

Talk It Over

Relationship Goals

(Week 3)

DEVIL KICKING

SMALL TALK

1. If you knew a thief was going to break into your house, what would you do in advance to protect it?
2. In the last week or so, what distracted you from being Christ Centered and Kingdom Living?

VIEWPOINT

3. **READ 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.** Share some daily examples of what a way out might look like.
4. **READ Matthew 6:13 (in context).** What are some choices that might lead someone toward temptation? What are some choices that lead away from temptation? What is wrong with wanting to be close to crossing the line without crossing the line?
5. **READ John 8:31-32.** In these 2 verses what was Jesus' teaching on how to break free from any bondage to sin? How does this practice help someone who might not even be sure that they even believe in Jesus? How does John 8:34 and John 8:36 support your answer?

GETTING PERSONAL

6. Where are you most vulnerable to spiritual attacks?
7. What does slamming the door shut on temptation look like for you? Why would you want to leave it open just a crack?
8. If you know where you're vulnerable today, what can you do to eliminate future distractions and temptations?

MAKING PROGRESS

9. One of our core statements is: "Don't do life alone." How can you enlist another believer to help you become stronger where you are vulnerable?

February 23, 2020

Relationship Goals

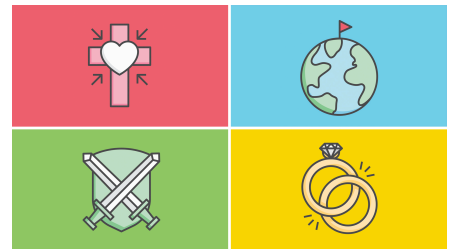
(Week 3) Devil Kicking

Skit Guys Video: "Tell Her"

We have been talking about being more intentional about building health into our relationships.

The Series: RELATIONSHIP GOALS

- Christ Centered
- Kingdom Living
- Devil Kicking
- Covenant Keeping



Why are we talking about Devil Kicking in a Relationship Goal series? Because we have a spiritual enemy who hates God and hates you, and hates relationships that honor God.

God made us for relationships. Relationships thrive when we are Christ centered. When he is the ONE we are living for he bring order to our chaotic lives. Last week we talked about Kingdom living. What we often fail to consider is that Christ the King came to establish his Kingdom in a rebel world that is under the influence of the prince of darkness, and his kingdom of darkness. We need to focus on how Jesus is in the rescue business. He rescues and delivers people out of the kingdom of darkness and ushers them into freedom from bondage to sin. We become his servants in his kingdom. We have an enemy who does not like that.

In relationships there are phases. There is the enchantment phase, then the disenchantment phase, then depending on what you do with that there is either the maturity phase which deepens and strengthens that relationship or that relationship disintegrates.

What we fail to realize is we have an enemy that would like to destroy healthy relationships because he has contempt for God, and contempt for you and me because we are made in the image of God. We have been given more glory than him, and he can't stand that. So, he'd like to throw mud all over your glory so that you look like a worm in the face of his "grand" power.

So, the topic "kingdom living" last week has already introduced us to the idea of giving glory to our Lord and King Jesus. When that is what we are living for in our relationships, our relationships shine.

By the way this is about *all* relationships.

In marriages relationships start in the Honeymoon phase, and quickly move to the honeymoon is over stage. The battle begins. Where do we go from here is critical to our own well being and God's honor.

In ministry relationships, when you are serving on a ministry team, or on a church staff. We go through the same phases. We start in the enchantment phase. It is like a honeymoon phase where we begin to see God at work, and it is quite a rush. But then we hit the muck and the mire, the mud which is still messy all over people. Moses felt it, Jesus felt it, Paul felt it. The Bible is incredibly honest about it. After the honeymoon phase, comes the work phase. But then we see progress and God is honored. Do you know what phase comes after that? WAR! That's when the enemy does everything he can to slow down his shrinking influence, and he attempts to divide and conquer.

Now let me bring this all to an important point. For the Jesus follower, every relationship is ministry!! What is ministry? Serving others. That's ministry, and that is what we are called to do in relationships. And so, every relationship that is doing well needs to get a hold of the principles of spiritual warfare.

Whenever you are in a relationship fight—if you are in pain—remember this, you are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies. There is something more sinister going on!

We are going to look at a classic spiritual warfare passage this morning and apply it to our relationships.

Anyone interested in hearing how to become a devil kicking warrior and win the war that has been waged against our important relationships?

***Ephesians 6:10-20 (NIV)** {10} Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. {11} Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. {12} For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. {13} Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. {14} Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, {15} and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. {16} In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. {17} Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. {18} And pray in the Spirit*

on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. {19} Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, {20} for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

I. WAKE UP!

Sometimes we forget that we have an enemy. Sometimes we forget that our fight is not against flesh and blood.

***Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

The reason we forget is that we can't see the spiritual forces at work. We can't see the powers of either kingdom. We forget about how strong the kingdom of light is. Light displaces darkness. We are busy fighting battles with our wits, or our tongues, when we forget the power is found somewhere else.

***Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

II. LOOK UP!

The danger with a message like this is you might become a little too devil focused. When you know there is a battle, don't focus on the darkness, fix your eyes on the Lord. He's your strength. He's your authority. Don't go trying to kick the devil without the Lord's authority, or the Lord's armor.

***Ephesians 6:10 (NIV)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his*

mighty power.

III. WASH Up!

Ephesians 4:27 (NIV) and do not give the devil a foothold.

IV. DRESS UP!

*Ephesians 6:13-17 (NIV2011) {13} Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. {14} Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, {15} and with your **feet fitted with** the readiness that comes from **the gospel of peace**. {16} In addition to all this, take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. {17} Take **the helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

V. STAND UP!

*Ephesians 6:11 (NIV) Put on the full armor of God, so that you can **take your stand against the devil's schemes.***

He has so many strategies and schemes. He has been at this for a long time. His number one strategy is Deception.

<p>Don't be deceived by the Devil's voice telling you that your sin has little or no consequence.</p>

DECEPTIONS:

“It satisfies me and makes me happy.”

“It's not a problem. I don't have a problem. I can stop any time I want to.”

“It doesn't hurt anything.” “It's no big deal”...

“I'm not hurting anyone.” Or “What can it hurt?”

TRUTH:

John 8:34, (NIV) Jesus replied, "... everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

If you don't turn to God "a little sin" always leads to more sin, then bigger sin, then bondage to sin.

Ephesians 5:3 (NIV) But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity ...

The devil distracts you with little things. He knows where you are vulnerable. At first, he doesn't go for the big fall. At first, he goes for the little distractions. The hints. The small things.

It's the little hidden things that the devil want you to think and do that eventually makes you into someone that the people closest to you will despise.

It's the little hidden things God want you to think and do that eventually makes you into someone that the people closest to you will love and admire.

How does anyone break free of deception? Jesus tells us very clearly.

John 8:31-32 (NIV) {31} ... Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. {32} Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."