

## Sermon Notes

**Title:** Peoples and Steeples: Church Hurt

**Text:** *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

**Target:** “Church health” begins when the church recognizes that “church hurt” impacts us all.

**Word to the Wounded:** Your abuse is our abuse, your justice is our justice, the prayer of our house is for healing to happen, hope to be found in the person of Jesus. Thus, we/I express my sentiment of solidarity and express our deepest gratitude that you are here with us.

### I. **The Clarification of Church Hurt: What is it?**

- A. The Church:** A collective community of called out people who identify their oneness in Jesus and His teaching in Scripture. (Matthew 16:18)
  - 1. **Upper Room:** Mission/Vision/Value (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:42-47)
  - 2. **Lower Room:** Personalities/Programs/People/Place (1 Cor. 3:4)
- B. The Hurt:** A real painful experience that caused disappointment, disdain, eventual disconnection from the community of faith.
  - 1. **What it is:** Trauma/trauma done to you directly or indirectly.
  - 2. **What it is Not:** Church discipline, disagreement over a decision, different opinion, direction of a program/not a program.

### II. **The Characterization of Church Hurt: Who is it?**

- A. From Leadership to Membership (1 Peter 5:2-3):** Manipulation of Spiritual Authority, False Teaching, Mismanagement of Financial Resource, Moral Failure  
**\*Expectations of an Overseer:** 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1: 5-9, Hebrews 13:5
- B. From Membership to Membership (1 Peter 2:1):** Slander/Gossip, Judgmentalism, Neglect
- C. From Membership to Leadership (Proverbs 6:16-19):** Unrealistic Expectations, Division, Sowing Discord

### III. **The Confirmation of Church Hurt: When did this start happening?**

- A. Galatians:** to solve legalism (Galatians 1:6-7, 3:1-3, 4:9, 5:1)
- B. Colossians:** to solve heresy (Colossians 2:4,8)
- C. 2 Timothy:** to solve tension in succession (2 Timothy 4:9-16)
- D. Philippians:** to solve conflict and selfish ambition (Phil. 2:3-22)
- E. 1 and 2 Corinthians:** the issues of human pride in giftings,
- F. Revelation:** multiple issues with the different churches listed (Revelation 2,3)

### IV. **The Consideration in Church Hurt: How do we prevent it?**

- A. No Church is Perfect:** People are messy (Proverbs 14:4)
- B. Reconciliation is to be Pursued:** The goal but not always the guarantee. (Matthew 18:15-19)

- C. **Accountability is a Prerequisite:** Checks and balances reap godly dividends (Proverbs 15:22)
- D. **Transparency is Paramount:** Trust is cultivated in the light not the shadows (Hebrews 4:13)
- V. **The Christ in Church Hurt: Where do we go to heal from it?**
  - A. **Jesus Addresses Church Hurt (Matthew 18:16/23:1-37):** No one hurt by the church goes unnoticed by Jesus.
  - B. **Jesus Experienced Church Hurt (Matthew 6:14-15):** No one has been hurt more by the church than Jesus,
  - C. **Jesus Forgave His Church Hurt (Luke 23:34):** No one who loves the church more than Jesus.

**Takeaway: Forgiveness is not Forgetting, but choosing Freedom to move Forward again.**

## **Key Things to Remember for Your Community Group Time**

1. Pray before your group meets and ask God to direct the conversation, that He will give you the words He wants you to say, and ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group.
2. Not every group will have questions, concerns, or comments about each week's sermon, so be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. (And encourage the group to listen to the entirety of Pastor Ed's message prior to your meeting. That will help remove any possible confusion on the topic and what was said.)
3. Remember to be sure and listen to the person with the question, concern, or comment.
4. Ask good & clarifying open-ended questions to see if they can or will share the story behind their thoughts. The more you know about the story, the better your approach can be to answering.
5. Always and accurately use bible verses that take into account the whole heart of God.
6. Remember it is ok if we don't all see things the same way. The important thing is to listen. respect, and honor one another with the conversation.
7. It is ok to say you do not know the answer to the question. Appropriate responses are, "Let's set up a time and look through bible verses together to find the answer." Another response "That is great. Let me get with one of our CBC Pastors and get back to you on the answer."
8. It is not our job to change someone else's mind, but rather to talk through the situation and the truth from God's Word and let the Holy Spirit lead each person.

9. Utilize the resources listed below if someone needs help beyond what your group can provide.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20 together as a group. What do we learn about about God from this passage? When difficult circumstances happen within the church, what hope do we have in light of this truth?
2. How did Pastor Ed help us distinguish between *genuine* “church hurt” versus other kinds of hurts that happen in the church?
3. Read Matthew 18:15-19 together as a group. When conflict arises with others, what is the process that God has given us to work through challenges in a Christ-honoring way? What are practical ways we can hold one another accountable to this process?
4. As we learned, Jesus both experienced church hurt and forgave his church hurt. How has this message helped you see the value of *engaging, forgiving and committing* to a local church family?

## Additional Resources:

**CBC Care & Support** (210-253-5971)

- **CBC Care & Support:** [website](#)
- **Professional Counseling Referrals:** [list here](#)
- **The Landing (CBC Care Ministry for Students):** [website](#). A student ministry geared towards Jr. High and HS age students. The Landing provides a safe place for our students to process life and the struggles that accompany it, provide tools to help them live emotionally and spiritually healthy lives, and point them towards the freedom found in Jesus Christ.
- **Jeanie Postell** - C&S Pastor and Director, Staff counselor, 210-477-1748 or [jeanie.postell@cbc.email](mailto:jeanie.postell@cbc.email)
- **Frank Kirby** - Director of Marriage Ministries, 210-253-5979 or [frank.kirby@cbc.email](mailto:frank.kirby@cbc.email)
- **Denise Espino** - Director of Mental Health Support Groups and CBC Cares, 210-237-4942 or [denise.espino@cbc.email](mailto:denise.espino@cbc.email)

- **Carolyn Powell** - Director of Prayer Ministries and Support Groups (DivorceCare & GriefShare), 726-262-5363 or carolyn.powell@cbc.email
- **Lisa Guerra** - Clinical Counselor, 210-848-5170 or lisa.guerra@cbc.email
- **Melli Melgoza** - Director of Recovery Groups, 726-215-8127 or melli.melgoza@cbc.email
- **Brian Madtes** - Director of Leadership and Spiritual Development, 210-253-5977 or Brian.Madtes@CBC.email
- **CBC Care & Support Lay Counseling:** 210-477-1742 Ext. 1179