority must be given with responsibility.
- Here is an example of development and empowerment:
 - We have an empowered Pastor's Council that is consulted and assists in making decisions for the Church
 - We have a dedicated worship leader who is responsible to coordinate practice, music and Sunday morning worship. He will ultimately be responsible for the spiritual growth of the worship team.
 - We have a dedicated Sunday school leader who is responsible to source out and develop curriculum for the Sunday School. This person is responsible for scheduling and coordination in agreement with our plan to protect. This person will ultimately be responsible for training and developing best practices in our educational program for our kids.
- b) We have determined not to be a mile wide and an inch deep in how we conduct our ministry here in Salmo. We have refined our focus so that anything that we want to do comes into question against the following criteria:
- a. Does this activity promote Worship of God?
 - b. Does this activity show that we Love all People?
 - c. Does this activity show our community that we are embracing them and caring for them?

This is how we have defined our ministry here in Salmo. If it doesn't meet one of these three elements of our mission statement then we don't usually do it.

- c) We have established our missional values but they must be discussed, celebrated, incorporated into what we do and guarded. This is why I am discussing the big picture with you today.
- d) We are preparing for company. This is a time of developing who we are in Christ and acquiring the necessary training and knowledge to be effective in our ministry of winning souls for Christ both when they come into our church and when we meet them on the street. We are dealing with hurts, gaps in Christian understanding and relationship, and building faith in our community of believers so that we are not the blind leading the blind but rather a healthy group of Christians who know what we are doing and why we are doing it. We are working on the character, conduct and conversation of our interactions with people. We must know how to apply the principles of God in a non-judgmental loving and Christ-like way before the influx of new believers. Make no mistake they are going to be arriving soon and there is a lot yet to cover. Although we must celebrate how far we have come.

e) In accordance with our statement that we embrace community we must serve incarnationally within our community. We are going to be present in our community in a real way; we are not going to just talk about it.

f) We have decided not to be a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners.

Summary

The vision and values that we have established is what we dream our church can be. It is our heart and the very soul of our church.

The resources, programs and management that we put into practice to make our dream a reality is what drives the church forward.

The mission of our church, what we have set out to do with all our dreams and coordination etc. is what delivers what we are responsible for in Gods plan for his church. When we do what we are supposed to do, God will do his part and fill all the seats in this place.

I have never been focused on numbers of people for numbers sake, but there is a reality that more people mean more hands, more voices and more resources to carry out the great commission.

We must develop ourselves in the likeness of Christ and in turn mentor others and multiply ourselves. Discipleship is a discipline of Christianity, but it is also a multiplication of belief. God brings people into the church for fellowship and celebration, then people learn about God, his principles, precepts and about his love, the desire takes hold of them and we train them how to help others discover what they have found and then we release them to make disciples in the community and into the world.

Not everyone here will become the next Billy Graham although one or two of you might. But if you can learn to love God and discover whom you are in him and then share that joy with another, you have achieved what this church is all about. We worship God, We love all people and we embrace our community.

As part of the process I will be working on eliminating the top 10 symptoms of emotionally unhealthy spirituality:

- 1) Using God to run from God (God centered activity but not dealing with change)
- 2) Ignoring the emotions of anger, sadness and fear (deny what we feel)
- 3) Dying to the wrong things (rejoicing in our life in Christ)
- 4) Dividing our lives into secular and sacred boxes

- 5) Denying the impact of our past on the present
- 6) Doing something for God instead of being with God
- 7) Spiritualizing away conflict
- 8) Covering over and hiding our brokenness, weakness and failures
- 9) Living without limits (stewardship of home time – Self care)
- 10) Judging others spiritual journey

The next thing I would like to do today is one point in league with item #5 denying the impact of our past on the present. We will briefly discuss the topic of Soul Ties.

Soul Ties

The word soul tie is not actually used in the bible, yet it is a modern and descriptive term of what happens during certain social situations. The effects of the soul ties are scriptural. The bible speaks about souls being knit together. It says things like the two become one flesh and so on. A soul tie is what happens scripturally during certain circumstances. Soul ties can be very positive but many are not even aware of them and suffer horribly as a result.

Let's take a look at what the bible says when it talks about what happens when sexual congress occurs. In Mark 10:8 NASB we read: "And the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh." In Genesis 2:24 we read: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

The simplest explanation of what happens in the spiritual realm is that during the act of sexual congress a bond is created that ties the two people together. The souls of the individuals are blended together. Soul ties can be healthy as they can draw married couples together like magnets.

What happens when two people commit adultery? They have bound their soul and their flesh to an individual to which they have no commitment. All the baggage and garbage that the other is carrying with them is still attached.

Take for example the case of a beaten and abused woman. She has had sex with him and in the natural realm we would expect her to run away from him, yet time and time again we see that she runs to him, even though he does not love her, he treats her like dirt and she accepts it. A soul tie can become like a demonic conduit through which all kinds of spiritual garbage can pass through.

I know of a young man who came to me recently. He loved and had sex with a woman who was a witch. He later became a Christian and broke up with her and yet he was still experiencing demonic visitations. He could not understand why when he was not summoning demons and wasn't involved with the witch any longer, why he was still being tormented. He was experiencing the effect of an ungodly soul tie with the witch, because he bound himself to her in the flesh and in his soul. He confessed his sin, plead the blood of Jesus and broke of the tie. No more demonic harassment.

How many times have you seen an amazing amount of influence over an individual when there shouldn't be any? An ex-boyfriend calls up and a woman does him a favor even though it causes her trouble in her current relationship. Or perhaps an ex with a gambling problem or drinking problem will call and a person will give them money contrary to all rational logic.

Remember Ephesians 5:31 – "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." God intended sex to be a part of marriage so that when the tie is created it strengthens the family bond in the spirit. It is unbreakable by man as we read in Mark 10: 7-9: "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. "What therefore God has joined together - let no man separate."

Think I am taking this too far... turn with me to 1 Corinthians 6:16, "What? know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh."

Lets actually read that who context: 1 Cor. 6:15-20 NASB

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Did you ever notice how people who have had past relationships have a difficult time in new relationships and they may never reach their full potential. It is because their soul has become fragmented and part is still tied to another. Pretty hard to bond to a husband who is bonded to many other women; it is because that soul mate commitment is diluted. There are ties to many other people and all their junk.

Hold on though there is hope and we will get to it shortly...

Some soul ties are even formed through close friendships...

1 Samuel 18:1, "And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." This was an example of true brotherly love and example of a healthy soul tie. What happens when we create this kind of bonding with those who are not of the Spirit?

The bible gives us direction. We are to bring unbelievers to Christ, we are to show them love, but we are not to engage in their sin. Read with me:

2 Corinthians 6:14 ESV

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Mark 2:17 ESV

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Psalm 1:1 ESV

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

Don't yolk your soul to an unbeliever...

Other types of ties are worship ties and they may hinder our walk with God and damage our souls. These are barriers to our worship of God. We were created to worship God and so in worship our souls connect to God. When we place other things and people in God's place we tie ourselves to that thing. If we worship money then money becomes our God.

If we put our pastor on a pedestal and idolize him we have placed him or her in the role of God. People fall away from the church because they are following the man and not God. Unfortunately this happens more than you may realize. Pastors are worthy of honor, but if he or she is seeking it for themselves instead of the glory of God, beware. Everyone wants to be loved and even pastors sometimes may sometimes feel insecure. When they turn to God and good fellowship all is good, but when they turn to control and self glorification to feed an insecurity or worth issue there is a problem. This does not only apply to pastors but to all, but I thought it best to start in my own camp.

When a pastor is loved and a friendship is established this creates a healthy soul tie between you and your pastor, yet his job as your friend and spiritual leader is to connect you to God.

Take for example if you or you idolize a rock group or famous actor. People can actually become obsessed with the music or an artist and this has occurred because they have placed these people and things into the place in their hearts and souls that should be reserved for God.

Vows and promises bind people together. Every word you speak has power. God created us in his own image and how did he create the world. "And God Said..."

Now I have really lightly touched this topic, we have not covered cursed objects from ungodly relationship or really done an in-depth study of this nor have I

covered generational curses passed down the family line, I have however attempted to bring an awareness to this issue so that as we continue to press into God and grow and prepare for what God is about to do, we are not tied down by the mistakes of the past. I said I was going to tell you how to get rid of soul ties. To break them so that they do not impact your life any further. This is what we are going to look at right now.

This is what I would advise... There is power in your spoken word and in the blood of Jesus.

- 1) If any sins were committed that have resulted in one or more soul ties, find your self a private place and repent of them to God. Fornication, adultery and so on are common causes of soul ties.
- 2) Even though we have not talked about cursed objects, if any gifts were given to you by the other person in connection with the sin or unholy acts get rid of them. These are often lingerie, rings, cards, love letters from ungodly relationships, flowers, bras, or tokens of conquest. Anything that is symbolic of the sin. Now if the gift is something that was given in a relationship that is no longer in sin, repent the sin and keep the gift.
- 3) Any vows in ungodly relationships such as "I will love you forever" or "I could never love another" need to be renounced and broken off.
- 4) If any hard feelings remain between you and those whom you have had previous soul ties. You will not forget the things but forgive them, give the issues to Jesus and let them go so they don't hold you back in following Jesus or your healthy relationships. In short, don't let the strongholds of the past prevent you from healthy relationships now.

I don't want to embarrass anyone, and I am not going to shout your sins from the rooftops, but I am always here if you need some council to let go...

Here is the most important detail of today's message.

When you are alone in your prayer closet. Confess you sins to Jesus and ask forgiveness.

Plead the Blood of Jesus Christ over you heart, mind and soul and ask in Jesus name to break off any ungodly ties in your life.

You see that is really all there is too it. We claim what Christ's blood has done for us and ask his help. Jesus is there to help you restore your soul. We are positionally sanctified and righteous because of his righteousness, but the work of the Holy Spirit is to bring about the likeness of Christ in us. This is ongoing sanctification. He wants you in right relationship and in the process of sanctification; breaking off the ungodly things in our lives is part of the process. We can't do it without him, but we can start afresh and eliminate a lot of issues in our lives that we may not even realize are impacting us, by reaching out to him and asking for him to break off that

which is ungodly and has attached itself to us. Now you may not remember everything... in this case God certainly will, so at the end of your request, just ask him to break off anything ungodly that you may not remember.

Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and not only that but he will remove them away from us as far as the east is from the west. They will never return to bother us. Let Jesus help today all you have to do is ask.

We will be covering Generational Curses, Soul Ties and Cursed objects in much greater detail at a later point...